



Press Release

A FOUNDING PARTNERSHIP

The ACT Government today announced the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Four Wheel Drive NSW & ACT.

“The MOU establishes the basis for a co-operative working relationship between Parks, Conservation & Land (PCL) and Four Wheel Drive NSW & ACT,” Russell Watkinson, Director of PCL said.

“The MOU will move us toward a more positive and proactive relationship with an important user of the ACT’s parks and forest trails.

“The MOU addresses and develops issues such as joint projects, trip reporting, risk management, training opportunities and special access arrangements.

“An initial project for the new partnership is the possible development of a self-guided 4WD tour within the ACT. This new tour would provide a challenging and safe drive for casual four wheel drivers in Canberra. The partnership would work together to consider a trail classification system, which will alert users to the skills and equipment required for each section of the trail.

“Wreck recovery is another project which will see 4WD clubs assist PCL to recover hard to reach abandoned vehicles. The MOU also outlines a system for 4WD clubs to observe and report on trail conditions and observed damage to ACT Government assets and facilities.

“PCL has always had a good relationship with local 4WD clubs but this MOU establishes a framework for more substantial cooperation in the future,” Mr Watkinson said.

Mr Greg Redfern, President of Four Wheel Drive NSW and ACT said, “The agreement is based on ecologically sustainable practices and socially and culturally responsible visitor use. It means that there is a single underlying principle and consistency of operation for Four Wheel Driving across NSW and the ACT.”



**Greg Redfern, President
Four Wheel Drive NSW-ACT**
Contact: 1800 646 630
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About Four Wheel Drive NSW & ACT Inc.

<http://www.4wdnsw-act.asn.au>

Four Wheel Drive NSW & ACT Inc works for access to public and private lands for responsible 4WD and AWD touring and camping on behalf of its member clubs. It presents our views to public land managers in New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory to keep bush trails and roads open.

We acknowledge that driving off road vehicles requires attention to each vehicle's dynamics in order to safely operate our vehicles on road and to drive sensitively and responsibly off road. We support drivers' rights to properly prepare their vehicles for safe country driving and remote outback touring. Modifications to accomplish any of these activities must comply with regulations for registration of vehicles for use on public roads.

Our clubs provide driver training and this Association is an RTO operating and managing the training and assessment of our drivers. Most clubs have a social and community service strategy and the members enjoy volunteering to help land managers keep our bush clean and healthy for both now and into the future.

We urge anyone visiting the bush to do so with minimal impact at all time.

Four Wheel Drive NSW & ACT Inc Codes of Ethics

Obey the laws and regulations for Recreational Vehicles that apply to public lands. Respect the cultural, heritage and environmental values of public and private land by obeying restrictions that may apply.

1. Respect our flora and fauna.
2. Stop and look but never disturb.
3. Keep to formed vehicle tracks.
4. Keep the environment clean.
5. Carry your own and any other rubbish out.
6. Keep your vehicle mechanically sound and clean to reduce the environmental impact.
7. Adopt minimal impact camping and driving practices.
8. Seek permission before driving on private land.
9. Do not disturb livestock or watering points, leave gates as found.
10. Take adequate water, food, fuel, basic spares and a first aid kit on trips.
11. In remote areas travel with another vehicle and have Royal Flying Doctor Service, or equivalent, radio contact.
12. Enjoy your recreation and respect the rights of others.
13. Leave your trip details with a responsible person for essential contacts.