

870 Ophir Road
Summer Hill Creek NSW 2800.



The Hon. James Griffin
Minister for Environment and Heritage
March 8, 2022

Re: Proposed Mountain bike trail network within the Mount Canobolas State Conservation area.

Dear Mr. Griffin

I am writing to you as President of the Central West Environment Council. (CWEC). Our organisation is an alliance of fourteen environmental groups representing districts throughout the Central west of New South Wales. One of our objectives is to advocate for the preservation of the remaining islands of biodiversity which still exist in the mainly cleared landscape that is the Central West. One such remnant of unique Central West biodiversity is the Mount Canobolas State Conservation Area (SCA)..

The Mount Canobolas SCA supports vegetation communities that are listed under the NSW Biodiversity Conservation Act as either Endangered or Critically Endangered. The SCA also supports three communities and four species so rare that any disturbance to them is a “serious and irreversible impact”. These entities are given special protection under the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016. Additionally, a further 13 species that occur in the SCA and nowhere else on earth would also qualify for consideration as having serious and irreversible impact status.

Finally, the entire State Conservation Area meets the criteria for gazetting as an Area of Outstanding biodiversity Value (AOBV) and was nominated as such in 2018. This has yet to be finalised.

CWEC is writing to you asking that you prioritise this issue. We request that you prioritise the acceptance of the Mount Canoblas SCA as an Area of Outstanding Biodiversity Value and withdraw support from your office for the establishment of a mountain bike trail network within the Mount Canobolas State Conservation Area. The proposal put forward by Orange City Council is for the establishment of a mountain bike trail encompassing the Mount Canobolas State Conservation Area and the adjoining state pine forest. CWEC has no issue with the establishment of a mountain bike trail within the pine plantation. We do, however, strongly oppose such a major mountain bike infrastructure within the Mount Canobolas State Conservation Area.

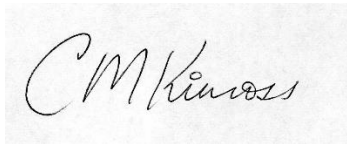
The current proposal for the SCA is for sixty kilometres of mountain bike track. Long term expert research as outlined in the AOBV application makes it clear that any such

development would result in severe environmental destruction and species extinction within the area.

The AOBV document plus an overview is attached.

We ask that you give this matter your urgent attention.

Yours sincerely,

A rectangular area containing a handwritten signature in black ink. The signature is written in a cursive style and appears to read 'Cilla Kinross'.

9th March 2022

Dr, Cilla Kinross
President, Central West Environment Council