



Centenary and District Environment Action
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23 April 2009

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Mountain bikers and Bushland

Dear Lord Mayor and Councillors,

Centenary and District Environment Action requests that Brisbane City Council protects its Bushland areas from the very destructive activity of mountain biking.

This sport needs its own facilities and activity areas just as, for example, surfing, BMX, golfing and motor sports.

Walking is the most popular recreational activity in Brisbane and many people seek the peace and quiet and beauty of the city's Bushland. This peace is shattered by mountain bikers and the beauty is under threat as erosion and bare patches grow where Bushland used to grow.

Wildlife in the Bushland areas will also feel shattered and the bushland will be destroyed to such an extent that the wildlife will actually lose habitat and cease to exist.

The future of Bushland is tenuous enough as it is, impacted by increasing recreational uses by a growing population, illegal 4x4 and trail bike use, weed invasion, neglect, feral animals, dumping and drought.

The Bushland is part of essential ecological services as well as general amenity. It is a very finite resource that needs to be protected.

Whilst CDEA has the greatest sympathy for mountain bikers and related sports, we believe it is the Council's and the State government's responsibility to find a solution to this problem, a solution which does not compromise the ecological values of what remains of the city's environmental heritage. Perhaps a proportion of the GST revenue from the sale of mountain bikes could be devoted to the purchase of suitable biking park sites.

It is also the responsibility of the industry which makes millions of dollars selling mountain bikes, and the riders, who spend millions buying them, to produce an acceptable solution to what is after all, their problem. There are plenty of examples of sports which have done this in the past: a few which spring readily to mind are horse and pony riding, drag racing, shooting, archery, 4 wheel driving, paint ball war games, motor racing, skateboarding and until insurance premiums virtually outlawed the organization of the sport, motorized BMX.

This raises the question of what the mountain bikers are going to do about insurance.

We believe that it is ridiculous to include an environmental levy on every Brisbane home owner for the benefit of the environment and then to consider allowing one special interest group to endanger and destroy that value.

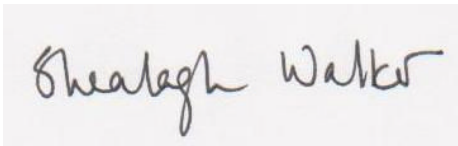
The Bushland in the Centenary suburbs and district already has problems with bikes, mainly ridden by school kids. Right now, we are aware of the fact that mountain bikers are looking at the Wolston Creek Bushland Reserve for their activities. We also have problems with trail bikes in Bushland. We are well aware of problems in other Bushland areas of Brisbane and find the whole mountain bike issue most concerning.

These sports need legitimate areas for bikers to use, but this does not include the very valuable and diminishing resource of Bushland in the Brisbane City area.

CDEA can see **no good reason for mountain bikes to use valuable Bushland** – the bikers are predominantly interested in steep slopes and speed. They can find these elsewhere and have just as much fun and exercise. We beseech Brisbane City Council to protect our Bushland from mountain bikers and to help them in the provision of their own facilities.

Centenary and District Environment Action is a participant in *Save Our Bushlands* and supports their representations to Council on this issue.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light grey background. The signature reads "Shealagh Walker" in a cursive, slightly slanted script.

Shealagh Walker (Savage)

President

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www.cdea.org.au