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Chair of Standing Committee on Planning, Public Works and Territory and Municipal Services
Deputy Chair of Standing Committee on Climate Change, Environment and Water
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OPENING OF NEW TRAIL AT STROMLO FOREST PARK IN MEMORY OF MOUNTAIN BIKE GREAT

A new trail will open today in memory of the late James 'Willo' Williamson at Stromlo Forest Park, Member for Ginninderra, Mary Porter, announced today.

The new trail will be 1.5 km long and starts at Wombat Junction and links to the western mountain bike trails near Slick Rock.

"James Williamson, or Willo as he was more affectionately known, will be remembered for the huge impact he had on the mountain bike world in such a short period of time, both on and off the bike," said Ms Porter.

"James was a world beater. After only one year on the 24-hour circuit, Willo became the 2006 Australian Solo 24 Hour Mountain Bike Champion. In 2008 he took out the World Solo 24 Hour Mountain Bike Championship in Canmore, Canada.

"James participated in many stage races and in 2010 he realised his dream to race the Cape Epic, a seven-stage mountain bike race in South Africa.

"He completed Stages 1 and 2 with his friend and riding partner Shaun Lewis. Then early in the morning of 23 March 2010, before the start of stage 3 of the Cape Epic, James tragically died.

"James had a long connection to Stromlo Forest Park and it is with great pleasure that we are naming this link trail after him.

"James was a long-time regular user of Stromlo Forest Park and shared his excitement and support towards a park of that quality being created not only in his backyard but in Australia."

Ms Porter said James was also the editor of Enduro magazine which enabled him to communicate his love of mountain biking to a wider audience.

"His editorials were particularly memorable as they effortlessly captured the spirit of mountain biking in a profound and unforgettable way.

"James 'Willo' Williamson will be remembered for his energy, his enthusiasm and his passion for the sport that he loved."

Statement Ends

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