Adam Giles
Chief Minister of the Northern Territory, Minister for Tourism

**Northern Territory set to become mountain biking mecca**

29 September 2015

The Northern Territory could soon be a world-class mountain biking mecca under a new plan by the NT Government.

“The Government is developing a new Master Plan, which will identify exciting opportunities to help grow mountain biking across the Territory in the coming years,” Chief Minister Adam Giles said.

“There is no better way to enjoy the Territory’s unique and stunning natural environment than to get off-road and on-track at some of our many spectacular mountain bike trails.

“From the dramatic landscapes and red dirt of Central Australia to the tropical reserves of the Top End, the Territory is the perfect backdrop for mountain bike riders.

“Whether you are an adventure thrill seeker or a beginner, there’s something for everyone’s ability.

"Our new Master Plan will help us grow this niche tourism market and attract even more holiday makers to the Territory, which will have positive spin-offs for local businesses.

“The Master Plan will identify the commercial and social opportunities and benefits for local residents too, with the potential to create more active and healthy lifestyle opportunities for locals.

The Master Plan will also look at how the NT can attract a dedicated mountain bike tourism market, business opportunities and the potential to create more jobs and economic benefits for the Territory and our regions.

It will detail existing mountain biking activity in the NT, identify national and international trends and develop opportunities and the potential to create more jobs and economic benefits for the Territory and our regions.

“Tourism NT will be working closely with Parks and Wildlife Commission NT, Department of Sport and Recreation and other NT Government agencies to ensure all issues relating to mountain biking in the NT are identified and considered in the Master Plan,” Mr Giles said.

“This initiative is part of the Government’s plan to drive the development of North Australia and build a $2.2 billion visitor economy by 2020.”
A number of stakeholder forums will be held in the Territory as part of the Master Plan to gather important information and feedback. Stakeholders and interested Territorians are invited to come along, have their say and help shape the Master Plan.

The forum details are:

- Alice Springs: Thursday 1 October, 5.30-7.00pm, Central Australia Development Office, The Mall, Alice Springs
- Darwin: Monday 5 October, 2-4.00pm, Northern Territory Development Office, 76 The Esplanade, Darwin

For more information on the forums contact Stuart Ord from Tourism NT on 8951 8534.

Media Contact: Marnie Hobson 0409 527 909