



Andrew Barr MLA

MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING
MINISTER FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE
MINISTER FOR PLANNING
MINISTER FOR TOURISM, SPORT AND RECREATION
MEMBER FOR MOLONGLO

MEDIA RELEASE

MIN256/0709

Tuesday 14 July 2009

DOWNHILL COURSE MADE EVEN FASTER

Minister for Tourism, Sport and Recreation, Andrew Barr, today inspected the revamped downhill course at Stromlo Forest Park ahead of the UCI Mountain Bike and Trials World Championships in September.

“Following feedback from riders at last year’s World Cup event we have made the downhill at Stromlo much faster to ensure a more challenging ride. A number of new jumps have been added to generate speed in the lower section of the course and provide more airtime,” said Mr Barr.

“The changes mean riders will approach speeds of up to 65 kilometres an hour, creating a more thrilling spectacle for the large crowds which will converge on Stromlo during September. More space has also been provided on the side of the track for the spectators to be trackside.”

Local elite downhill rider Ben Corey commended the changes: “The new track is faster, there’s more energy and we have turned a peddaly section into a fun one and it definitely makes it more spectator friendly as well,” he said.

Mr Barr said that construction is also well underway to the extension of the culvert on the criterium cycling circuit which will increase safety standards on the course.

Mr Barr said the upgrade to the downhill and criterium course are just part of \$1.5 million the ACT Government is currently spending to enhance Stromlo Forest Park.

“The ACT Government is currently finalising several other projects including building a young children’s bike track, barbeque facilities, and spectator and landscape improvements next to the Event Pavilion. We are also sealing the Bushfire Memorial Access Road and car park, including the extension of the cycle way to Stromlo Forest Park. All the work is expected to be complete by September.”

Mr Barr said the ACT Government has invested over \$10 million into the development of Stromlo Forest Park into a world-class facility which boasts a purpose-built event pavilion, criterium cycling circuit, grass cross-country running track and mountain bike tracks. There are also trails suitable for use by horse riders, runners and bushwalkers, making it a complete complex.

“While these current improvements will help ensure the ACT can best capitalise on the World Mountain Bike Championships, they will also continue to benefit Stromlo’s many users from the ACT community.”

Statement Ends

Media Contact: Paul Kindermann 6205 1690 Mobile 0403 600 955 paul.kindermann@act.gov.au

ACT Government

Phone (02) 6205 0011 Fax (02) 6205 0157