

Dear Mr. Kean,

I am writing on behalf of The Central West Environment Council (CWE), which is an umbrella group to the environment groups in the districts of Orange, Bathurst, Lithgow, Rylstone, Mudgee and Dubbo.

CWEC has taken a keen interest in the proposed Plan of Management for Mount Canobolas State Conservation Area due to the reserve's very high regional conservation significance and has sent in several submissions objecting to the opening up of the area to a totally inappropriate mountain bike development. Our comprehensive and fully referenced objection to clauses in the draft plan dated 5th September 2018 is attached for your reference.

I am writing now in brief to urge you, as the new Minister, to ensure that all reference to this development is removed from the draft plan of management for the reasons outlined in this submission ie the potentially severe impacts to the reserve's:

- soil (erosion and changes in character)
- vegetation (loss and changes to structure and floristics)
- wildlife (including the potential loss of 12 species and three ecological communities listed as threatened under state and/or commonwealth legislation)
- water (siltation and contamination of the reserve's creeks) and
- character
 - loss of aesthetics
 - over-development
 - informal use by trail-bikes and
 - loss of visitors repelled by these changes.

Since the time of that submission, the reserve has also been nominated as an 'Area of Outstanding Biodiversity Value' by two qualified and well-respected scientists, Drs. Richard Medd and Colin Bower. This report outlines the distinctiveness of the flora and fauna of the reserve and emphasises the irreplaceability of some of the communities that are endemic to the mountain.

I understand that you have taken the time and effort to visit the area, which is to be applauded, but did not meet with all the stakeholders, which is a pity. I trust that you have also taken on board the fact that there is no objection to Orange having another mountain bike facility (it has two already, note), providing this is not in the SCA. There are several suitable sites available, including the adjacent state forest. There is no need to destroy one asset to make provision for another. You can have an easy win-win if you suggest the whole development is moved away from the reserve.

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate CWEC's objection to those parts of the draft plan of management which provide reference to the possibility of a new mountain bike track ie:

- Scheme of Operations pt.14 (p.11-12) be amended to remove clauses 1 (vv) and 1 (ww) and 1 (yy)
- Table 1 (cycling) be amended to remove the words 'if constructed, on appropriately signposted single-track routes'.

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light grey background. The signature is written in a cursive style and reads "Cilla Kinross".

Cilla Kinross

President

Central West Environment Council

16th August 2019.