



Blue Mountains Conservation Society Inc

ABN 38 686 119 087

PO Box 29 Wentworth Falls NSW 2782

Phone: (02) 4757 1872

E-Mail: bmcs@bluemountains.org.au Web Site: www.bluemountains.org.au

Nature Conservation Saves for Tomorrow

Date: 26 September 2018

Manager
NPWS Planning Evaluation and Assessment
PO Box 95
PARRAMATTA NSW 2124
By email: npws.parkplanning@environment.nsw.gov.au

Dear Sir/Madam

Mount Canobolas State Conservation Area Draft Plan of Management

The Blue Mountains Conservation Society is a community based volunteer organisation with over 800 members. Its mission is to help conserve the natural environment of the Greater Blue Mountains, and to increase awareness of the natural environment in general.

Blue Mountains Conservation Society (BMCS) strongly objects to the proposal from Orange City Council to construct a 63km dedicated mountain bike trail network and associated infrastructure in Mt Canobolas State Conservation Area (SCA) as proposed in the Mt Canobolas State Conservation Area Draft Planning Considerations relating to the matters considered in preparing the *Mount Canobolas State Conservation Area Draft Plan of Management*.

The role of the Mt Canobolas State Conservation Area is primarily to protect biodiversity; the flora, fauna and habitat of this unique, sub-alpine remnant is conserved in the last 3% of the original volcanic footprint vegetation of the mountain complex. Its nine endemic species, three endangered ecological communities, twelve threatened species are distinctive and irreplaceable.

Constructing any, let alone 63 km, of dedicated mountain biking trails within this small reserve of only 1,672 ha, will have significant, detrimental, and lasting environmental impacts especially on biodiversity.

Alternative venues for the development of a mountain bike trail network and infrastructure associated with an elite, competitive sport have not been thoroughly investigated. Trail networks, which could be built upon, already exist in Kinross, Canobolas and Glenwood State Forests and these offer a significantly

larger area for development of any mountain biking infrastructure, without controversy.

The SCA currently provides for a range of sustainable recreational activities, including cycling. Additional dedicated trails for mountain biking are totally inappropriate for this small conservation reserve.

Increased risk that the tourist attractiveness of the SCA will be devalued by mountain biking development so the promoted economic value of such a venture is probably highly over-estimated. Loss of amenities due to the new tracks being dedicated to mountain bikes only will also discourage others to use the SCA.

Visual amenity and visitor safety are also important issues in this reserve due to both its small size and the topography of the area.

BMCS recommends that all consideration for new mountain biking opportunities within Mt Canobolas SCA be removed from the Planning Considerations document and alternative sites be explored as noted above.

Yours sincerely



Madi Maclean
President
Blue Mountains Conservation Society
mobile 0412 428 202 or email president@bluemountains.org.au