

### Leg 3: National Arboretum (Cnr Himalayan Cedars Rd and Boundary Rd) to Cnr Majura & Phillip Ave, Dickson

From the second transition point follow the fenceline track N then NE down the hill for approx. 700m. At the bottom of the hill turn left at the fence corner (0.7) to cross the wooden horse stile and continue straight ahead (0.76) on the "Cork Oaks via road" track, which you follow for about 780m. Turn right at the spring-loaded gate (1.54). Follow the path under William Hovell Dr and after 130m (1.67) turn right at the T-junction onto the bike path heading towards Black Mtn Tower.

After 250m turn left to leave the bike path and cross the pedestrian stile (1.92) leading into Aranda Snow Gums Reserve. After 200m (2.12) you will follow a walking trail denoted by a series of wooden posts. Keep a lookout ahead for these posts which first lead you parallel to an erosion gully on your right and then (after 400m) turn right (2.53) to cross this gully and up onto a grassy track. After 270m or so (2.80) the grass track veers half left (N) and then heads uphill for approx. 170m to reach a fenceline (2.97). Turn left after passing through the fence and follow the 4WD track for 340m to the first main track intersection (3.31), at which you turn right, heading uphill onto the signposted "Powerline Link Track". After 430m (3.74) cross under the double power lines at the clearing but take the larger track that is slightly uphill and to your right (not straight ahead), which goes back into the trees (2 o'clock heading). Follow this track uphill towards the Aranda houses, taking care to bear left (4.26) towards the houses at the split in the track near the top of this climb. The track reaches the edge of the houses and then climbs steeply for a few hundred metres. At the high point (4.70), continue straight along the fenceline on the "Aranda House Trail", with a good view opening up of Black Mtn Tower ahead. After 400m (5.10) the Aranda House trail turns left but you will continue straight ahead and then 40m later (5.14) turn immediately right onto a wide, straight track heading downhill with views to the South. A bit over 500m later (5.71) the track turns left and 80m later (5.79) reaches a T-jn at which you turn left ("To Black Mtn" sign). Continue straight ahead on this road for about 400m (ignoring the branch to your right at 270m; 6.06) until you hit a T-jn adjacent to Caswell Drive (6.18).

Turn right and 60m later (6.24) turn left to pass under Caswell Dr. After approx 120m, veer left at the fork, then shortly after (6.48) this track swings to the right. Continue for another 570m (7.05) and then turn right (**and up 3 steps; no bikes sign**) to take a dirt single track which 140m later (7.19) turns to cement. After another 50m turn left to join a wide 4WD dirt track, which you follow for 180m (7.42) before veering off right onto a short stretch of ST that cuts the corner to join the main summit track (7.46). Continue straight uphill at the next intersection (7.62) and then climb steeply, taking note of the metal barrier to your left (7.86; Course Marshal) which leads to the path that you will be taking after you have done your anticlockwise loop that contours around the top of the mountain. For the moment, continue straight ahead for 50m to pass a metal barrier and then 10m later turn right (7.92) at the green Black Mtn post onto a narrow dirt ST. Follow the ST for 1.2K (9.13) before you climb up steps to cross Black Mtn Drive (dangerous low visibility road crossing- follow marshal's instructions).

Proceed straight across to the car park bay on the other side (**Drink station**), ignoring the very first trail entrance you see to your left and continue only another 20m or so along the car park edge to turn left (9.17) at a 2nd trail entrance (green Blk Mtn sign) and climb through the wooden gate (9.18) to enter some more delightful single track. After 860m (10.04) you will complete your top loop of the mountain, turning right (downhill) back onto the summit path and 60m later (10.10) turning half right past the metal barrier and onto the sealed path heading down to the East, which

has many MTB speed humps and several metal barriers along the way. Make a hairpin turn left at the end of the sealed path (10.78) at the T-jn to head back uphill on the road. After 620m turn right at the first track intersection to take the "Little Blk Mtn" track and 120m later (11.52) turn right (uphill) to join the "Little Black Mtn circuit FT", which you will follow for approx. 1.5K before exiting right (13.04; a Little Blk Mtn FT sign on your LHS) to head downhill towards Belconnen Way. After exiting the trees turn right (13.41) onto the track to follow the big powerlines. After 400m (13.82) the road swings right and climbs uphill, drops down steeply, and then climbs again. Just past the bottom of the next descent take the dirt road to the left (14.38), heading down 40m to cross a small dry watercourse (14.42), climb up onto a small embankment, and turn right (14.43) onto ST followed only 20m later by a left turn (14.45) onto ST that leads 100m down to Frith Rd (14.55). Cross straight across the road and over the low guard rail and then turn left to head through the Barry Dr. underpass (14.62) on the LHS. After exiting the tunnel turn hard left (14.67) at the BNT sign (next to the stop sign) to take a ST (14.68) heading uphill into the trees. This climbs for about 200m and flattens out (parallel to a watercourse on your left). The track starts to descend (15.27) and briefly merges with a wider track (15.27). About 40m later (15.31) turn right onto the narrow ST heading straight down the hill and then another 60m later (15.37) turn right towards the houses on Dryandra St. This track swings out left (15.43) down towards the RDBT at Belconnen Way next to a BNT sign (15.55; **Limited aid**; Course Marshal).

Continue straight across the road to join a bike path (15.62) and follow this as it climbs up the hill for approximately 700m before making a hard right turn (16.34) under the big powerlines to enter the access gate to O'Connor Ridge (16.36). Continue dead straight up the hill ahead which narrows to a ST after approx. 100m (16.45) and 240m later reaches a 5 way track intersection (16.69). Take the major track on your left (2<sup>nd</sup> exit) which is marked with a "Stadium FT" sign (16.71) on its RHS. Now you just stay on this major track without any turns for about 1K as it eventually swings right to the E (17.55) and ends at a T-jn (17.69) with the Tip FT. Turn left (downhill) and follow the Tip FT all the way straight down towards the houses, where you will pass through a pedestrian gate to Dryandra St (17.85). Turn left (17.86) making sure to stay off-road on the LHS as the road turns right (17.97; at the Church) and becomes Archibald St.

Stay on the grass verge/footpath on the LHS of Archibald St for the next 840m, passing an Aged Care facility (18.35) and a Buddhist Temple (18.45) before turning right at the T-jn (18.81; bike path rail) to cross Archibald St and join the bike path on Mouat St. After 170m take the left bike path fork (18.98) to keep following Mouat St, which crosses Brigalow St at the pedestrian crossing/lights (Course Marshal). After crossing continue left (19.06) past the Lyneham Motor Inn (19.21) and 60 m later (19.27) turn right onto the bitumen bike path that runs along the RHS of the water canal. Follow this path for approx 600m before turning **left** (19.80) at the end of the playing field (Blue and White sign; "Dickson shops 2K") to cross the canal and join another bike path heading towards Lyneham High School. Take care crossing Goodwin St at the speed hump/ped. crossing (20.15). Continue straight ahead on the bike path for 80m (20.23) to a sign (Dickson shops left; ANU, City 3 right) and a **bridge crossing the canal**. At this point there are 2 potential paths leading to the bike path after Cowper St, Dickson:

**Scenario 1: (preferred):** *If conditions are favourable (i.e. insignificant recent or current rain) you will approach the light pole at the LHS of this bridge and then continue straight ahead, carefully stepping down into the canal to follow it for the next 1K (in order to avoid the many major road crossings, incl. Northbourne Ave). You will cross under De Burgh St (20.31), Northbourne Ave (20.43), watching out for low pipes (20.50) before briefly exiting the canal before the steel bridge barrier (20.54) and re-entering it straight after this. Continue along the canal to cross under Challis St (20.67) and then under Cowper St (21.18; traffic lights) just after passing "The Garden"*

*florist sign on your left. You can now climb out of the canal (21.23) on the RHS to join the bike path that runs parallel.*

***Scenario 2: (alternate):*** *If conditions preclude use of the canal you will follow the left bike path towards Dickson shops, taking care to cross De Burgh St (ped crossing), the 2 arms of Northbourne Ave (lights and ped crossing – **very busy and dangerous– you must follow Course Marshal instructions!**), Challis St. (ped crossing) and straight across Cowper St (lights, ped crossing).*

Continue straight on this path for the next 1.26K, passing between Dickson playing fields and Dickson Wetlands (21.60), crossing a bridge (22.01), and apprx 500m later finishing at the 3rd (final) transition area at the middle telephone pole (22.49, red tag 37387) in the grassy area on the west side of Majura Ave.