

# Nicholas Sawyer

**Tasmanian**  
National Parks  
Association



An independent Voice for Tasmania's Parks

[www.tnpa.org.au](http://www.tnpa.org.au)

# Correction to Representation

The statement that the

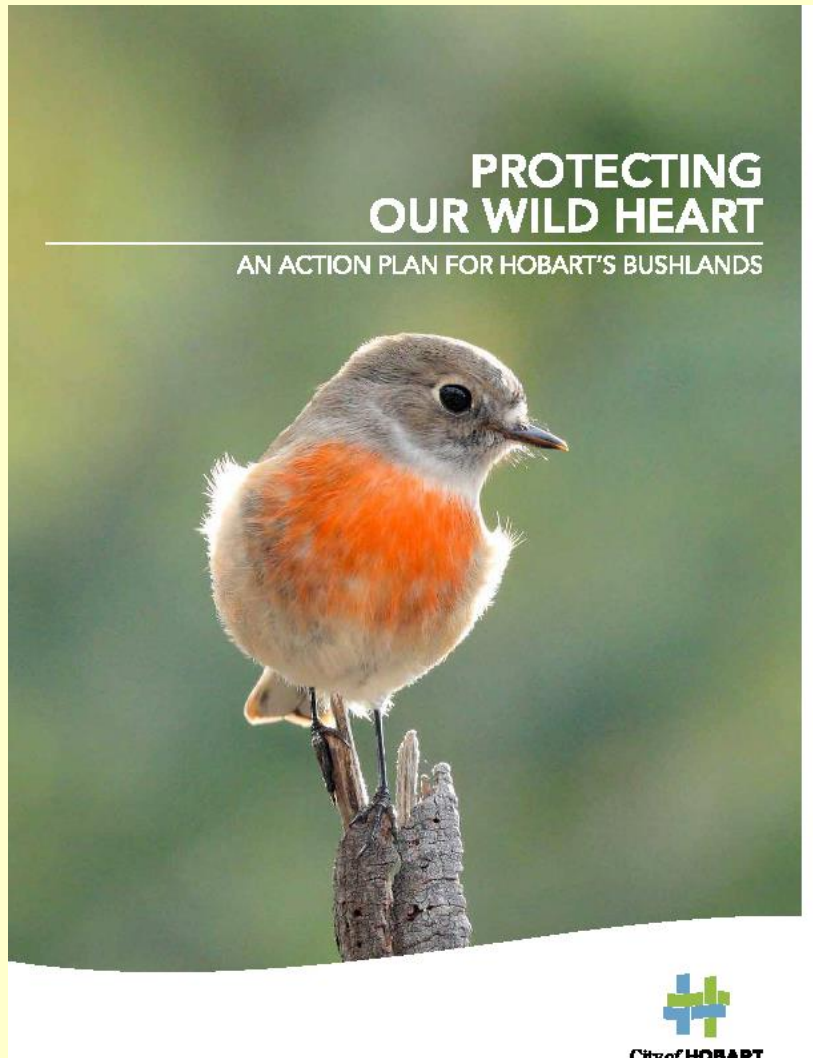
“extensive community engagement process that occurred in the development of the plan provides an understanding of the full range of recreational users”

is my own summary of the situation. It was incorrectly attributed to a HCC agenda.

**No longer support all recommendations in  
TNPA submission on *Riding the Mountain*  
(May 2020)**

- **one proposed track has changed**
- **I am now better informed as a result of meetings with HCC  
& WPMT staff**

# Environmental concerns with this DA



**The key threatening processes for biodiversity in the City of Hobart are:**

- 1. Habitat fragmentation and degradation.**

**37 km of new tracks is a lot of habitat fragmentation!**

**Council planner's recommended conditions:**

- **ENV s1 – nesting birds – denning marsupials**
- **ENV s2 – weeds**
- **Concern re cumulative impacts**

**TNPA still has concerns (shared with Birdlife Tasmania)**

**This DA is for the construction of the first of the tracks proposed in *Riding the Mountain***

**Mountain biking has been increasing in popularity since early 1990s**

- **Many problems became apparent - MTBs using walking tracks**
- **Many of these have been resolved by designating some tracks as single use (walkers only) and installation feature to slow MTBs**

**Approach has been ad hoc - still problem areas**



## ***Riding the Mountain***

**Could and should have been the opportunity to identify and address current problems while proposing better facilities for full range of MTB**

**Would have needed understanding of all users and problem areas**



**Shared Use Tracks on kunanyi/ Mt Wellington**  
Engagement Report – 20 November 2019



[yoursay.hobartcity.com.au](http://yoursay.hobartcity.com.au)

- **Inadequate effort to engage with walkers who are not also MTB riders.**
- **No consideration that wider tracks may be where problems occur.**
- **No attempt to identify areas where incidents had occurred.**



***Shared Use Tracks Report* missed the main problem:**

- **walkers being startled by speeding MTB approaching from behind.**
- **on fire trails which are being used to access the real destinations.**

**TNPA has raised related concerns since *Riding the Mountain* made available for public comment**

**Meetings with HCC & WPMT staff**



- **Vindicated by signs installed as trial in early August**
- **Site visit yesterday**
- **Surprised and disappointed that HCC has pressed on with DA for potentially most problematic tracks without waiting to resolve concerns**

## **This DA:**

**Will exacerbate existing problems by introducing more riders into the area which already has acknowledged user conflict problem.**

## **The solution:**

- **Put implementation of *Riding the Mountain* on hold pending further consultation to identify problem areas and issues.**
- **Then revise *Riding the Mountain*.**

## **The outcome should be a balance between:**

- **Provision of better facilities for MTBs**
- **The experience of walkers**
- **Protection of the natural environment and cultural heritage (including Aboriginal heritage)**

## **Practical solutions:**

- **Separate use as far as possible**
- **Locate MTB tracks so they can be accessed with minimum interaction with walkers**
- **Inevitable bottlenecks such as Bracken Lane Fire Trail**
  - **Education and enforcement**

