

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



Redwood Park

I WOULD like you to reconsider the

locations of the gravity trails which are planned for Redwood Park.

Redwood Park is environmentally one of the best parks along Toowoomba's range escarpment. It contains an endangered ecosystem, the heritage listed Eaglenest Depression Camp, and is home to a number of threatened plants and animals.

The ridge chosen for the four downhill trails is the ecotone between the dry rainforest and the adjacent eucalypt forest with an area of about 30 hectares. Most of this area is a human no go area and the animals here thrive as evidenced by our camera traps.

There are very few weeds when compared to other areas in Redwood Park in which the Friends of the Escarpment Parks volunteers work.

Much has been said by the proponents that mountain bike trails have been allowed in World Heritage areas, but these areas are huge in comparison. Animals displaced by trails in these areas are able to move into other areas. Not so in Redwood Park with an area of about 250 hectares.

In the 1890s, residents of Toowoomba petitioned the state government to preserve parts of the range escarpment for the future use of its citizens. In 1910, this area of the escarpment was declared a sanctuary for birds and animals. In 1911, Redwood Park was declared, named after the then mayor of Toowoomba. It has continued to be a sanctuary for birds and animals ever since.

Lockyer Valley Regional Council's interest in this park is purely to get the mountain bike trails to terminate at Withcott rather than the current location on Amos Road sacrificing the biodiversity of Redwood in the process.

Australia already has one of the highest mammal extinction rates in the world. There is another route that could be explored that will bring the mountain bike trails down to Withcott without using Redwood Park at all.

So I ask you as elected councillors, and other council officers driving this plan, to reconsider the impact that this will have on a part of the escarpment and the legacy that this will leave for future generations, especially with other options available.

HUBERT KRENSKE, Toowoomba

Council budget