



Government
of South Australia

14SEC2032

The Hon Ian Hunter MLC

Ms Dannielle McBeath
Executive Officer
Walking SA
PO Box 581
ECHUNGA SA 5153

Dear Ms McBeath

I write in response to your letter regarding the Adelaide Mount Lofty Ranges as an international mountain biking destination. Thank you for your interest in this exciting development. I apologise for the delay in my response.

The South Australian Government is committed to the region becoming a destination for the widest possible range of recreational and tourism activities.

While one of the State Government's 2014 election commitments is to establish the Mount Lofty Ranges as an international mountain biking destination, there is ample room for the simultaneous promotion of our walking trails. Tourism destination planners are currently being engaged to prepare a technical report with recommendations on how to use the Adelaide Hills to attract more visitors to Adelaide.

I am advised that the report will include recommendations on a range of complementary outdoor recreation, food and wine experiences and city-based activities for people to undertake when they visit mountain bike trails, as well as linkages with accommodation and restaurants.

I note the concerns you have raised regarding the safety of trail users. The safety and enjoyment of all users will be a priority in encouraging more trail use in the Adelaide Hills. I understand that not every trail is suitable for mountain biking. The Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources (DEWNR) and other Land Managers involved in providing mountain bike facilities do so with a sound risk assessment and trail classification system embedded. As part of the development of the trail the Department will be conducting an environmental impact assessment.

Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation
Minister for Water and the River Murray
Minister for Climate Change

Level 9, Chesser House, 91-97 Grenfell Street Adelaide SA 5000 | GPO Box 1047 Adelaide SA 5001 DX 138
Tel 08 8463 5680 | Fax 08 8463 5681 | Email ministerhunter@sa.gov.au | www.premier.sa.gov.au

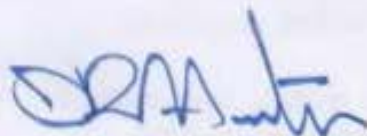


DEWNR has a thorough environmental risk assessment process it follows whenever any new trail or park facility is planned or built. The Department will continue to carefully plan, assess and use suitable best practice trail construction, maintenance and monitoring techniques to ensure environmental impact is minimised.

Best practice design will always be at the heart of responsible trail development. I am also advised that a combination of sharing paths where possible and setting aside single-use or single direction zones where appropriate will encourage the maximum number of people to use and enjoy our parks and other natural areas.

This is an exciting time for the Adelaide Hills. I acknowledge Walking SA's input into the planning process and hope this will continue throughout the co-design planning process as we move towards achieving the vision.

Yours sincerely



IAN HUNTER MLC

Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation

26/3 / 2015