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29 June 2021

Mr Hubert Krenske  
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Dear Hugh

Thank you for your correspondence dated 1 June 2021 in relation to the *Toowoomba & Lockyer Valley Escarpment Mountain Bike Master Plan* (the Master Plan), and specifically regarding the mountain bike trails proposed for Redwood Park. The community and a number of environmental groups were consulted with during the development of the Master Plan. The first consultation activity undertaken occurred from late September 2019, including 5,000 resident letters distributed to households along the escarpment to inform residents of the project, and to advise of upcoming consultation opportunities. The second consultation activity undertaken at the time included meetings with either Council staff and / or Dirt Art representatives (the consultancy who developed the Master Plan) with the Toowoomba Mountain Bike Club (TMBC) and the Friends of the Escarpment Parks (FEP). The meeting with FEP was held at the Parks & Recreation Harristown Depot on 8 October 2019. Attendees included Mr Rob Brodribb, President FEP and yourself. These meetings provided an initial opportunity to discuss the draft proposed trail networks with these two key community groups, at the first opportunity possible, prior to the draft trail's development plan being released for broader community feedback.

Following these initial meetings, broader community consultation opportunities were promoted and undertaken via a mix of print, electronic and in-person means. This multi-strategy community engagement approach was adopted to ensure all community groups and residents were aware of and had equal timing and opportunity to engage in the project's consultation opportunities. Key community / public consultation activities included workshops in Toowoomba and the Lockyer Valley, along with the release of a public survey seeking feedback. Environmental interests were well represented at the Toowoomba key stakeholder and public workshops held on 15 October 2019, with seven FEP members in attendance (including you). The public survey undertaken over three weeks during October 2019 (included both online and hard-copy options for completion) received 389 responses (including a survey response reply from you). Whilst the public and community groups had the same knowledge of and opportunity to complete the survey, it was not surprising that the majority of survey respondents were mountain bike riders, given the survey was about a mountain biking project.

Following these initial community consultation meetings, public survey and workshops, Council responded to correspondence from FEP regarding the Master Plan on 28 November 2019, 11 December 2019 and 10 July 2020. In addition to responding to written correspondence, Council held / attended a number of meetings with key interest groups, including:



- 6 November 2019 – meeting with Dirt Art, TMBC, FEP, Council staff and the Toowoomba Bird Observers at Redwood Park
- 15 January 2020 – meeting with Council staff and FEP
- 29 July 2020 – meeting with Council staff, FEP and various representatives of other environmental groups at Redwood Park

With regards to Redwood Park, based on feedback from interested environmental parties during the Master Plan's development, any proposed developed trails through the dry rainforest area were avoided. Additionally, significant amendments were made to the initial proposed trail layouts in Redwood Park to avoid orchids to the north and to better avoid the Eagles Nest iterant workers camp to the south-west. These changes were made as a result of consultation undertaken with local environmental groups throughout the Master Plan's development.

Thank you for taking the time to develop a proposed alternative area / route for trails, however Council does not own / control all of the areas identified. Whilst some private parcels of land were explored as options during the development of the Master Plan, the trail network proposed in Redwood and Jubilee Parks was preferred given that Council owns / controls these parks, their close proximity to the existing trails and the CBD, the opportunity for a primary access node (and event hosting space) at the Bridge Street Quarry site, providing optimal rider experience, along with the opportunity to elevate the area as a nationally significant mountain bike destination.

As identified within the Master Plan's recommendations, there is more detailed planning required before any trails or other infrastructure will be constructed (including more detailed and comprehensive environmental assessment work, cultural heritage assessment and detailed design). Final trail feasibility and alignment is dependent on the outcomes of the next steps in the detailed planning works, which will include consideration of all park users, including picnickers. As you're aware, Council has engaged Redleaf Environmental to undertake the comprehensive environmental assessment of Jubilee and Redwood Parks. Stage 1 will be finalised by July 31, comprising of desktop surveys and field work focusing on flora. Stage 1 also included key stakeholder consultation with local environmental groups and key Council personnel to obtain local knowledge of the parks' environmental values (flora and fauna), to support / inform Redleaf Environmental's work. Consultation commenced with a workshop held in April 2021. Council appreciates your attendance at this workshop and values the information you've contributed to support the environmental assessment work underway.

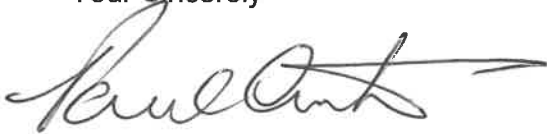
As you're aware, Stage 2 of the environmental assessment of Jubilee and Redwood Park is expected to be completed between July 2021 and early 2022. Stage 2 will focus on fauna and will involve desktop and field survey work; cultural heritage assessment; and key stakeholder consultation activities. At the end of Stage 2 assessments by Redleaf, community engagement will be conducted to inform key stakeholders of the outcomes of the environmental assessment project and any impacts of findings for the Master Plan's proposed trail network (eg, this may result in trail realignments or trail removals if needed). The environmental assessment report, including any impacts on the network of trails proposed (eg, if removal or realignments of trails are needed), will also be publicly available on Council's website in early 2022.

Whilst you may not agree, immersing oneself in natural settings is part of the experience and appeal for mountain bikers (not dissimilar to bushwalking, birdwatching and other recreational pursuits in such areas), and so no-one, including mountain bikers, would be interested in, intending to, or permitted to undertake any trail development that would damage identified natural values of an area such as Jubilee Park, Redwood Park, or any other natural setting or bushland area. The comprehensive

environmental assessment work (commenced by Redleaf Environmental from early this year) as part of progressing the Master Plan, together with legislative requirements and Redwood and Jubilee Parks' status as Reserves provides sufficient and appropriate recognition and protection of the parks' ecological and environmental values.

Thank you for your passion and interest in Redwood Park. Council's vision and commitment is to ensure that the unique environments within Redwood Park continue to be well managed for current and future generations whilst facilitating diverse recreational opportunities and experiences for a diverse range of user groups.

Your Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul Antonio', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

**CR PAUL ANTONIO**  
**MAYOR – TOOWOOMBA REGIONAL COUNCIL**