



**Submission guidelines provided by
Orange Field Naturalist and Conservation Society Inc.**

Please contact the Society should you require further information:
orangefieldnats@gmail.com

Draft Plan of Management for the Mount Canobolas State Conservation Area,
released June 2018, **submissions invited by 1 October 2018**
view PoM and submit online at <https://engage.environment.nsw.gov.au/consult>
or email npws.parkplanning@environment.nsw.gov.au
or post Manager Planning Evaluation and Assessment, PO Box 95, Parramatta NSW 2124.

I wish to take the opportunity to make a submission on one detail in particular in the Draft Plan of Management revised and released recently for public comment.

I object strongly to the proposal from Orange City Council and the lengthy consideration given to the possibility of constructing dedicated trails for mountain biking within the State Conservation Area.

- The role of the Mt Canobolas State Conservation Area is primarily to protect biodiversity; the flora, fauna and habitat of this unique, sub-alpine remnant is conserved in the last 3% of the original volcanic footprint vegetation of the mountain complex.
- The reserve has been identified potentially as an Area of Outstanding Biodiversity Value. Its nine endemic species, three endangered ecological communities, twelve threatened species are distinctive and irreplaceable.
- The SCA is a living laboratory for scientific research with many unnamed species and potential for understanding of evolutionary processes and should be preserved at all costs.
- Constructing ANY, let alone 63 km, of dedicated mountain biking trails within this small reserve, will have significant, detrimental, and lasting environmental impacts especially on biodiversity.
- Alternative venues for the development of a mountain bike trail network and infrastructure associated with an elite, competitive sport have NOT been thoroughly investigated. Trail networks, which could be built upon, already exist in Kinross, Canobolas and Glenwood State Forests and these offer a significantly larger area for development of any mountain biking industry, without controversy.
- The SCA currently provides for a range of sustainable recreational activities, including cycling. Additional dedicated trails for mountain biking are totally inappropriate for this small conservation reserve.
- Increased risk that the tourist attractiveness of the SCA will be devalued by mountain biking development so the promoted economic value of such a venture is probably highly over-estimated.
- Visual amenity and visitor safety are also important issues in this reserve due to both its size and the topography of the area.
- It is disrespectful to all those who have worked to conserve the SCA, including NPWS, and especially to the traditional Wiradjuri owners to allow the conservation reserve to be desecrated.

I recommend that all consideration for new mountain biking opportunities be removed from the Draft Plan of Management and the Planning Considerations documents.

Yours etc.