

20th August, 2019

Manager
Planning, Evaluation and Assessment
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Dear Sir or Madame,

RE: Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park management plans, especially the [Leases, Licenses and Consents Discussion Paper](#) and the [Recreational Activities Discussion Paper](#).

Bicycle NSW has been the peak bicycle advocacy group now in NSW for over forty two years, and has over 30 affiliated local Bicycle User Groups.

Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park is popular with people of all ages who ride bikes. From children and beginners learning for the first time, through to enthusiastic, regular road and mountain bike riders, and everyone in between.

We were recently shocked and saddened by the crash where reporter Amelia Hungerford hit James Tan whilst he was riding his bike. Amelia Hungerford was convicted of Dangerous Driving Occasioning Grievous Bodily Harm, when the McLaren sports car she was driving on a test day for journalists crossed onto the wrong side of the road and collided with James near Akuna Bay on the 9th May 2018.

James Tan, was a dentist and the severity of his injuries mean that he will never practice again, and is lucky to be alive. We obtained a transcript of the judgement and it mentions that this McLaren test day was a "pre-approved" event, and we have established that this approval was issued by the National Parks and Wildlife Service. Amelia was sentenced to [12 months in gaol](#), and it was evident from the transcript that she was not strong enough to apply the brakes correctly, or control the vehicle safely.

In considering the [Leases, Licenses and Consents Discussion Paper](#) we recommend against providing licences and consents for events in Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park that involve people testing or rallying high-powered motor vehicles.

This is an area for people of all ages to participate in active recreation on foot, by bike or by horse, and for wildlife to find safety. It is unsuitable to hold events involving high powered cars, motorbikes or trucks, especially when people unfamiliar with operating these vehicles are invited to try them.

We are also concerned that such events encourage some people to view Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park as an appropriate place to drive through dangerously, or at excess speed, risking the lives of others and undermining the efforts of police.

More generally we would recommend a reduction in speed limits to 50 km/hr though the park from the:

- Mt Colah entrance, though Bobbin Head, and out to the entrance at North Turramurra, and
- Liberator General San Martin Drive from the West Head Rd to the Cottage Point Rd.

The current 60km/h and 80km/h speed limits are hazardous for people and wildlife.

In considering the [Recreational Activities Discussion Paper](#) we recommend the development of mountain bike facilities. Mountain bike riding is popular and there is significant unmet need for facilities accessible to people living in Sydney and surrounds.

We appreciate that mountain bike riders would need to be kept separate from people walking and riding horses. We would also recommend that the facility include:

- Well-designed, flowing tracks with a variety of challenges, obstacles, features allowing for a wide range of users and designed to be low on maintenance as possible by optimising drainage

- Options for skilled riders and an adjacent 'B-grade' for learners and children to develop their skills
- Parking to enable people to bring their bikes in- though we would also encourage the development of connections and services to enable access for people not using cars
- Drinking water
- Toilets- many mountain bike facilities don't include them, limiting the appeal and accessibility to female riders
- A wash area for bikes
- A well designed map of the track, terrain and features for riders

We are aware of and support the submissions of Bike North and the Bobbin Head Cycle Classic with regard to Kuring-gai Chase National Park