

**From:** Lemann [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 17, 2023 6:54 PM  
**To:** Administrator Office <AdministratorOffice@wsc.nsw.gov.au>  
**Subject:** FW: Agenda Item 9.2 Mount Bikes

Mount Gibraltar Landcare and Bushcare  
17.9.23

Dear Mr May, as you can imagine our group is very pleased and greatly relieved to read the recommendation which we hope you will approve, to close the mountain bike tracks on the north-eastern side of the Mount Gibraltar Heritage Reserve.

In view of the statement by Mr Davis at the Council meeting of 21<sup>st</sup> July, that all track construction in Council Reserves is illegal plus the imminent Mount Gibraltar Heritage Reserve Plan of Management discussions, there are several items we would like you to clarify at the meeting.

- Please confirm that any other mountain bike track construction in the Reserve is illegal, in particular, the South Track
- Please identify who will organise and manage the deconstruction and restoration of the north-eastern track, and when it will be completed. We note that the failure to reconstruct the north-east track many years ago led to the current situation of young people saying that the tracks were there.
- Identify who will be monitoring the sites, particularly through the coming school holidays? Could a council officer be nominated to discuss a Bush Watch program to leverage the help of community members?
- Appoint an officer to liaise with the riders to find an interim site for the immediate future.
- Please request the mountain bike organisations to remove any reference to the Mount Gibraltar Heritage Reserve tracks from Internet information sites
- Request a report on what steps will be taken to prevent future illegal mountain bike track construction in the Reserve?

•  
With kind regards in anticipation of this responsible outcome  
Jane Lemann. Volunteer Acting Secretary. MGLB.

From: Mary Taylor [REDACTED]  
Sent: Tuesday, September 19, 2023 8:31 AM  
To: Administrator Office <AdministratorOffice@wsc.nsw.gov.au>  
Subject: Bike track on Mt Gibraltar

## Mount Gibraltar Landcare and Bushcare 17.9.23

Dear Mr May, as you can imagine our group is very pleased and greatly relieved to read the recommendation which we hope you will approve, to close the mountain bike tracks on the north-eastern side of the Mount Gibraltar Heritage Reserve.

In view of the statement by Mr Davis at the Council meeting of 21<sup>st</sup> July, that all construction in Council Reserves is illegal plus the imminent Mount Gibraltar Heritage Reserve Plan of Management discussions, there are several items we would like to clarify at the meeting.

- Please confirm that any other mountain bike track construction in the Reserve is prohibited, in particular, the South Track
- Please identify who will organise and manage the deconstruction and restoration of the eastern track, and when it will be completed. We note that the failure to reconstruct the eastern track many years ago led to the current situation of young people saying they were there.
- Identify who will be monitoring the sites, particularly through the coming school year. Could a council officer be nominated to discuss a Bush Watch program to leverage community members?
- Appoint an officer to liaise with the riders to find an interim site for the immediate future.
- Please request the mountain bike organisations to remove any reference to the Gibraltar Heritage Reserve tracks from Internet information sites
- Request a report on what steps will be taken to prevent future illegal mountain bike track construction in the Reserve?

With kind regards in anticipation of this responsible outcome

Mary Taylor

**From:** Gaye White  
**Sent:** Monday, 18 September 2023 10:50 AM  
**To:** Administrator Office <AdministratorOffice@wsc.nsw.gov.au>  
**Cc:** Lisa Miscamble <Lisa.Miscamble@wsc.nsw.gov.au>; Karin Targa <Karin.Targa@wsc.nsw.gov.au>; Barry Arthur <Barry.Arthur@wsc.nsw.gov.au>  
**Subject:** Support for the recommendation to close the mountain bike tracks

Dear Mr May

I am writing to you on behalf of WinZero, a local environmental non-profit organization, to express our strong support for the recommendation to close the mountain bike tracks on the north-eastern side of the Mount Gibraltar Heritage Reserve.

We are very pleased and greatly relieved to read this recommendation, and we hope that you will approve it.

Please see attached letters.

Many thanks

Gaye White

WinZero Inc  
P.O. Box 1193  
Bowral NSW 2576

[www.winzero.com.au](http://www.winzero.com.au)



18 September, 2023

Dear Mr. May,

I am writing to you on behalf of WinZero, a local environmental non-profit organization, to express our strong support for the recommendation to close the mountain bike tracks on the north-eastern side of the Mount Gibraltar Heritage Reserve. We are very pleased and greatly relieved to read this recommendation, and we hope that you will approve it.

We would like to offer the following suggestions for consideration:

- We believe that the council could have done more to educate the community about the environmental and heritage value of Mount Gibraltar at the beginning of the Survey and REF process. This would have helped to build understanding and support for the closure of the illegal mountain bike tracks.
- We suggest that the council leverage the power of the community to assist with monitoring the bushland sites. A Bush Watch program would be a great way to engage the community in the protection of our bushland. (See attached)
- We urge the council to quickly identify and secure a legal mountain bike location near Bowral, so that riders have an alternative place to ride once the tracks on Mount Gibraltar, Mount Alexandra, and Gibbergunyah are deconstructed and restored.
- We also suggest that the council list bushland reserves as assets in the recreational facilities strategy, so that they have comparable budgets and maintenance to other assets.

We believe that closing the illegal mountain bike tracks is the right thing to do to protect this valuable natural asset for future generations. We ask the council to take our suggestions into consideration when making further decisions.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Gaye White  
Director



WinZero Inc  
ABN: 17 583 480 707

Document Set ID: 485736

WinZero Inc  
P.O. Box 1193  
Bowral NSW 2576

[www.winzero.com.au](http://www.winzero.com.au)



August 3

Ms Lisa Miscamble  
General Manager  
Wingecarribee Shire Council

Dear Lisa,

I am writing to you today to propose the establishment of a **BushWatch** program in the Southern Highlands. This program would aim to reduce crime and protect the environment in our region.

I am aware that Council, WaterNSW, Forestry Corp., and the NPWS earlier formed a working group to deal with 'bush crime'. This included Council working with some neighbours to assist with reconnaissance, and they had some significant wins on illegal timber removal from Council reserves. This started some years ago and Ian Perkins (retired Natural Resources Project Manager) was involved. I don't know what came of it, but the problems remain, so the arrangement is probably still in place. However, expanding it to a sort of Neighbourhood Watch for Nature would be a great improvement.

We are learning a lot about the limitations of council rangers in dealing with the illegal mountain bike tracks. For example, they are not permitted to have surveillance cameras, and they cannot deal with minors. A **BushWatch** program would be able to address these limitations, and it would also provide a more comprehensive approach to crime prevention and environmental protection.

I am proposing that the program would be similar to the Tasmanian model of **BushWatch** which is a successful program that has been in operation for over 20 years. The program is based on the idea of community-led surveillance and reporting of suspicious activity. **BushWatch** volunteers are trained to identify and report illegal activities such as illegal rubbish and sewage dumping, firewood theft, illegal mountain bike tracks, illegal recreational vehicle use, and land clearing.

I believe that a similar program would be successful in the Southern Highlands. Our region is home to many bushland areas that are vulnerable to illegal activity. A **BushWatch** program would help to protect these areas and deter criminals.



WinZero Inc  
ABN: 17 583 480 707

Document Set ID: 285738

The program would be relatively low-cost to implement. The main costs would be the training of volunteers and the provision of signs. I believe that the benefits of the program would outweigh the costs.

In addition to the benefits I have already mentioned, a **BushWatch** program would also have the following benefits:

- It would help to build community spirit and engagement.
- It would provide an opportunity for people to learn about the bushland and its ecosystems.
- It would help to raise awareness of the importance of protecting the environment.

### **What is BushWatch?**

**BushWatch** is a crime-prevention initiative that encourages users of the bush or recreational areas to report unusual, suspicious or criminal activity and vandalism to the police. Community members are the eyes and the ears of the bush and we need them to report any crime they see in the bush just like you would at home. Our bush and forests are for everyone to use, so any damage or improper use can directly affect those who live, work and relax in the bush. When community members provide information to **BushWatch** and don't have to give their name. Information that leads to an arrest and conviction can earn a reward. Citizens can help to keep the bush safe for everyone to use.

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### **Objectives**

**BushWatch** aims to:

- Encourage the reporting of suspicious or criminal activity and vandalism to the police.
- Encourage the locking of vehicles and the securing of equipment and valuables.
- Create awareness of offences against flora and fauna.
- Ensure the accurate reporting of drug crops with GPS photo locating.

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### **What are some common offences?**

**BushWatch** asks that you keep an eye out for damage to public and private property, including:

- Damage to private vehicles and equipment may place lives at risk.
- Damage to public facilities reduces the number available and increases the cost of providing them.
- Damage to farming areas including theft of stock, equipment, machinery.

Also:

- Illegal lighting of fires.
- Cultivation of marijuana crops.

**Environmental offences:**

- The illegal harvesting or taking of protected flora such as tree ferns, grass trees and wildflowers.
- The illegal taking of firewood and timber.
- The illegal dumping of garden refuse, household garbage, industrial waste and car bodies etc.
- The illegal trapping of wildlife, the illegal shooting of wildlife and illegally taking of fish or birds eggs and chicks.
- Other offences include removal of soils, removal of bush rocks, damage to river banks, disturbing Aboriginal sacred sites, illegal mountain bike tracks, illegal off-road driving and trail biking

Next Steps:

Could you please nominate the Director/Manager that we might invite to a meeting with the police to explore this idea further.

Sincerely,

Gaye White

More Information:

<https://www.oz.cerfas.gov.au/59/1/18/04/07-wa100>

The signs alone would act as a deterrent.





**WE NEED YOU TO BE THE EYES & EARS OF THE BUSH**

**1800 005 555**  
REPORT CRIME IN THE BUSH

**BUSH WATCH**

**Crime Stoppers**

**William Adams**

**CAT**



December 2021



**BUSH WATCH**



**REPORT CRIME IN THE BUSH**

**131 444**



**From:** Alex Cooper [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, 18 September 2023 2:52 PM  
**To:** Governance  
**Subject:** Public forum submission article to be read at 20th sept meeting  
**Attachments:** No Place to Ride K Jones (2).pdf

Hello,

Please see attached letter from a Mountain biking family to be read at the upcoming public forum this Wednesday 20th September 2023.

Letter will be read by Janine McPherson in my absence.

Thank you.

Regards,

Alex Cooper

## No Place to Ride

K Jones

My wife and I were hesitant to share our story publicly because we were worried about the strong and unwavering views within some parts of the environmental community. However, I believe it's essential to tell our story and inform our community about how the local council's decisions affected our family, especially our son Tom. I hope that our experiences can be shared to help resolve the ongoing disputes about bike riding restrictions for local youth before more problems arise.

We moved to the Southern Highlands of NSW in 2020, leaving behind the beautiful Snowy Mountains near Kosciuszko National Park, where our children, including 18-year-old Tom, thrived in the great outdoors. But professional commitments required us to move closer to Sydney, leading to a year-long search for a new home that could offer our adventure-loving kids, especially Tom, the same outdoor lifestyle.

After much searching, we found the Southern Highlands, which advertised abundant outdoor activities and a family-friendly atmosphere. Just a two-hour drive from Sydney, it resembled the Snowy Mountains, offering hiking, camping, and mountain biking. We made a significant financial investment by buying a house here.

As we prepared to move, we watched Tom reflect on leaving the beautiful mountain wilderness he'd called home. Tom and his school friends had spent years mountain biking in Kosciuszko National Park, exploring remote trails and camping overnight. They also built jumps and snowboard ramps in winter, leading Tom into the special sport of gravity riding, an internationally recognised sport. Tom and his friends maintained community-run trails, clearing debris, and enjoying the park's wildlife. This experience taught Tom to respect sustainable living, where humans and wildlife coexisted, with protected Heritage sites in the National Park allowing both camping and mountain biking. We saw our son grow into a tall and resourceful young man, who was fit and healthy.

Little did we know that our move to the Southern Highlands would bring about profound changes in our lives. Just as Tom began settling into his new school and forging friendships, the lockdowns descended upon us. This abrupt confinement deprived him of his beloved outdoor activities and social interactions.

The government restrictions disrupted our routines, forcing us to adapt to remote work and online learning. Tom's fitness waned, optimism faded, and the indoors led to excessive screen time and snacking. It was during this challenging period that Tom experienced his first bout of despondency.

With limited outdoor hours allowed during lockdowns, Tom ventured out to explore bike trails around Moss Vale, Bowral, and Mittagong. He stumbled upon well-established tracks frequented by mountain biking enthusiasts over the years. He soon realized that local boys had created jumps reminiscent of his Snowy Mountains experiences. Occasionally, he rode these local trails for exercise and fresh air.

However, over the next two years, each of these trails met the same fate—systematic closure with council signs. Even a secluded track south of Mt. Gibraltar was not spared. Tom couldn't help but question whether anyone cared about the local youth's need for outdoor recreation.

For nearly two years, the lockdowns held Tom hostage indoors, leading him to experience hopelessness for the first time. It seemed that the recreational opportunities we had sought were now non-existent. Just as our family was at a breaking point, the lockdowns were lifted last year. Tom's return to school and our resumption of office work brought a glimmer of hope. We encouraged Tom to seek out new places to indulge in his mountain biking passion, assuming that the expansive hills and woodlands of the Wingecarribee Shire would provide ample opportunities.

As the other bike trails fell victim to council restrictions during the lockdown, Tom, along with several local boys' sporting groups, had no choice but to turn to Mount Gibraltar Reserve (The Gib). They rediscovered old bike tracks dating back to the 1980s and, like mountain bikers worldwide, built jumps along the natural contours of these well-trodden paths. However, over time, the boys' mountain biking enthusiasm attracted the attention of various environmental groups, whose members frequently confronted the boys, demanding they cease riding in the area. These unwelcome confrontations left Tom and the other mountain bikers feeling disheartened, like never before.

On April 19, one local boy took a stand by starting a petition seeking community support for biking on the Gibraltar Mountain Bike Trails. The petition aimed to provide local youth with opportunities for outdoor sports, physical and mental well-being, and the shared use of these trails for recreation in the Southern Highlands.

The petition quickly gained community support, leading to a feature in the local newspaper on May 10, 2023. Parents shared their approval of mountain biking for its positive impact on their children's cardiovascular health, fitness, skill development, and connection with nature. Some parents highlighted its benefits for children with disabilities, aiding both their physical and mental well-being during lockdowns. Local mountain bike experts vouched for the quality and safety of the jumps constructed by the boys, cautioning against any alterations that might endanger riders. They also emphasized the lack of nearby mountain biking alternatives that wouldn't require riding on busy freeways.

However, the article's publication ignited controversy within local environmental groups, who pressured the council into organizing a special public meeting in June. During the meeting, one environmental representative claimed that the entire area was heritage-listed, revealing their reporting of the local boys to multiple agencies, including the EPA, National Parks, the Minister, and various government bodies. She urged the council administrator to prosecute the parents and impose substantial fines.

Another environmental group representative argued that the hundreds of hectares where the boys biked were unauthorized spaces, warning that failing to take punitive action would set a risky precedent. She claimed her views were supported by science but didn't provide specific studies.

On July 20, 2023, the local council issued a media statement, announcing the placement of signs all over the Gib and its surroundings. These signs declared the area off-limits for any activities, threatening legal action and fines up to \$300,000. The council's administrator declared the local boys' activities as 'vandalism,' though no photographic evidence of such actions was provided. The announcement extended the prohibition of recreational activities across the entire area.

Tom and many of his school friends attended the council meeting, watched it on YouTube, and read the council's release. These exceptional students, responsible citizens, and ardent outdoor sports enthusiasts found themselves unjustly branded as vandals. Their beloved outdoor activities came to a screeching halt, replaced by the constant fear of legal repercussions and crippling fines that could spell financial ruin for their families. This sudden transformation left them feeling like outcasts in their own community, subjected to mockery.

The pressing question that lingered was: Where could these boys pursue their passion for biking now? Their options had dwindled significantly. The nearest suitable location was an hour away, involving a perilous ride on a busy freeway. Another suggestion emerged to create a mountain bike area atop the local landfill, but concerns about contamination arose, leaving them with few viable alternatives.

These young, typically responsible students and good citizens found themselves unjustly stigmatized as troublemakers. The omnipresent signs threatening legal action and hefty fines made them question whether this was how adults chose to address problems—through public humiliation, reporting to government agencies, and looming financial doom for their families.

As if matters weren't already challenging, letters flooded the local newspapers. Environmental groups stressed the importance of biodiversity and planet preservation, supporting criminal prosecutions under environmental laws (dated June 14, 2023). This further exacerbated the shame and negativity surrounding the issue, sidestepping the rights of our youth.

In reality, Tom, his school friends, and their families felt overwhelmed by formidable lobbying groups backed by billion-dollar budgets. These environmental interest groups drew substantial funding from various sources, including the National Landcare Program, which allocated \$1 billion to land care and environmental projects under the Federal Government's Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment, and Water. State government funding added hundreds of millions more to their coffers, while the Wingecarribee council imposed an environment levy on local residents, further funding environmental initiatives.

This raised questions about whether Australian families should expect any benefits from their significant tax contributions.

A few years prior, the local council had conducted a survey that unveiled several issues, such as a lack of services for youth, limited access to after-school programs and activities, and a dwindling youth population between the ages of 18-33. This suggested a mass exodus of young people from the Southern Highlands region.

In response to this youth exodus, the Council secured funding for a Youth Strategy and Action Plan aimed at engaging local youth and providing recreational outlets. Unfortunately, the Council's Youth Strategy branch had never reached out to Tom, his friends, or our families.

All of these circumstances raise a fundamental question: In a Shire as vast as 2,689 km<sup>2</sup> the size of a small European country, is there a designated place for young boys to enjoy biking along trails and jumps?

K & M Jones

-----Original Message-----

From: Ian and Jane Pye [REDACTED]  
Sent: Tuesday, September 19, 2023 12:08 PM  
To: Administrator Office <AdministratorOffice@wsc.nsw.gov.au>  
Subject: Mount Gibraltar bike tracks

Dear Mr May

I've been following the matter of the bike tracks with some apprehension. I am one of the volunteers who care for Mt Gibraltar and I hope very much to see it resolved in a way that protects the environment and values our contribution.

I endorse all that Jane Lemann says in her letter to you of 17th September 2023.

Yours faithfully  
Jane Pye

**From:** Lyndal Breen [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Tuesday, September 19, 2023 6:12 PM

**To:** Administrator Office <[AdministratorOffice@wsc.nsw.gov.au](mailto:AdministratorOffice@wsc.nsw.gov.au)>

**Subject:** Mountain bike use in natural areas - Mount Gibraltar Bowral

Mountain bikes are very popular with a small group of the population, who have been generally happy to ride in State Forests and on fire trails. But there has arisen a subset who have decided that they are entitled to specially made tracks on public land. These gravity riders want highly challenging purpose-built tracks that they ride repeatedly in a concentrated manner. They also seem to consider they have every right to modify the existing tracks with humps and berms to add to the thrill and speed values. At the same time, they also have illustrated a willingness to modify (that is vandalise) any bushland vegetation that inconveniences them.

One of the reasons I support Council making a decision to close the tracks on Mount Gibraltar, is my belief that Council will find itself considered liable for fines from the several environmental authorities that have roles in protecting the Gib's environment and heritage. The REF strongly emphasises the problems of erosion leading to poor water quality, and as this Mountain is part of the headwaters of the Nattai River, running eventually into Warragamba Dam, activities that disturb the soil are problematic for drinking water quality.



I am concerned about the potential for bikes to spread fungal pests. Biosecurity measures such as disinfectant baths at least, should be considered for areas that are being used by bikes. Spreading pests like myrtle rust, and phytophera could prove very expensive.

Also it would seem unlikely that the individual insurance cover apparently held by the under 18 year old riders will be found adequate should there be an accident involving bikes and walkers. It would seem that, if the tracks were to stay open, Council would need to fence them off so that riders and walkers do not come into contact. Yet if Council fences off an area, and excludes other members of the public, they will surely be seen to have become a provider of the facilities, and therefore responsible for all management and maintenance, and liable for any accidents.

There are good Mountain biking places nearby, including the Welby tracks, and a number of privately owned facilities, but these are not good enough for this small set of entitled youth. I think Council needs to resist any call for it to provide the sort of extreme experience being demanded by this group. Council's aren't expected to build state of the art venues for every minority sport.

I will add that should Council be looking for a site to please the more usual bike park users, they might consider the Quarry Hill in Anembo Street, Moss Vale.

Yours

Lyndal Breen



**From:** Lou G Flower [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 19, 2023 6:46 PM  
**To:** Administrator Office <AdministratorOffice@wsc.nsw.gov.au>  
**Subject:** R.E.F. for Unauthorised Mountain Bike Trails in Mount Gibraltar Heritage Reserve,

## SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS LANDCARE NETWORK INC.

ABN: 42 056 929 756

Postal Address: C/- the Secretary, P.O. Box 1193, BOWRAL, NSW, 2576

19 SEPTEMBER 2023

Dear Mr Viv May, Administrator  
Wingecarribee Shire Council

### **Re: Unauthorised Mountain Bike Trails in Mount Gibraltar Heritage Reserve**

This is to advise that the Southern Highlands Landcare Network Inc. is in full support of the R.E.F. report by Consultant Dr. Steve Douglas and Environment Manager Mr. Barry Arthur with recommendations to close down the unauthorised Mountain Bike Trails on Mt. Gibraltar Reserve. This would help to restore and preserve, to some extent, the enormous amount of effort expended over a period of some 30 years, in the form of:

- 1) teams of volunteers including numerous retired men and women working on weeding, clearing and planting of native vegetation in many parts of this Reserve;
- 2) teams of Council employees who assisted and supervised the work of the volunteers;
- 3) subcontractors hired to assist with specific projects often funded by grants organised by the volunteer group.

The value of these previous desirable and successful efforts is clearly appreciated by the local community and visitors who frequently walk in and enjoy the Reserve's

unique natural environment.

Yours sincerely,  
ON BEHALF OF THE SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS LANDCARE NETWORK  
INCORPORATED.

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THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

-----Original Message-----

From: norman nelson [REDACTED]  
Sent: Wednesday, September 20, 2023 5:21 AM  
To: Administrator Office <AdministratorOffice@wsc.nsw.gov.au>  
Subject: Illegal mountain bike tracks

Dear Mr May,

We were dismayed when Council staff caved in to the vandalism that has been trashing the Protected biodiversity of the Mount Gibraltar Reserve and even worse, treating the laws that protect it with contempt.

In recommending a "pragmatic" approach, Council was attempting to condone behaviour that is totally unacceptable in a civil society under the Rule of Law. Furthermore, it has sent the wrong message to the perpetrators of such behaviour, now they believe if you make enough noise you will get your own way.

Council has lacked conviction in dealing with the issue from the outset and has failed to provide strong leadership, instead, choosing to adopt a weak and ambiguous response. The current recommendation, to be addressed in today's Council meeting only speaks to one part of the problem. There is illegal mountain bike activity occurring elsewhere on the mountain, and Council is well aware of this fact, yet makes no mention of the wider problem in its report.

Please make it clear that mountain bike activity of any kind is prohibited anywhere throughout the Mount Gibraltar Reserve, other than the fire trails, and back it up with appropriate penalties.

We take this opportunity to congratulate you for staying the course in dealing with the many challenges you have been confronted with, the Highlands so much the better for it.

Sincerely,  
May and Norm Nelson.

**From:** rowena parry [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 20, 2023 7:31 AM  
**To:** Administrator Office <AdministratorOffice@wsc.nsw.gov.au>  
**Subject:** recommendation to close and decommission unauthorised MBT on Mount Gibraltar

Please find attached my submission to Council on closure of MBT

Regards

rowena parry

*I acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land on which I live, the Gundungurra people, over which land Sovereignty was never ceded. I pay my respects to Elders past and present.*

Rowena Parry

19 September

Dear Mr May

I am writing to you to express my strong support for the recommendations coming out of the REF to close the mountain bike trails on the north-east side of Mount Gibraltar Heritage Reserve. I am so relieved to read the recommendation, as it expertly confirms the confirms that I have held and previously expressed to council regarding these unauthorised trails and their impact on waterways, vulnerable eco-systems, traffic management and local community.

In order to manage the likelihood that further unauthorised trails will appear in other areas of public land in the Shire, and the consequent financial and good will expense to the community of managing them, I make the following suggestions:

- Council undertake extensive liaison and education programs with local schools and sporting and community groups regarding:
  - The environment and heritage value of Mount Gibraltar
  - Careful and informed engagement with the natural areas of the shire in order to protect their value for the future not only of residents of the Shire but the greater community
  - The importance of natural forest areas
  - The authorised processes for undertaking or promoting new activities in public spaces
- Work with the community to establish a Bush Watch program. This will engage the community in protecting our bushlands and assist in the education of the importance of them. Bush Watch programs have been successfully implemented in other areas and I believe information about them has been provided to you.
- Work with the mountain bike community to find and develop a suitable mountain bike location with ease of access for younger riders, thereby reducing the likelihood of further unauthorised tracks being developed.
- Proceed with deconstruction of all unauthorised tracks within the shire and the restoration of the lands they are on. Quick action on this may help in sending a clear signal that unauthorised trail making will not be tolerated.
- Include bushland reserves in the recreational strategy. Bushland reserves are used for passive recreation, forming a large part of the identified recreation of the shire. As such,

OFFICIAL

and with increasing tourism to appreciate the natural values of our Shire, the bushland reserves need budgets for maintenance and protection just as other Shire assets do.

I fervently believe that closing the illegal mountain bike trails in both Mount Gibraltar Heritage Reserve and in other bushland reserves of the Shire is both the right thing and vital to do. These assets are invaluable for She shire and State both now and for future generations. With a rapidly expanding population in the Shire, it is of utmost importance to preserve the natural values it holds as one of its main attractions to both residents and visitors.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this crucial issue.

I look forward to hearing of the approval of the recommendation to close the trails and also to Council's plans for future management of both authorised and unauthorised trails.

Regards

Rowena Parry

OFFICIAL

**From:** Christine Goodwin [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 20, 2023 10:37 AM  
**To:** Administrator Office <AdministratorOffice@wsc.nsw.gov.au>  
**Subject:** Item 9.20 - Mt Gibraltar.

Dear Mr May

I was so pleased to read council's recommendations against allowing mountain bike riding on Mt Gibraltar and it's decision to support and maintain Mt Gibraltar for the natural world.

Mt Gibraltar is a nature reserve and any activity that imposes on that nature to the extent the it alters it to it's detriment, is not appropriate.

I hope that Wingecarribee Shire Council adopts a similar stance on all of its precious nature reserves and continue to do so well into the future.

Kind regards  
Chris Goodwin and Jeff Lapidos  
[REDACTED]



**From:** Andy Lemann [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 20 September 2023 11:02 AM  
**To:** Administrator Office <[AdministratorOffice@wsc.nsw.gov.au](mailto:AdministratorOffice@wsc.nsw.gov.au)>  
**Cc:** Lisa Miscamble <[Lisa.Miscamble@wsc.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Lisa.Miscamble@wsc.nsw.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** Petition to Protect Mount Gibraltar - re Mountain Bike Trails

Dear Mr May,

I understand that you will be revisiting the issue of unauthorised mountain bike trails on Mount Gibraltar at this evening's council meeting.

This seems like an opportune moment to share the following petition, signed by 540 concerned citizens, supporting council's role in protecting the nature reserve, removing and restoring unauthorised trails and working with the mountain biking community to find a suitable alternative.

<https://www.change.org/p/protect-mount-gibraltar>

Details of the petition can be found in the link above and I know I speak for all 540 of the signers when I request that you please follow the recommendations in the REF.

Sincerely,  
Andy Lemann  
[REDACTED]