CM13.5. Draft Eastern Hill Activation Master Plan – Public Exhibition Submissions

DATE	27 March 2023	**FIL REFERENCE**	FIL18/02617
CONFIDENTIAL	No		
FURTHER ENQUIRIES	David Costello City Landscapes	**PHONE**	6023 8111
AUTHOR	Rob Sharpe and Nerilee Kerslake		

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with a summary of the feedback received during public exhibition of the Draft Eastern Hill Activation Master Plan and propose the next steps for this master plan.

Background

Master plans assist Council in providing a strategic direction for the sustainable future use and development of our parks, reserves, sports grounds, and other defined areas throughout the city.

Eastern Hill Reserve, including Devils Glen and Doctors Point Reserve, is a 77-hectare reserve that is zoned both C2 (Environmental Conservation) and RE1 (Public Recreation). It is located to the east of Central Albury, adjacent to the localities of East Albury, Mungabareena Reserve, Doctors Point, and Eastern View Estate. It is currently accessed by residents and visitors for predominantly passive recreational purposes such as bushwalking. The Eastern Hill Rotary Lookout is a well-known vantage point to take in the views of Albury and its surrounding landscapes, and Mungabareena Reserve has significant cultural value, being declared an 'Aboriginal Place' in 2016.

Eastern Hill does not currently have an endorsed master plan to guide the future use, management, and proposed activation of the site. The need for a master plan has become a priority following feedback from the community and the Albury Rotary Club requesting improvement to the facilities and offerings. There is also interest in the addition of a small mountain bike network at Eastern Hill, which was identified as a key recommendation within the 2021 Albury Mountain Bike Strategy. Consequently, it was proposed to prepare a master plan for the site with the following objectives:

- to improve the existing user experience through sensitive activation within the Reserve and on Eastern Hill, which is in direct response to community feedback regarding the poor state of facilities in the area;
- to give effect to the Albury Mountain Bike Strategy, which included a recommendation to consider the establishment of a trail network at Eastern Hill as a short-term priority; and
- to improve the interface with the Hume and Hovell Walking Track and improve linkages with Mungabareena Reserve.

A Request for Quotation to develop the Eastern Hill Activation Master Plan was advertised in February 2022 with local landscape architecture firm, Yonder Landscape Architecture, being awarded the project.

To ensure the community had input into the development of some preliminary concepts for the draft Master Plan, an initial 'Have your Say' process was undertaken in early 2022 to ask the community how they use Eastern Hill Reserve and what they see as the key opportunities and issues of using Eastern Hill. The campaign received 1,269 visits to the page, and 554 contributions from 519 contributors.

A summary of the key messages from the community during the initial 'Have your Say' were as follows:

- most people use Eastern Hill for walking, and to a lesser extent bike riding;
- many people found uneven trail quality that is poorly marked and overgrown with plants (vegetation) as the biggest barriers to accessing Eastern Hill;
- the scenic views, the walking trails, bushland setting, and the lookout were identified as the best things about Eastern Hill;
- trails and amenities were identified as the areas that most need improvement;
- many people were keen to see additional tree planting and revegetation;
- 36.46% of respondents lived in East Albury; and
- 73.31% of respondents were in support of the development of mountain bike trails.

In addition to the initial 'Have your Say' process, some additional community and stakeholder engagement was undertaken. This included informal meetings with the Albury Rotary Club (who originally established the Eastern Hill Lookout), Aboriginal Elders from the Mungabareena Reserve Management Group, the Albury Wodonga Mountain Bikers (AWMTB), as well as inviting feedback from some adjoining landowners.

The resulting feedback from the 'Have your Say' process and stakeholder engagement was then used to develop preliminary concepts that were included within the draft Eastern Hill Activation Master Plan (Attachment 1).

The Draft Eastern Hill Activation Master Plan was presented to Council on 8 August 2022, whereby Council resolved to place the draft on public exhibition for a total of 56 days to allow the community to provide further input into the draft Master Plan. During this 56-day public exhibition period, AlburyCity conducted four community information sessions dedicated to Eastern Hill engagement. Two were held at the AlburyCity administration building, one at QEII Square and one at the Eastern Hill Rotary Lookout. The first community information session held at the AlburyCity administration building had approximately 40 people in attendance, the second session was attended by approximately 35 people. The pop-up session at QEII Square had approximately 65 people in attendance and the on-site Eastern Hill session had approximately 50 people in attendance.

At the close of the 56-day public exhibition period, the community responded with 606 submissions, received from 522 separate contributors.

Issues

Public Exhibition Review

During the public exhibition period, there was significant community and media interest in the draft Master Plan. This included a diverse range of community opinions, which resulted in the formation of the Friends of Eastern Hill stakeholder group and the subsequent establishment of the Eastern Hill Redevelopment Public Forum Facebook group by residents to raise awareness of their concerns regarding the draft Master Plan.

Due to the significant number of submissions received, and the extensive amount of community interest generated through the public exhibition period, Council Officers engaged an independent consultant, Lightbulb Consulting, to review and evaluate the public submissions to better understand the extent of community support (or otherwise) for the draft Master Plan. The scope of works for this evaluation sought to quantify the extent of general support and/or opposition to the draft Master Plan, as well as individual master plan concepts.

To ensure that the feedback was reviewed impartially, the submissions were forwarded, verbatim, to Lightbulb Consulting, who reviewed and evaluated each submission. A report summarising the evaluation of public submissions was subsequently prepared by Lightbulb Consulting and is included in Attachment 2, with the consolidated table of public submissions included as Attachment 3.

In reviewing each submission, the consultant identified 20 key themes that emerged on multiple occasions across the submissions. These themes included a variety of issues both for and against the master plan concepts, with many submissions taking the opportunity to identify multiple themes. The occurrence results for the 20 themes are included in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Key themes identified from Public Exhibition

	Key themes identified from Public Exhibition	Number of times theme identified
1	Support infrastructure improvements	143
2	Loss of amenity	140
3	Concerned at impact of mountain bikes	134
4	Will benefit general community	98
5	Concerned about consultation process	84
6	Impact on environment	70
7	Level of upgrade not warranted	48
8	Support mountain bike elements of plan	37
9	Supportive of improved accessibility	30
10	Impact on fauna	29
11	Concerned with ongoing maintenance	22
12	Will cause traffic issues	21
13	Safety of pedestrians or general community	19
14	Preserve memorial	19
15	Financial impact	17

	Key themes identified from Public Exhibition	Number of times theme identified
16	Impact on flora	17
17	Cultural significance to Aboriginal peoples	16
18	Supportive of regeneration efforts	13
19	Wants redevelopment to be staged	4
20	Accessibility for emergency services	2

The above results indicate that the perceived impact of mountain biking was clearly the most dominant and contentious element within the draft Master Plan. It should also be noted that concerns associated with mountain biking were also often expressed in other overlapping themes, including 'loss of amenity', 'impact to the environment', 'impact to flora and fauna' and 'safety to pedestrians'. Opportunities for addressing these mountain bike-related concerns are outlined in the latter sections of this report.

One of the other key themes that emerged from the submissions was the concern expressed about the consultation process, with many people concerned that they were not given sufficient opportunity to provide input into the draft Master Plan. To address this concern, AlburyCity has committed to reviewing the AlburyCity Engagement Plan, as part of a separate project, to improve the way we engage with our community in the future, especially in instances where there is significant community interest and where polarised views may exist within the community. In giving effect to this, Council has commenced this work and has endorsed a Stakeholder Engagement Plan to guide the redevelopment of the AlburyCity Communications and Engagement Strategy.

Whilst there was significant opposition to mountain-biking elements of the draft Master Plan, it is also noted that there were many people who were quite supportive of the proposed infrastructure improvements, including the upgrade of Rotary and Trig Point Lookouts, walking trail improvements, improved access and parking and upgrade of amenities such as toilets and BBQ provision. Many respondents felt that these infrastructure improvements would result in improved accessibility and provide benefits for the broader community.

In addition to the theme analysis, the consultant also categorised each submission based on the extent to which each submission was interpreted as either supportive or opposed to the draft Master Plan (Attachment 3). The seven categories identified by the consultant are shown below in Table 2.

Table 2: Identified categories showing master plan levels of support

1	**Strongly for proposal**	Highly supportive of all aspects of the proposal with no changes.
2	**Generally, for proposal**	Supportive of proposal.
3	**For proposal, but with changes**	General concepts meet needs but feel some changes would be necessary and beneficial.
4	**Neutral**	Neither for nor against proposal.
5	**Against proposal, but could support with changes**	Currently not supportive of proposal but feel changes to the concepts could alter this.
6	**Generally against proposal**	Does not support concept as it stands.
7	**Strongly against proposal**	Would not support under any circumstances.

Based on the review by the consultant, the submissions, once categorised, were assigned a percentage and quantity as per Table 3 below:

Table 3: Percentage and Quantity of submissions per category

Category	Percentage	Quantity
Strongly for proposal	17.62	92
Generally for proposal	14.18	74
For proposal, but with changes	4.41	23
Neutral	18.96	99
Against proposal, but could support with changes	8.43	44
Generally against proposal	29.31	153
Strongly against proposal	7.09	37

The results demonstrate a wide spectrum of both support and opposition for the draft Master Plan in its current format. If these results are aggregated, it can be broadly extrapolated that 32% of people were typically supportive of the draft Master Plan, with 36% opposed to the draft Master Plan, and 32% of respondents either neutral or seeking some changes to the draft Master Plan. Based on the diversity of results and feedback received, it would appear that further refinements to the draft Master Plan would be beneficial to alleviate some of the community concerns and better align with broader community aspirations for the area.

Master Plan Actions generally supported through feedback

Many people generally talked to the advantages of the draft Master Plan, particularly the benefits it will bring to the wider community. More specifically, some of the draft Master Plan elements that resonated more strongly with the community included improving maintenance in the area, improving the quality of access and trails from a disability and pram perspective, and the need for revegetation of the area. The water tank precinct and the installation of public art on existing water tanks was also widely supported.

The redevelopment of the Rotary Lookout on Eastern Hill was also widely supported in the feedback, including the upgraded amenities, and seen as a positive from a tourism perspective. However, the number of car parks proposed on the draft Master Plan was questioned, given the scale of the proposed upgrade.

The activation of Trig Point as a lookout was generally supported, however the size and scale of this development was questioned in several submissions.

Master Plan Actions generally opposed through feedback

Based on the submissions received, the most divisive element of the draft Master Plan was the proposed introduction of mountain bike trails into the area, with many community members expressing strong concern at the proposed inclusion of mountain bike trails. It was identified by many contributors that mountain bike riding should be limited to Nail Can Hill, where a formal trail network

is currently located. However, it should be noted that Nail Can Hill mountain bike trails are typically suited to more experienced riders, with the proposed inclusion of mountain bike trails on Eastern Hill aimed at providing a small, accessible and inclusive space for less experienced riders that would formalise some of the illegal trail-building that occurs on parts of Eastern Hill Reserve.

The proposed roundabout and entry/exit realignment at the intersection of Walsh and East Streets was a concern in some submissions, with increased traffic flow and speed the key concerns.

Proposed amendments to the draft Master Plan

Following the review of the public exhibition submissions, Council Officers have reviewed each of the recommendations identified within the draft Master Plan (Attachment 1) and have proposed some amendments in line with the feedback provided by the community. Table 4 below identifies each of the draft Master Plan recommendations, including an Officer response outlining any proposed amendments for further consideration by Council.

Table 4: Draft Master Plan recommendations and officer response

Item No	MASTER PLAN RECOMMENDATION	DRAFT STATUS	COUNCIL OFFICER COMMENTS
1	**Enhance the entry experience.** Install identifier and way-finding signage to highlight the entries to the Reserve.	RETAIN	Signage is a key element to improve the visitor experience to the site.
2	**Improve track surfacing and drainage.** Upgrade the surfacing and implement drainage control measures to improve the accessibility, safety and ongoing management of walking, fire trail and maintenance tracks.	RETAIN	Improving the surface of trails has been supported in the feedback, especially from a disability and pram access perspective. This does not mean all trails will be hardened, rather surfaces improved (commensurate with their level of utilisation) to improve accessibility and safety, and to minimise ongoing maintenance requirements.
3	**Investigate opportunities for restoration.** Rationalise and amalgamate tracks and paths. Undertake revegetation where paths are removed.	RETAIN	Illegal or unused tracks will be removed to reduce the maintenance requirements on-site and allow for environmental improvements.
4	**Relocate access to public land.** Re-align path within the Reserve boundary, adjacent to Hilltops Accommodation.	RETAIN	This is required as the existing path travels throughout land under NSW Health ownership and needs to be relocated onto Council-managed land.

Item No	MASTER PLAN RECOMMENDATION	DRAFT STATUS	COUNCIL OFFICER COMMENTS
5	**Create a tank art trail.** Consider commissioning a series of artworks on the water tanks.	RETAIN	This recommendation was generally supported in the community feedback.
6	**Develop spaces to take in the view.** Provide seating and directional/ interpretive signage at key elevated locations within the Water Tank Precinct.	RETAIN	This recommendation was generally supported in the community feedback to improve the visitor experience within the Water Tank Precinct.
7	**Define easement from Sunrise Terrace.** Delineate a pedestrian connection through the easement to the Reserve.	RETAIN	This will improve general community access to/from Eastern View Estate, East Street and beyond.
8	**Improve traffic safety on East Street.** Develop a roundabout, including raised pedestrian crossings, refuge islands and line marking, at the intersection of East and Walsh Streets.	**PROPOSED CHANGE**	While pedestrian safety and slowing speeding driver behaviour on East Street was supported in the community feedback, there was mixed feedback on the suitability of a roundabout. It should be noted that further traffic investigations are required to determine the most appropriate traffic treatment, which will be finalised through the detailed design process to ensure that it meets design and safety outcomes.
9	**Redefine the vehicular entry to the Lookout car park.** Remove existing entry off the access road at East Street and revegetate. Provide a new 2-way road access from the proposed roundabout through possible land acquisition. Retain part of the existing road and widen to accommodate 2-way traffic. Consider closing off access into the Reserve after dark.	**PROPOSED CHANGE**	The improvements to the entry and access road were generally supported in the public submissions. The new road access will be finalised through a detailed design process once environmental studies and appropriate traffic and safety investigations are undertaken.

Item No	MASTER PLAN RECOMMENDATION	DRAFT STATUS	COUNCIL OFFICER COMMENTS
10	**Rationalise car parking.** Provide a one-way loop to access the car park, with 15 designated spaces as well as 2 disabled spaces. Include solar powered lighting and consider CCTV.	**PROPOSED CHANGE**	There was broad community support for managing anti-social behaviour at the Eastern Hill Rotary Lookout. Rationalising and formalising the car parking at the Eastern Hill Rotary Lookout was generally supported in the public submissions received. However, several comments referred to there "not being enough" car parking for the space. The ultimate design and number of spaces will be reviewed during detailed design, which will include further investigation of traffic movement and environmental considerations.
11	**Enhance visitor experience at the Rotary Lookout.** Decommission existing amenities. Provide a new accessible toilet facility at a new location. Provide shelters, viewing deck, BBQ, picnic tables, seats, water station, rubbish bin, way-finding and interpretive signage.	RETAIN	This recommendation was widely supported through the public submissions.
12	**Designate mountain bike (MTB) gatherings/ events.** Provide a designated trail head gathering space (with paved area, signage and shelter) on the west side of the car park, away from other park users.	**PROPOSED CHANGE**	The need for a designated trail head space to be reconsidered following clarification of the inclusion of Mountain Bike Trails – Refer below to Recommendation 23.
13	**Separate MTB users from other park users.** Where possible, separate walkers from mountain bike users. This could include a land bridge to create grade separation.	**PROPOSED CHANGE**	The need for a land bridge and grade separation to be reconsidered following clarification of the inclusion of mountain bike trails – Refer below to Recommendation 23.
14	**Equal access to the Trig Point Lookout.** Develop a DDA compliant (equal access) path from the Rotary Lookout car park to the Trig Point Lookout.	RETAIN	This recommendation was widely supported by the community in the public submissions and meets the requirements of the AlburyCity Disability Inclusion Action Plan.

Item No	MASTER PLAN RECOMMENDATION	DRAFT STATUS	COUNCIL OFFICER COMMENTS
15	**Improve the Trig Point Lookout.** Rationalise access and provide an equal access path, alternative step access and path leading to the south. Develop a viewing and resting space with feature paving, seating and interpretive signage.	**PROPOSED CHANGE**	While the development of the Trig Point Lookout was generally supported, there was mixed feedback about the scale of this development. It is noted that this element could be scaled back in the detailed design to have a smaller footprint within the site.
16	**Delineate the reserve boundaries in Devils Glen Reserve.** Improve access and legibility by removing all internal fences within public land.	RETAIN	The removal of unnecessary and encroaching fencing is appropriate given the Conservation zoning of the land, noting there was also widespread feedback to protect native fauna in the Reserve.
17	**Address access at steep and low areas.** Connect the path network with an elevated boardwalk or steps (permeable mesh construction) at steep and low-lying areas.	RETAIN	This will improve access and drainage issues and enhance the user experience.
18	**Improve safety and access for pedestrians along Doctors Point Road.** Provide a cantilevered boardwalk (permeable mesh construction) with handrails and balustrade.	**PROPOSED CHANGE**	There was mixed community feedback on this recommendation, although it should be noted that any development along Doctors Point Road will need to be included in the design of any future road upgrade, allowing for all environmental and heritage studies to be undertaken. Investigate an alternative route skirting Devils Glen Reserve boundaries that could also support ongoing Reserve maintenance.
19	**Utilise public land to create walking loops.** Formalise paths within road reserve and other public land to connect parts of the reserve and beyond.	RETAIN	Creating connections and looped recreation trails will enhance the user experience. There was strong support for improving trails in the public submissions.
20	**Improve access and drainage at Gunbower Close.** Provide a floating stair structure (permeable mesh construction) to replace the existing steps, and revegetate surrounds where required. Include a 'Pedestrians Only' sign.	RETAIN	This recommendation will improve existing access from Gunbower Close for both residents and visitors and enhance the user experience accessing the Reserve from this path.

Item No	MASTER PLAN RECOMMENDATION	DRAFT STATUS	COUNCIL OFFICER COMMENTS
21	**Highlight the view to Kiewa Valley and Alps.** Replace the existing seat with new furniture and interpretive signage.	**PROPOSED CHANGE**	Update wording to clarify that the existing memorial seat will be retained, and additional furniture and signage installed to allow multiple users to enjoy the Kiewa Valley views.
22	**Re-align the Hume and Hovell Track.** Develop a new alignment for the Hume and Hovell Track, which is separated from the MTB trail network and vehicular movement routes, and is clearly signed for improved legibility.	**PROPOSED CHANGE**	There was mixed community feedback on this recommendation, although it should be noted that the realignment of the Hume and Hovell Track would improve access between Eastern Hill and Mungabareena Reserve, as well as removing the existing steps to minimise the maintenance requirements. Consider realignment to link with Kiewa Valley Lookout. The Hume and Hovell Track has been rerouted within Albury several times in recent years to improve the user experience.
23	**Develop an MTB trail network.** Construct a small network of trails as per the MTB Strategy, to be developed over a number of years.	**PROPOSED CHANGE**	The proposed MTB trail network was the most polarising element within the draft Master Plan. This recommendation requires further consideration, and potential options could include: **Option 1** – Retain MTB trails as currently depicted on the draft Master Plan. Based on community feedback, this option may not be well received by all community members. **Option 2** – Remove all MTB facilities from the draft Master Plan. Based on community feedback, this option may not be well received by all community members. **Option 3** – Include a scaled back trail system, still supporting descending and ascending trails, but in a reduced capacity. This option could achieve a compromised position, rather than an 'all in' or 'all out' approach.

Item No	MASTER PLAN RECOMMENDATION	DRAFT STATUS	COUNCIL OFFICER COMMENTS
			Option 4 – Remove references to MTB Trails but consider a multi-use recreational trail that could run adjacent to the Reserve boundaries. This option could provide a shared path to satisfy both pedestrians and cyclists, whilst also providing important access for maintenance operations and emergency vehicles.
24	**Restore the ecology as part of the MTB trail network development.** Plant local species in 'fingers' creating habitat links from ridgeline to river. Revegetation will be designed to control MTB movement and help reduce erosion.	**PROPOSED CHANGE**	Revegetation of the eastern face and ridgeline of the Reserve will remain on the draft Master Plan, but proposed action reworded to remove references to the MTB trail network. There was strong community support in the public submissions for the protection and enhancement of the area's flora and fauna values. The extent of revegetation works will be further documented within a revegetation plan for the Reserve.
25	**Protect the cultural and natural values of Mungabareena Reserve.** Utilise the existing car park off Doctors Point Road as a secondary MTB user access/pick up point. Install boulders and plantings to restrict vehicular access beyond the road. Remove informal tracks and undertake a revegetation program. Consider replacement of the existing footbridge.	**PROPOSED CHANGE**	Remove reference to the MTB car park. All other elements in Mungabareena Reserve would need further consultation with the Mungabareena Aboriginal Place Management Group as part of the Mungabareena Reserve Master Plan development.
	GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS		
G1	Protect adjacent residents from bushfire risk by maintaining a clear zone along Reserve boundaries.	**PROPOSED CHANGE**	Proposed wording change to align with the Hume Zone Bushfire Management Committee Bushfire Risk Management Plan. Recommendation to remove reference to a 'Clear Zone' as this terminology is not supported in the above Plan. This recommendation was generally supported in the community feedback.

Item No	MASTER PLAN RECOMMENDATION	DRAFT STATUS	COUNCIL OFFICER COMMENTS
G2	Remove all redundant fencing within the Reserve, and all barbed wire on boundary fencing for safe wildlife corridors.	RETAIN	This recommendation was generally supported in the community feedback, with a strong desire to protect endemic fauna.
G3	Implement an ongoing weed eradication program of species such as Blackberry, Privet, Tree Lucerne and Broom, as part of the Reserve maintenance.	RETAIN	This recommendation was generally supported in the community feedback.
G4	Improve ongoing maintenance by implementing Council's maintenance regime for high profile sites.	**PROPOSED CHANGE**	This recommendation was generally supported in the community feedback, however it should be noted that only the car park and Rotary Lookout will be maintained to a high-profile standard, with the balance of the Reserve managed on an occasional basis (subject to seasonal demands).
G5	Implement a hierarchy of identifier, directional and interpretive signage across the Reserve.	RETAIN	This recommendation was generally supported in the community feedback.

Community Engagement

A summary of the community engagement activities undertaken to date, as part of the development of the draft Eastern Hill Activation Master Plan, are outlined below.

Have your Say

An initial 'Have your Say' process was open to the whole community from 25 January 2022 to 16 February 2022. This 'Have your Say' process had 554 contributions from 519 different contributors. In addition to the initial 'Have your Say' process, some additional community and stakeholder engagement was undertaken with the master plan consultant. This included informal meetings with the Albury Rotary Club (who originally established the Eastern Hill Lookout), Aboriginal Elders from the Mungabareena Reserve Management Group, the Albury Wodonga Mountain Bikers (AWMTB), as well as inviting feedback from some adjoining landowners.

The resulting feedback from the 'Have your Say' process and preliminary stakeholder engagement was then referenced to develop some initial draft concepts that were included within the draft Eastern Hill Activation Master Plan. This draft Master Plan was subsequently presented to Council and the community for further feedback during public exhibition.

Public Exhibition

The draft Master Plan was presented to Council on Monday 8 August 2022, and endorsed, to be placed on public exhibition for 56 days (double the minimum 28-day standard period). There was extensive promotion of the draft Master Plan during the public exhibition period, which included onsite signage at all formal entrances to Eastern Hill, Council's website page, social media promotion, and extensive traditional media coverage. There were also four community information sessions facilitated by AlburyCity. Two sessions were conducted in the Robert Brown Room at the AlburyCity administration building, one was held at QEII Square and one at the Rotary Lookout on Eastern Hill. All of these sessions were well attended by the community.

At the conclusion of the public exhibition period, the community response included 606 responses from 522 contributors, noting that multiple contributions from the same author were collated into a single response.

Proposed Next Steps for Community Engagement

It has been evident throughout the public exhibition period that this draft Master Plan has been polarising within the community, with strong comments both for and against the draft Master Plan. This observation was supported by the results from public submissions which demonstrated 32% of people were typically supportive of the draft Master Plan, with 36% opposed to the draft Master Plan, and 32% of respondents either neutral or seeking some changes to the draft Master Plan. On this basis, it may be beneficial for Council to make some further refinements to the draft Master Plan and undertake some additional community consultation prior to considering a final version of the Master Plan. In giving effect to this, two potential options for further community consultation have been identified:

Option 1 – Complete a second round of 'Have your Say'. This option would involve making a range of refinements to the draft Master Plan, as identified in the above table, and then recirculating to allow the community to provide feedback on a revised Master Plan. This option could provide an opportunity to demonstrate that Council is actively listening to the community's feedback, however there is a risk that the feedback received will continue to be polarised, with strong opinions voiced similar to those observed during previous public exhibition periods.

Option 2 – Create a community-based Advisory Panel. This option would bring together community members representing each of the key stakeholder interest groups to reach consensus on the Master Plan inclusions. The intent of the Panel is to provide an opportunity for interest groups to share their opinions and identify potential solutions to resolve the more contentious master plan recommendations.

There is a risk that this option will significantly delay approval of the Master Plan, however this risk could be managed by having a predefined timeframe for the Advisory Panel to forward their recommendations back to Council (up to three months). There is also a risk that the Advisory Panel could result in conflict between the respective interest groups, however it is envisaged that this could be addressed through the establishment of a Terms of Reference that would govern membership,

clarify roles and responsibilities, and identify an appropriate meeting code of practice. A draft Terms of Reference that could be used to govern a community-based advisory panel has been developed and is included in Attachment 4.

It is anticipated that an Advisory Panel would meet fortnightly, for a period of up to three months. The Advisory Panel would be chaired by an AlburyCity Councillor and be represented by other key stakeholder groups including Albury Rotary Club, Friends of Eastern Hill, Albury Wodonga Mountain Bikers, AlburyCity Youth Council, the Access and Inclusion Committee, and the Mungabareena Aboriginal Place Management Group. Other key stakeholders may be invited to join the Advisory Panel for the purpose of specialised input and/or clarification.

The Advisory Panel would have a defined scope seeking to use consensus to identify solutions to contentious elements of the draft Master Plan, including:

- traffic, pedestrian access and parking (Master Plan Recommendations 8, 9, 10 and 18);
- mountain biking provisions (Master Plan Recommendations 12,13 and 23);
- Trig Point configuration (Master Plan Recommendation 15);
- the proposed Hume and Hovell Track realignment, including Kiewa Valley Lookout provisions (Master Plan Recommendations 21 and 22); and
- ecological restoration (Master Plan Recommendations 24, 25, General 1 and General 4).

The resulting recommendations would then be presented to Council for further consideration, acknowledging technical expertise will be required during the detailed design phase to further refine some of these recommendations.

Related Strategies

Albury 2050 Community Strategic Plan

This project aligns with the following outcomes from the Albury 2050 Community Strategic Plan:

Theme One – A Growing Sustainable Economy.

1.3 Albury will offer diverse and innovative tourism experiences to attract new and repeat visitation:
- 1.3.1 Communicate the story of Albury through our tourism offerings, providing an authentic and engaging visitor experience.

Theme Two – An Enhanced Natural Environment.

2.4 Albury is recognised as a leader in the conservation and management of our natural assets:
- 2.4.2 Biodiversity has been preserved, enhanced, and restored to strengthen our natural assets to improve eco-system connectivity; and
- 2.4.3 Acknowledge our connection to the natural environment by providing opportunities for the community to connect and respectfully enjoy our natural environment.

Theme Three – A Caring Community.

3.6 Albury is a vibrant region that values enrichment offered by arts and cultural activities and provides for diverse lifestyles and experiences.

3.6.3 Albury will provide a diverse range of experiences – including entertainment, art and cultural experiences, sport and community driven events.

Two Cities, One Community – Community Strategic Plan 2022 – 2025

Section 1: Our Economy.

1.2 We are a destination that offers a variety of experiences, attractions and events for all.

Section 2: The Environment.

2.2 We preserve, experience and promote the beautiful and unique area we live in.

2.5 We will partner with and support our community to deliver on improved environmental outcomes

Regional Natural Environment Strategy

This is a Two Cities One Community Strategy that identifies Albury Wodonga's significant environmental assets, the major threats to these assets, as well as key actions to be undertaken in relation to managing biodiversity. It is the key strategy to support decision-making relating to environmental lands, parks and gardens management, nature-based recreational projects, and community engagement initiatives across Albury Wodonga. The proposed ecological restoration activities identified in the draft Eastern Hill Activation Master Plan are strongly consistent with the intent of the Regional Natural Environment Strategy, and will help protect, retain, and enhance habitat for a range of key species.

Albury Mountain Bike Strategy

2.1.3 Establish a locally significant trail network at Eastern Hill.

- Undertake detailed design for a trail network at Eastern Hill.
- Hume and Hovell Track alignment refined and incorporated into the network design to minimise user conflict.
- Revegetation program incorporated into the trail development to improve both ecological value and visitor experience.

Albury Wodonga Destination Management Plan 2019 - 2023

Activation Area 2 **-** Growing Tourism Product Offer & Infrastructure.

- 7.2.2.7. Trail Upgrades (including the Wagirra Trail) and Guided Tours.

AlburyCity Disability Inclusion Action Plan

2.3 Continue to make parks and play spaces more accessible and inclusive, with design informed by the 'Everyone Can Play Guidelines'.

NSW Public Spaces Charter

- Principle #1: Open and Welcoming – everyone can access public space and feel welcome, respected and included.
- Principle #2: Community Focused – public space brings people together and builds strong, connected and resilient communities.
- Principle #3: Culture and Creativity – public space provides a platform for culture and creative expression that makes places more colourful, animated, and thought provoking.
- Principle #4: Local Character and Identity – public space reflects who we area and our diverse stories and histories.
- Principle #5: Green and Resilient – public space connects us to nature, enhances biodiversity and builds climate resilience into communities.
- Principle #6: Healthy and Active – public space allows everyone to participate in activities that strengthen our health and wellbeing.
- Principle #8: Safe and Secure – everyone feels safe to access and use public space at all times of the day.
- Principle #9: Designed for Place – public space is flexible and responds to its environment to meet the needs of its community.
- Principle #10: Well-managed – well-managed and maintained public space functions better and invites people to use and care for it.

Adventure Cycling Strategy – Department of Regional NSW

Vision – NSW will be the home of Australia's premier adventure cycling destinations capitalising on the diverse natural beauty across our State to strengthen our visitor economies and support community health, connections, and wellbeing.

Objective 2 – Increase access so local communities can enjoy quality adventure cycling experiences in green and public spaces.

Murray River Experience Master Plan

Eastern Hill is identified in conjunction with Mungabareena Reserve in the Murray River Experience Master Plan, which identifies the following site upgrades:

- replacement of public amenities to provide access for all abilities;
- replacement of park furniture and the provision of interpretive signs; and
- upgrading of the Hume and Hovell Track.

Risk

- **Business Risk** – once endorsed, this master plan will have implications on budget and resourcing to deliver the actions identified. Future implementation of the draft Eastern Hill Activation Master Plan will require resourcing that can be considered through Council's operational planning and capital works programming and budgeting processes. Once detailed design commences, further work will be done to refine the initial Anticipated Order of Costs ($4,737,000) and identify the priority master plan elements for implementation. A detailed funding strategy will be developed that outlines future funding opportunities that can be considered, including grant applications, future Council budget deliberations, and via other stakeholder contributions (eg. Rotary).

- **Corporate Risk** – developing master plans for high-profile community spaces provides a strategic direction for all key stakeholders and Council. It is also critical to achieving grant funding. This master plan has been the subject of extensive public scrutiny and media interest. This is expected to continue, and it will be important for Council to continue to engage with the community on any proposed refinements to the draft Master Plan.

- **WHS and Public Risk** – this project has addressed community concerns regarding the access to Eastern Hill Reserve and the Hume and Hovell Track where it crosses East Street. WHS and risk management will be considered further as part of the detailed design process associated with individual master plan elements. Detailed risk assessments will be undertaken for specific projects prior to works commencing on-ground once the draft Master Plan is endorsed.

- **Environmental Risk** – there are no environmental impacts at this stage in the development of the draft Master Plan. Once the draft Master Plan is endorsed, individual projects will be subject to detailed studies through a Review of Environmental Factors and cultural heritage assessment.

- **Delivery Program Risk** – there are no delivery risks identified at this time. The draft Master Plan, once endorsed, will be used to inform the New Initiatives process in future years funding, with no funding currently shown for Year 1 expenditure. Both the Eastern Hill Activation Master Plan and the Mountain Bike Strategy will have a prioritised Action Plan for implementation.

Options

1. Endorse the current draft Eastern Hill Activation Master Plan (Attachment 1) as the final version. This is not the preferred option due to large amount of community feedback received through the public exhibition period that identified concerns with some recommendations of the draft Master Plan. **Not Recommended.**

2. Make refinements to the draft Master Plan based on community feedback as identified within the table in this report, and present to the community through a second round of 'Have your Say' process for additional feedback before re-presenting to Council for consideration. This is not the preferred option due to significant polarised opinions on inclusion of some master plan recommendations, and the perceived risk that Council has not fully listened to community feedback. **Not Recommended.**

3. Establish an Advisory Panel represented by key community stakeholders to collaborate on master plan refinements and recommend proposed changes to the draft Eastern Hill Activation Master Plan for further consideration by Council. This Advisory Panel would have a tenure of up to three months and be governed by the Terms of Reference identified in Attachment 4. This option is preferred, as the formation of a community-based advisory panel would allow all key stakeholder groups to collaborate on key issues and use consensus to find solutions to some of the more contentious recommendations included in the draft Master Plan. This option would require the nomination of two Councillor representatives to sit on the Advisory Panel, with one of these Councillor representatives to be responsible for chairing of meetings. **Recommended.**

4. Take no further action and do not proceed with the draft Master Plan. This is not the preferred option. Whilst there was significant opposition to some elements such as mountain biking, it is also noted that there were many people who were quite supportive of the proposed infrastructure improvements including the upgrade of Rotary and Trig Point Lookouts, walking trail improvements, improved access, and parking and upgrade of amenities such as toilets and BBQ provision. Not proceeding further with the draft Master Plan would jeopardise the implementation of a number of improvements to the facilities and offerings that have been requested by the community. **Not Recommended.**

Conclusion

Eastern Hill Reserve, including Devils Glen and Doctors Point Reserve, is a 77-hectare reserve that is zoned both C2 (Environmental Conservation) and RE1 (Public Recreation). The Reserve is currently accessed by residents and visitors for predominantly passive recreational purposes such as bushwalking. The Eastern Hill Rotary Lookout is a well-known vantage point to take in the views of Albury and its surrounding landscapes, and Mungabareena Reserve has significant cultural value, being declared an 'Aboriginal Place' in 2016.

Eastern Hill does not currently have an endorsed master plan to guide the future use, management, and proposed activation of the site. The need for a master plan has become a priority following feedback from the community and the Albury Rotary Club requesting improvement to the facilities and offerings.

Consequently, Council engaged Yonder Landscape Architects to develop the draft Eastern Hill Activation Master Plan, in conjunction with Council Officers, key stakeholders and the wider community through a 'Have your Say' process. The draft Eastern Hill Activation Master Plan was presented to Council on 8 August 2022, whereby Council resolved to place the draft Master Plan on public exhibition for a total of 56 days to allow the community to provide further input into the draft Master Plan. At the close of the 56-day public exhibition period, the community responded with 606 submissions, received from 522 separate contributors.

During the public exhibition period, there was significant community and media interest in the draft Master Plan, which included a diverse range of community opinions. Due to the considerable number of submissions received, and the extensive amount of community interest generated through the public exhibition period, Council Officers engaged an independent consultant, Lightbulb Consulting, to review and evaluate the public submissions to better understand the extent of community support (or otherwise) for the draft Master Plan and various proposed elements.

The results of this evaluation indicate that the perceived impact of mountain biking was clearly the most dominant and contentious element within the draft Master Plan. One of the other key themes that emerged was the concern expressed about the consultation process, with many people concerned that they were not given sufficient opportunity to provide input into the draft Master Plan.

Whilst there was significant opposition to mountain biking elements of the draft Master Plan, it is also noted that there were many people who were quite supportive of the proposed infrastructure improvements, including the upgrade of Rotary and Trig Point Lookouts, walking trail improvements, improved access and parking, and upgrade of amenities such as toilets and BBQ provision. Many respondents felt that these infrastructure improvements would result in improved accessibility and provide benefits for the broader community.

It has been evident throughout the public exhibition period that this has been a polarising master plan with strong comments both for and against the draft Master Plan. This was supported by the results from public submissions which demonstrated 32% of people were typically supportive of the draft Master Plan, with 36% opposed to the draft Master Plan, and 32% of respondents either neutral or seeking some changes to the draft Master Plan.

On this basis, it may be beneficial for Council to make some further refinements to the draft Master Plan and undertake some additional community consultation prior to endorsing a final version of the Master Plan. This could include an additional round of community consultation with another 'Have your Say' campaign, and/or the establishment of an Advisory Panel, represented by key stakeholder groups, to work through some of the contentious elements identified within the draft Master Plan. It is anticipated that further community consultation will allow for further master plan refinements and increase the extent of community support for the draft Master Plan concepts, prior to it being re-presented to Council for further consideration.

Recommendation

That Council:

a. receive and note the Evaluation of Public Submissions Report compiled by Lightbulb Consulting (Attachment 2), and the consolidated results received through the public exhibition period for the draft Eastern Hill Activation Master Plan (Attachment 3);

b. establish an Advisory Panel represented by key community stakeholders to collaborate on master plan refinements and recommend proposed changes to the draft Eastern Hill Activation Master Plan for further consideration by Council. This Advisory Panel would have a tenure of up to three months and be governed by the Terms of Reference identified in Attachment 4; and

c. nominate two Councillor representatives for the Eastern Hill Activation Master Plan Advisory Panel.

Attachments

1. Draft Eastern Hill Activation Master Plan (DOC 22/164762).
2. Draft Eastern Hill Activation Master Plan – Lightbulb Consulting: Evaluation of Public Submissions Report (DOC23/139387).
3. Draft Eastern Hill Activation Master Plan – Consolidated Public Submissions (DOC23/146609).
4. Draft Terms of Reference – Eastern Hill Activation Master Plan Advisory Panel (DOC23/144387).

SITE QUALITIES



A 360 degree view over Albury and well beyond



The experience of walking along the open ridge



High value remnant vegetation



A range of landscapes including wetland, woodland and open grassland



Old trees which provide important habitat

BRIEF

The Brief called for a document that will allow AlburyCity to continue to provide a range of recreational opportunities for both residents and visitors to Albury while taking a conservative approach to the impacts on the natural environment.

The Brief also asked that the Master Plan:

- Include findings from the Council endorsed Albury Mountain Bike Strategy.
- Consider other users, adjacent residential properties, the interface with the Hume and Hovell Walking track and links with Mungabareena Reserve.
- Provides an aspirational and strategic plan and framework which helps to guide the future activation and development of Eastern Hill.

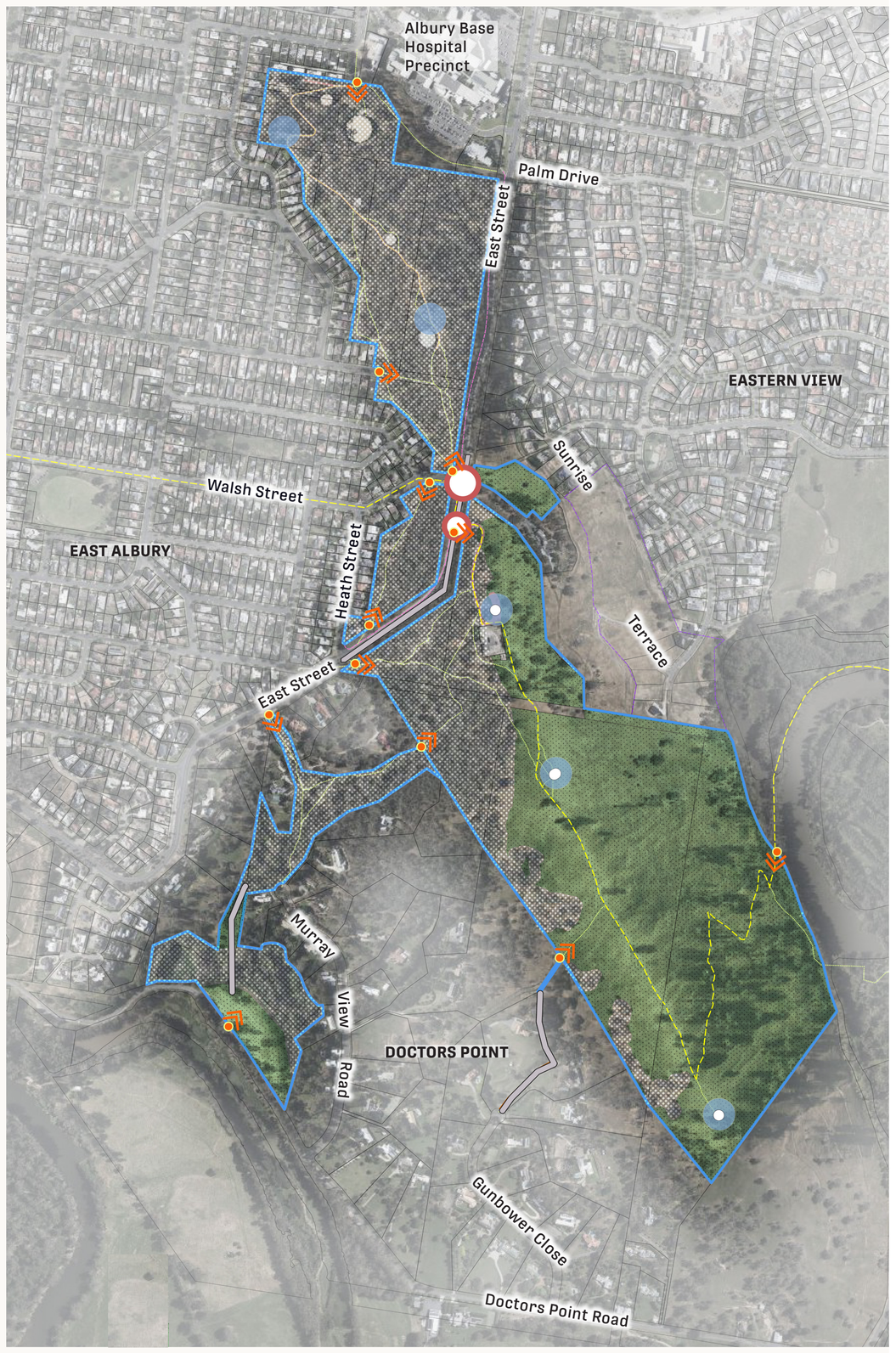
THE SITE

Eastern Hill Reserve is 77 hectares and located to the east of central Albury adjacent to the localities of East Albury, Mungabareena Reserve, Doctors Point and Eastern View.

It is widely accessed by residents for recreational purposes. The lookout is a great vantage point to take in the views of Albury and its surrounding landscapes.

The area of study for Eastern Hill Activation Master Plan consists of several parcels of land situated on both sides of East Street in Albury, with a mix of remnant vegetation, former agricultural land and public/private infrastructure.

ANALYSIS



LEGEND

- Hume and Hovell Walking Track
- Existing trail
- Site boundary
- Entry point
- Barrier to access
- High value existing vegetation
- Revegetation opportunity
- High point
- Destination
- Conflict point

DESIGN STATEMENT

The Eastern Hill Activation Master Plan seeks to provide an aspirational and practical vision which sensitively balances future activation while protecting its unique natural character.

The Master Plan has broadened the definition of activation to include physical, ecological and spiritual activation as a means of achieving this balanced solution.

The design aims to heighten the unique site qualities of panoramic views, elevation and ecology. It provides for improved access to and around the reserve and organises activity to preserve vistas from the ridge-line.

The Master Plan also seeks to create spatial and visual separation between mountain bike (MTB) users and other users throughout the reserve. The plan proposes that restoration of the original vegetation community forms part of the mountain bike trail network development. The plan also identifies opportunities to expand the reserve through possible land acquisitions.

PHYSICAL ACTIVATION

Improved access to the reserve, as well as connections to and between parts of the reserve, improved facilities and amenity as well as separation of MTB users from other users.

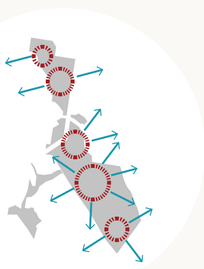
ECOLOGICAL ACTIVATION

Protection and enhancement of existing remnant vegetation areas and restoration of box gum grassy woodlands and open forest, coupled with weed eradication and enhanced maintenance.

SPIRITUAL ACTIVATION

Story-telling, education and connection through interpretive signage, artistic interventions, events and community connection to the landscape.

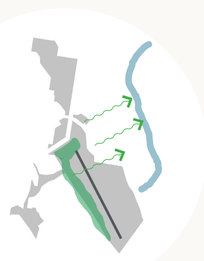
MASTER PLAN PRINCIPLES



REINFORCE PANORAMIC VIEWS
at key high points



CONNECT THE PARTS
through visual and spatial connection of the separate reserve land parcels



RESTORE ECOLOGICAL SYSTEMS
through revegetation connecting remnant vegetation parcels to each other and beyond to the floodplain



IMPROVE ENTRIES
including pedestrian access and arrival experience



CREATE LOOPS AND LINKS
by connecting trails and paths



IMPROVE EAST STREET
including traffic safety + vehicular and pedestrian access

STORY-TELLING



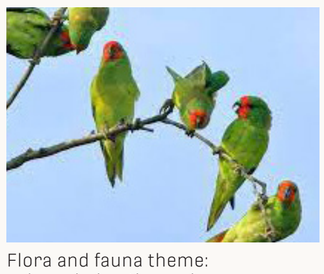
Water tank art trail: series of commissioned and community artworks



Urban infrastructure theme: explore the Albury's water supply system



Wiradjuri stories: celebrate the significance of Eastern Hill to the First Nations people



Flora and fauna theme: acknowledge the various endangered flora and fauna



The founding fathers theme: acknowledge the Rotary Club of Albury developed Eastern Hill Rotary Lookout almost 50 years ago



Visual reference: identification of key landscape features at panoramic views

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Draft Eastern Hill Activation Master Plan



GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

- Protect adjacent residents from bushfire risk by maintaining a clear zone along reserve boundaries.
- Remove all redundant fencing within the reserve, and all barbed wire on boundary fencing for safe wildlife corridors.
- Implement an ongoing weed eradication program of species such as Blackberry, Privet, Tree Lucerne and Broom, as part of the reserve maintenance.
- Improve ongoing maintenance by implementing Council's maintenance regime for high profile sites.
- Implement a hierarchy of identifier, directional and interpretive signage across the reserve.

LEGEND

- Hume and Hovell Track
- Walking trails
- Walking trails in road reserve
- Road
- Maintenance access
- MTB ascending trail
- MTB descending trail
- Pedestrian / MTB shared trail
- Boardwalk
- Stairs
- Car park
- Bench seat
- Picnic setting
- Shelter
- Toilet
- Bins
- Lookout view
- Telescope
- Water station
- Pedestrian only signage
- Level 1 identifier signage — Refer Council Signage Strategy
- Hybrid signage (identifier/way-finding). Refer Council Signage Strategy
- Local directional signage
- Trail intersection signage
- Interpretive signage
- Revegetation with locally occurring species (understorey)
- Revegetation with locally occurring species (overstorey + understorey)

Refer Appendix 1 for Staging and Anticipated Order of Costs

1 **Enhance the entry experience**
Install identifier and way-finding signage to highlight the entries to the reserve.

2 **Improve track surfacing and drainage**
Upgrade the surfacing and implement drainage control measures to improve the accessibility, safety and ongoing management of walking, fire trail and maintenance tracks.

3 **Investigate opportunities for restoration**
Rationalise and amalgamate tracks and paths. Undertake revegetation where paths are removed.

4 **Relocate access to public land**
Re-align path within reserve boundary adjacent to Hilltops Accommodation.

5 **Create a tank art trail**
Consider commissioning a series of artworks on the water tanks.

6 **Develop spaces to take in the view**
Provide seating and directional / interpretive signage at key elevated locations within the Water Tank Precinct.

7 **Define easement from Sunrise Terrace**
Delineate a pedestrian connection through the easement to the reserve.

8 **Improve traffic safety on East Street**
Develop a roundabout, including raised pedestrian crossings, refuge islands and line-marking at the intersection of East and Walsh Streets.

9 **Redefine the vehicular entry to the lookout car park**
Remove existing entry of the access road at East Street and revegetate. Provide a new 2 way road access from the proposed roundabout through possible land acquisition. Retain part of the existing road and widen to accommodate 2 way traffic. Consider closing off access into the reserve after dark.

10 **Rationalise car parking**
Provide a one-way loop to access the car park with designated 15 spaces + 2 disabled spaces. Include solar powered lighting and consider CCTV.

11 **Enhance visitor experience at Rotary Lookout**
Decommission existing amenities. Provide a new accessible toilet facility at a new location. Provide shelters, viewing deck, BBQ, picnic tables, seats, water station, rubbish bin, way-finding and interpretive signage.

12 **Designate MTB gatherings / events**
Provide a designated trail head gathering space (with paved area, signage and shelter) on the west side of the car park away from other park users.

13 **Separate MTB users from other park users**
Where possible, separate walkers from mountain bike users. This could include a land bridge to create grade separation.

14 **Equal access to the Trig Point Lookout**
Develop a DDA compliant (equal access) path from the Rotary Lookout car park to the Trig Point Lookout.

15 **Improve the Trig Point Lookout**
Rationalise access and provide an equal access path, alternative step access and path leading to the south. Develop a viewing and resting space with feature paving, seating and interpretive signage.

16 **Delineate the reserve boundaries in Devil's Glen Reserve**
Improve access and legibility by removing all internal fences within public land.

17 **Address access at steep & low areas**
Connect the path network with an elevated boardwalk or steps (permeable mesh construction) at steep and low-lying areas.

18 **Improve safety and access for pedestrians along Doctors Point Road**
Provide a cantilevered boardwalk (permeable mesh construction) with handrails and balustrade.

19 **Utilise public land to create walking loops**
Formalise paths within road reserve and other public land to connect parts of the reserve and beyond.

20 **Improve access and drainage at Gunbower Close**
Provide a floating stair structure (permeable mesh construction) to replace the existing steps and revegetate surrounds where required. Include a 'Pedestrians Only' sign.

21 **Highlight the view to Kiewa Valley and Alps**
Replace the existing seat with new furniture and interpretive signage.

22 **Re-align the Hume and Hovell Track**
Develop a new alignment for the Hume and Hovell Track which is separated from MTB trail network, vehicular movement routes, and is clearly signed for improved legibility.

23 **Develop a MTB trail network**
Construct a small network of trails as per the MTB Strategy to be developed over a number of years.

24 **Restore the ecology as part of the MTB trail network development**
Plant local species in 'fingers' creating habitat links from ridge-line to river. Revegetation will be designed to control MTB movement and help reduce erosion.

25 **Protect the cultural and natural values of Mungabareena Reserve**
Utilise the existing car park off Doctors Point Road as a secondary MTB user access / pick up point. Install boulders and plantings to restrict vehicular access beyond the road. Remove informal tracks and undertake a revegetation program. Consider replacement of the existing footbridge.

OVERALL MASTER PLAN

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EASTERN HILL ROTARY LOOKOUT PLAN

GENERAL NOTES

- Consider installing a CCTV security system.
- Provide solar powered road and pedestrian lighting

Existing access road widened to allow two-way traffic

Picnic shelter/table

Hume and Hovell Track

New walking trails from East Street. Max. grade 1:10

Car park

Access to car park

Picnic table

BBQ

Water station

Access to car park

Lookout deck

Loop road - one way

Protect existing trees and include understorey planting

Entry / exit to car park

Linear shelters

Identifier / way-finding sign

New accessible public toilet

Rubbish bin

Protect existing tree and include understorey planting

Access path

Screen planting

DDA compliant path to Trig Point Lookout

Service entry only to telecommunication area

MTB trail (descending)

MTB trail-head area utilising existing hardstand

Shelters

Decommission existing toilets

Steps

Maintenance access/ MTB trail (two-way)

1:250 @ A1

0 5 10 15 20 25m



Key Plan nts



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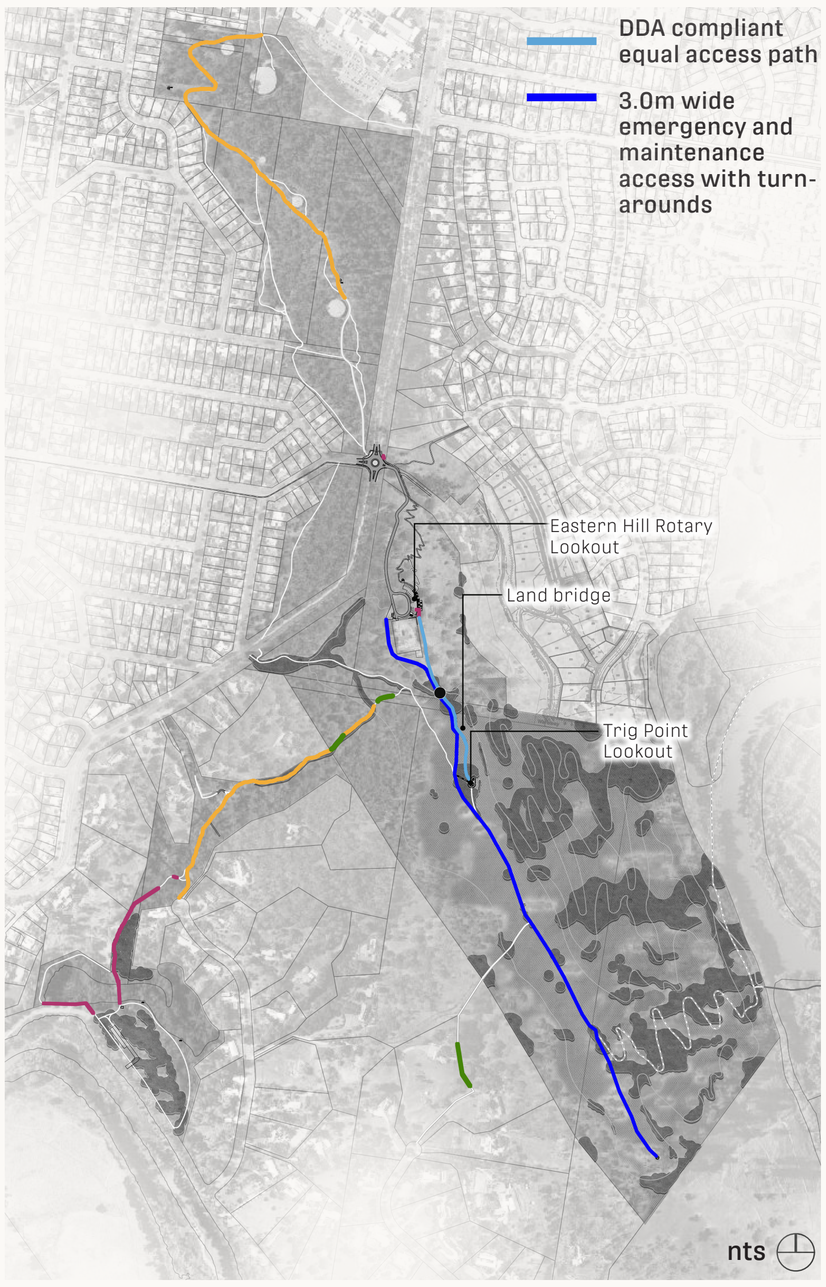
Draft Eastern Hill Activation Master Plan



ACCESS IMPROVEMENTS PLAN

EAST STREET INTERSECTION & ENTRY PLAN

Issue

Typical existing condition



Limited access through wet / boggy areas or narrow shoulder of Doctors Point Road.



Deeply eroded channels.

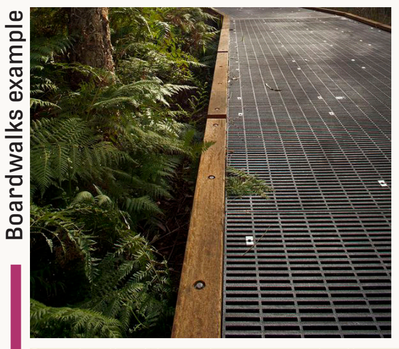
Existing stairs



Eroded steps.

Improvement

Boardwalks example

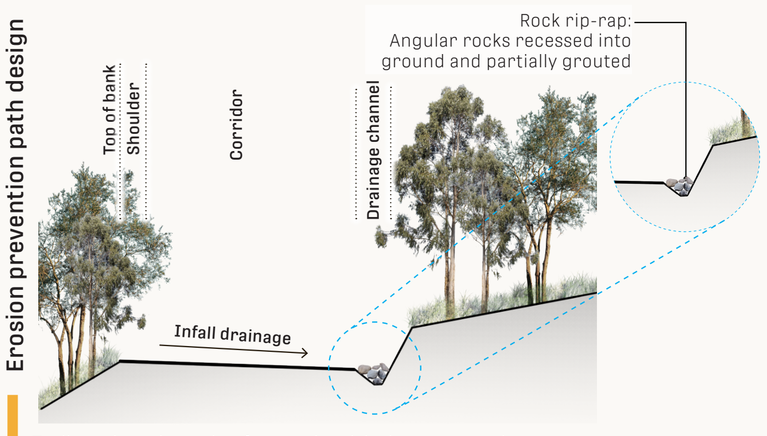


Boardwalk with mesh screen and rail.



Boardwalk with balustrade.

Erosion prevention path design



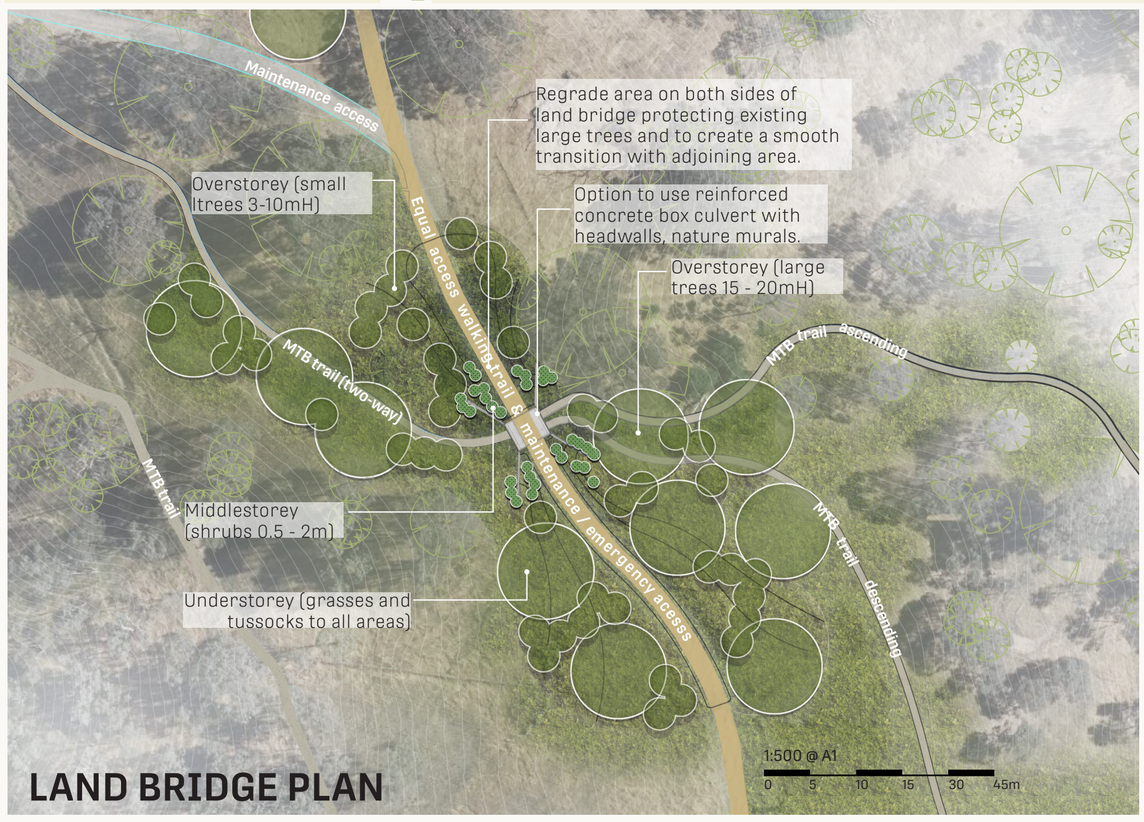
Trails and roads: option for erosion / drainage control.

Floating stairs example





Reduce footprint, create a floating stair structure and revegetate.



LAND BRIDGE PLAN



LAND BRIDGE ARTIST IMPRESSION ONLY

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ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION

BOX GUM GRASSY WOODLAND

Habitat
Found on the rolling low hills of the eastern and northern faces and supports many threatened species. It occurs on soils that have resulted from volcanic activity around 400 million years ago, or on deep colluvial soils that have washed from steeper slopes.

Structure
Open woodland typically up to 20 m tall with a sparse shrub stratum and continuous groundcover of tussock grasses and a variety of herbs.

Key species

Overstorey:
- *Eucalyptus albens* (White Box)
- *Eucalyptus melliodora* (Yellow Box)
- *Eucalyptus blakelyi* (Blakely's Red Gum)

Understorey:
- *Themeda australis* (Kangaroo Grass)
- *Poa sieberiana* (Poa Tussock)
- *Aristida ramosa* (Purple Wire Grass)
- *Austrostipa sp.* (Spear grasses)
- *Austrodanthonia sp.* (Wallaby grasses)
- *Bothriochloa macra* (Redleg Grass)
- *Microlaena stipoides* (Weeping Grass)

OPEN FOREST VEGETATION

Habitat
Occurs on the ridges to the west and north of Albury City.

Structure
Open eucalypt forest 10-25 m tall, with an open sclerophyllous shrub stratum and sparse to moderate grassy groundcover.

Key species

Overstorey:
- *Acacia dealbata* (Silver Wattle)
- *Acacia implexa* (Hickory Wattle)
- *Eucalyptus dealbata* (Tumbledown red gum)
- *Callitris glaucophylla* (White Cypress Pine)

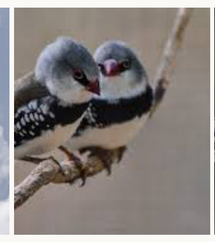
Middlestorey:
- *Dillwynia sericea* (egg and bacon pea)
- *Dodonaea viscosa subsp. angustifolia*

Understorey:
- *Chrysocephalum semipapposum* (clustered everlasting)
- *Lomandra sp (Mat-rush)*
- *Austrostipa sp* (Spear Grass)


Scarlet Robin


Flame Robin


Little Eagle


Diamond Firetail


Black-Chinned Honeyeater


Little Lorikeet


Purple-crowned Lorrikeet


Regent Honeyeater


Swift Parrot


Squirrel Glider

RECOMMENDATIONS

- The reserve is zoned as C2 which is the highest conservation zoning in Albury City Council. Any works or development are required to meet the objectives of the Local Environment Plan due to natural areas acting as an offset for development across the LGA and to demonstrate enhancement of these areas into the future.
- Protect, retain and enhance habitat for woodland birds including revegetation of trees and retention of tree regrowth as well as fallen logs and branches.
- Protect and retain large old trees which are critically important for Swift Parrots, Regent Honeyeater, Little Lorikeet and Purple-crowned Lorikeet, as well as nesting for Squirrel Gliders.
- Restore the natural vegetation systems to the areas of the reserve previously grazed, in particular where MTB trails are proposed.


Acacia dealbata


Acacia implexa


Callitris glaucophylla


Dillwynia sericea


Eucalyptus albens


Eucalyptus blakelyi


Eucalyptus melliodora


Lomandra sp.

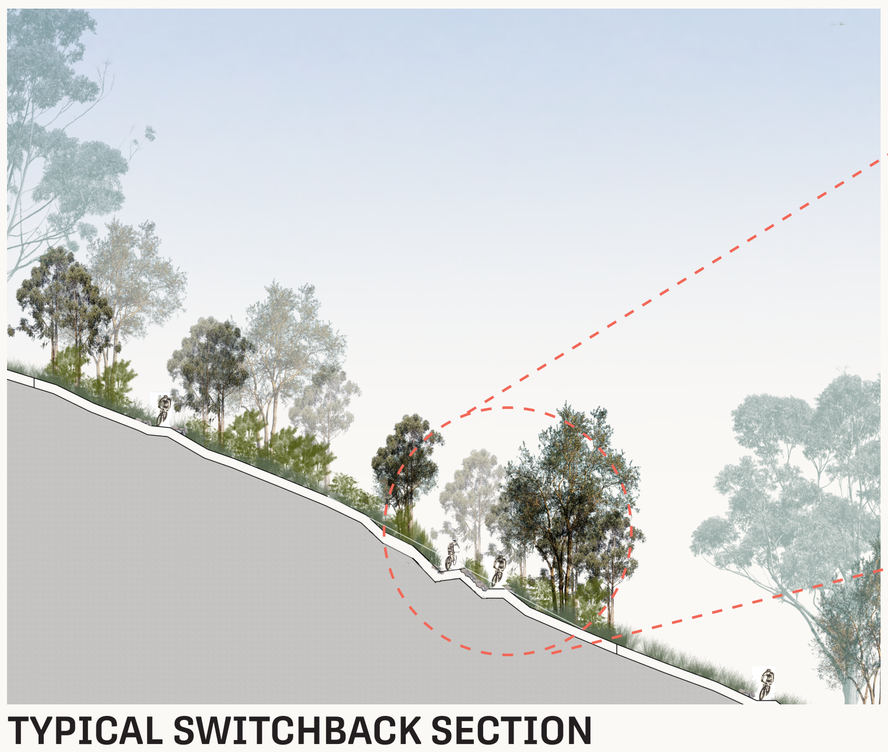

Poa sieberiana


Themeda australis

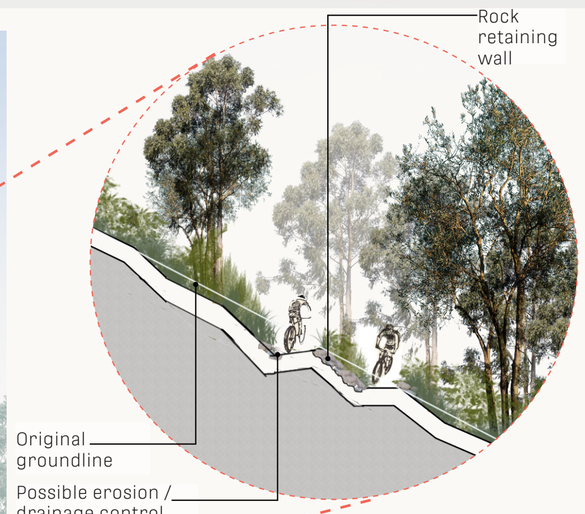
TYPICAL SECTION



TYPICAL SWITCHBACK PLAN



TYPICAL SWITCHBACK SECTION



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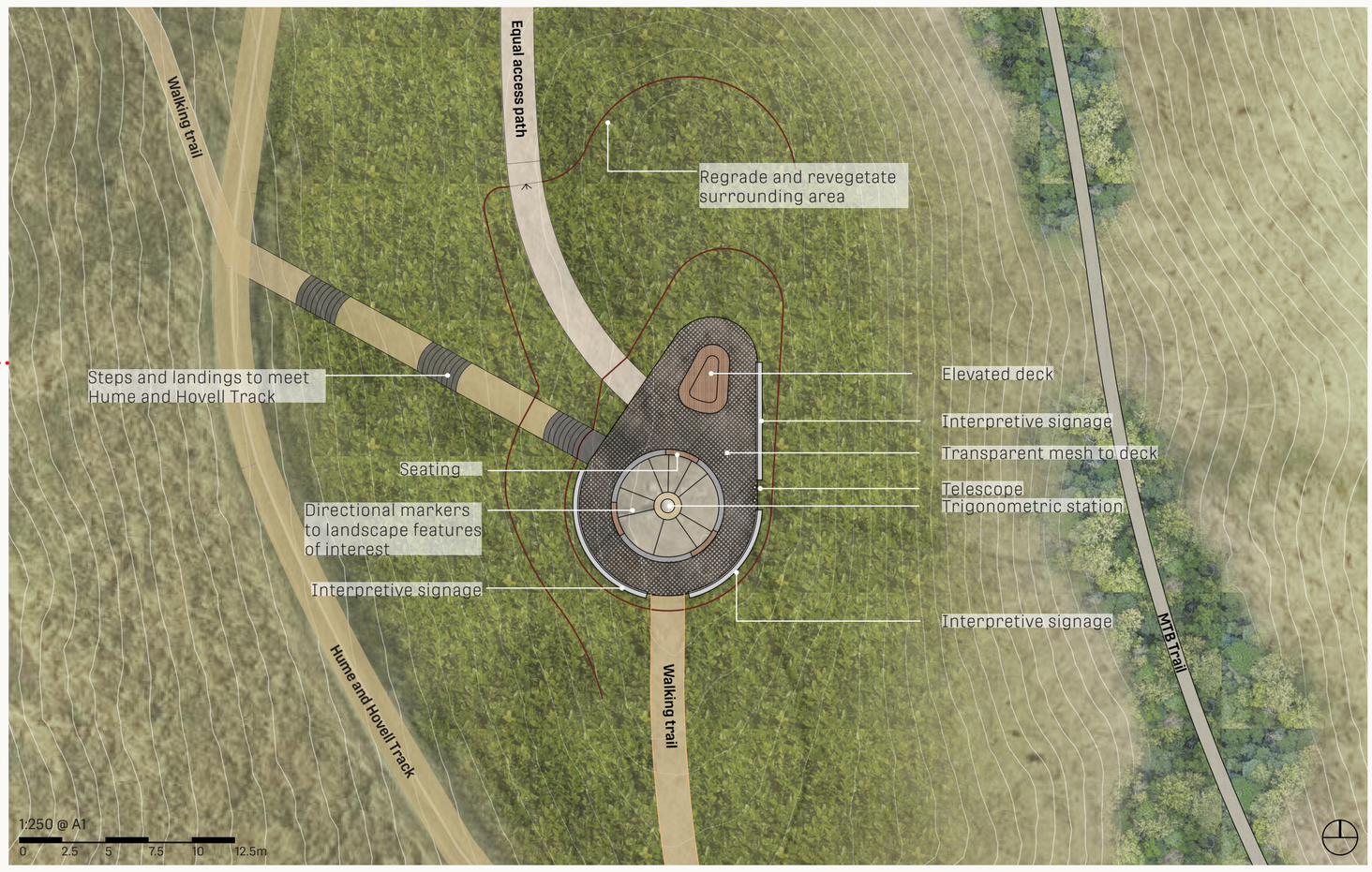
Key Plan nts

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Create a DDA compliant path (equal access) from the Rotary Lookout car park to the highest point of Eastern Hill.
- Enhance the area around the trigonometric station as a lookout to the surrounds.
- Provide seating and lookout opportunities.
- Create interest in providing interpretive signage and directional markers to surrounding landscape features.



Trig Point Lookout Plan



ARTIST IMPRESSION ONLY



Context plan: Eastern Hill and surrounding landscape features of interest

nts



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Consultation report

Draft Eastern Hill Activation Master Plan

Evaluation of public submissions

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How the feedback was received 3
About the evaluation process 4
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Evaluation measures 8
Results 8
Feedback analysis: 10
Conclusion 13

Report prepared by Lightbulb Consulting, December 2022

Background

The Draft Eastern Hill Activation Master Plan has been developed following feedback from the community to enhance the facilities and offerings for a variety of users of Eastern Hill.

AlburyCity Council resolved to place the Draft Eastern Hill Activation Master Plan out on public exhibition at the Council meeting on 8 August 2022.

The draft Eastern Hill Activation Master Plan was publicly exhibited for 56 days.

To remain impartial and to demonstrate transparency in the assessment of the results, Lightbulb Consulting was engaged to review the feedback.

This has involved individually reading each submission and evaluating the level of support for or against the project, as well as delving into elements of the project which were particularly supported, or which were not.

About the feedback

A total of 606 submissions were received by AlburyCity. Of these, some had been received twice and others were multiple submissions from the same contributor. These were filtered using the contributor's name and the email address used. This was a manual process, and all care was taken to eliminate double ups, but some may remain due to the same contributor sending from different email addresses.

The feedback came via the Council's Have Your Say website, letters and emails.

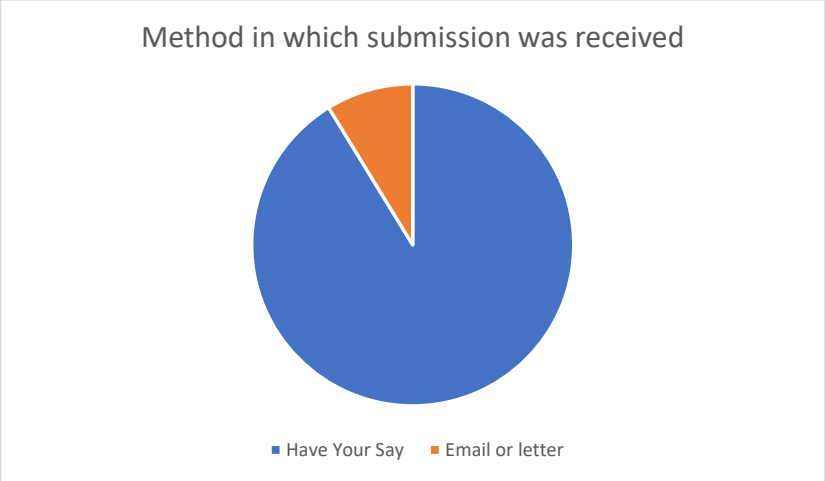
In total, there were 522 contributions evaluated.

Upon reviewing the feedback, it has been noted by AlburyCity staff that several of the claims made in the feedback are unsubstantiated, which may have increased community concern about the project.

Going forward, AlburyCity will address these misconceptions to ensure all community members are fully informed about all elements of the plans and what is proposed, versus what public perception may be.

How the feedback was received

Of the feedback, 553 submissions were received via the Have Your Say portal. The remaining 53 were received via email, paper-based version of the Have your Say form, or letter to Council or Councillors. This is shown graphically below.



The opportunity to give feedback was promoted widely using the following tools:

- Weekly social media posts through AlburyCity's channels – these were also shared by many interested in the project.
- AlburyCity website
- Community information sessions
- Media releases
- On-site signage
- Letterbox drop

About the evaluation process

Each piece of feedback received by AlburyCity was evaluated against key themes and a consideration given to the level of support or opposition to the proposal.

It is important to remember the following:

- Some submissions did not contain enough information to allocate them to a theme. While these were small in number, it should be noted that these have not been able to be evaluated, or in some instances, it was not clear where the contributor's sentiment about the project lay.

- Some submissions received contained many themes. With these, the top themes raised were included in the assessment. This is not to discard all the issues raised in the submissions, but merely to help with the assessment process and provide a measurable way of cataloguing feedback.

- Some people wrote numerous submissions. Where possible, this has been collated into the one set of feedback. As indicated above, this has not been a manual process so a small number may have been overlooked.

- The names of AlburyCity staff have been removed.

- In some cases, some minor changes were made to correct grammatical errors in an effort to improve readability. In no way has this changed the integrity of the message from the submitter.

In reviewing each submission, the main themes were extracted. Where feedback was of significant length, the three or four major themes were taken from the submission. Where feedback was minimal, only one theme, and in some cases no theme, was taken.

Themes

In accessing the data, the following themes were used. A brief explanation is provided below

1. **Loss of amenity**
   In many instances, this was a theme presented by those who currently use the Eastern Hill area or live near it. The perceived loss of amenity covers a range of matters, including their concern the area would become overused, the peaceful and tranquil setting would be interrupted or the quality of their enjoyment of the site would be negatively impacted.

2. **Supportive of regeneration efforts**
   This feedback related to plans AlburyCity has outlined in regard to improving the natural environment, particularly through planning vegetation and restoring the area to its former state.

3. **Supportive of improved accessibility**
   This relates to better access for a wide range of community members, including cyclists, those with prams, people with disabilities and those walking the area.

4. **Concerned at impact of mountain bikes**
   This relates to the concern raised about mountain bikes damaging the site, presenting dangers to other users or negatively impacting the enjoyment of others of the site.

5. **Concerned about consultation process**
   This relates to both the process to date and the process going forward. Many people, particularly those who live on Eastern Hill, felt they were not given sufficient opportunity to provide feedback in a timely matter. Others raised concerns about the transparency of the process and the desire to be further consulted about the matter.

6. **Will cause traffic issues**
   This related to increased traffic in the area and the risk to pedestrians, other road users and cyclists.

7. **Impact on fauna**
   This relates to concerns about the ongoing wellbeing of native animals that live in the Eastern Hill area.

8. **Impact on flora**
   This related to the negative impact on native vegetation in the Eastern Hill area.

9. **Impact on environment**
   This included issues such as erosion, degradation of natural environment and damage which would be caused. It also often included the risk to flora and fauna and should be read in conjunction with these categories.

10. **Will benefit general community**
    This includes members of the public for which access may currently be limited, as well as the increased visitation and tourism activity.

11. **Financial impact**
    This relates to the cost to ratepayers and AlburyCity as an organisation. It often related to the total cost of the project, as well as the ongoing financial impact.

12. **Safety of pedestrians or general community**
    This relates to the risk to walkers and runners posed by increased activity on the site. It also covers issues such as graffiti and vandalism and community safety manners.

13. **Support infrastructure improvements**
    This signalled people's support for both hard and soft infrastructure in the Eastern Hill areas, including upgrade of currently installed infrastructure.

14. **Cultural significance to Aboriginal peoples**
    This relates to the need to further consult with Aboriginal people or demonstrate that the cultural significance of the area has been considered in the development of the plans.

15. **Accessibility for emergency services**
    This related to the accessibility issues which would be presented to fire, ambulance, police and rescue services in the case of an emergency.

16. **Wants redevelopment to be staged**
    This relates to people's concern that the development should take place over several years, often associated with cost.

17. **Concerned with ongoing maintenance**
    This relates to concerns that public places throughout Albury are not maintained to people's expectation and the Eastern Hill development will be neglected.

18. **Level of upgrade not warranted**
    This concern was in relation to the scope of the entire plan, with many feeling that such basic improvements to infrastructure would suffice.

19. **Support mountain bike elements of plan**
    These submissions demonstrated support for mountain biking being part of the plan.

20. **Preserve memorial**
    This related to the Elke Black memorial seat and the wish for this to be retained.

Results:

Theme	Times this was a major theme of feedback
Loss of amenity	140
Concerned at impact of mountain bikes	134
Support infrastructure improvements	143
Will benefit general community	98
Concerned about consultation process	84
Impact on environment	70
Level of upgrade not warranted	48
Support mountain bike elements of plan	37
Supportive of improved accessibility	30
Impact on fauna	29
Will cause traffic issues	21
Concerned with ongoing maintenance	22
Safety of pedestrians or general community	19
Preserve memorial	19
Financial impact	17
Impact on flora	17
Cultural significance to Aboriginal peoples	16
Supportive of regeneration efforts	13
Wants redevelopment to be staged	4
Accessibility for emergency services	2

Evaluation measures

As mentioned, each submission was read and then evaluated. The following criteria was used.

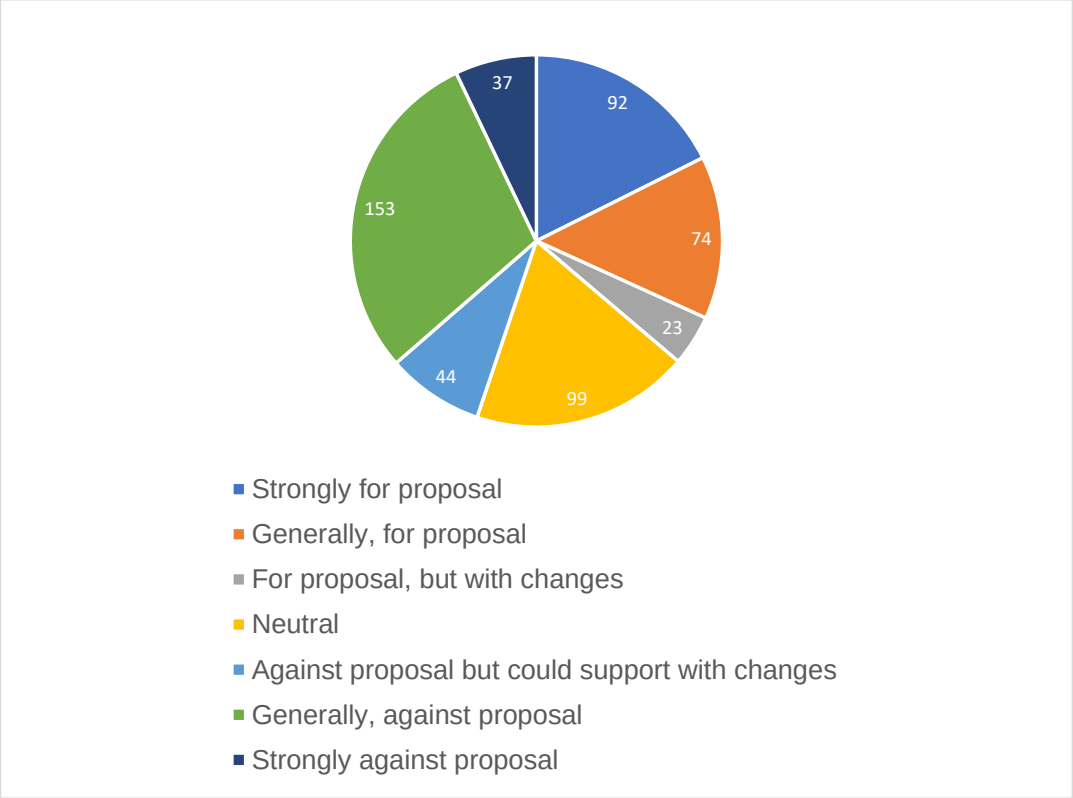
- Strongly for proposal - Highly supportive of all aspects of the proposal with no changes.
- Generally, for proposal - Supportive of proposal.
- For proposal, but with changes - General concepts met needs, but feel some changes would be necessary and beneficial.
- Neutral - Neither for nor against proposal.
- Against proposal but could support with changes - Currently not supportive of proposal but feel changes to the concepts could alter this.
- Generally, against proposal - Does not support concept as it stands.
- Strongly against proposal - Would not support under any circumstances.

It should be noted that in many cases, there was only subtle differences between the categories.

Categorisation can only take place on the submission and while some people may have vehemently articulated their feelings, others may have been more subtle in demonstrating their case. This should be taken into consideration by those reading the results.

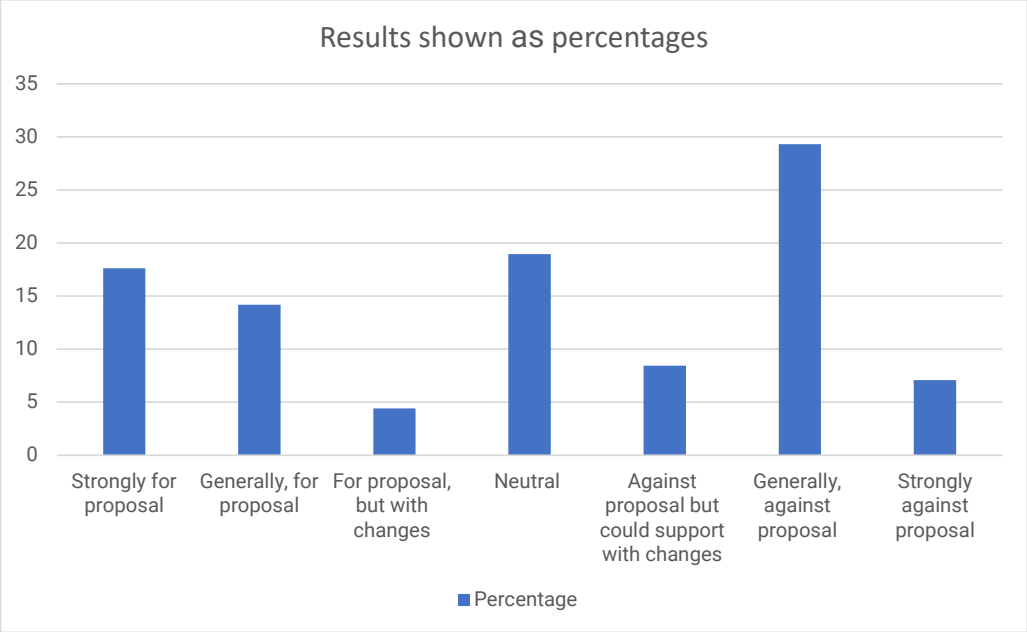
Results

Theme	**Times this was a major theme of feedback**
Strongly for proposal	92
Generally, for proposal	74
For proposal, but with changes	23
Neutral	99
Against proposal but could support with changes	44
Generally, against proposal	153
Strongly against proposal	37
TOTAL	**522**



The following shows this data presented as a percentage*:

Theme	**Percentage**
Strongly for proposal	17.62
Generally, for proposal	14.18
For proposal, but with changes	4.41
Neutral	18.96
Against proposal but could support with changes	8.43
Generally, against proposal	29.31
Strongly against proposal	7.09



Feedback analysis:

General feedback:

While the opposition to the plan from some sectors is undisputed, there are also many people who see the advantages of the proposal, particularly the benefits it will bring to the wider community.

Many submissions spoke about increased access being a huge advantage, particularly to those who use prams or who have a disability. Others articulated their feelings about it being a big winner in terms of tourism offering.

There is very evident support for the improvement of infrastructure on Eastern Hill. Many felt that an upgrade of toilet amenities and the installation of modern barbecue, picnic and seating areas would greatly improve the general appeal of the areas. As well, the enhancement of the access to the natural vistas through the use of lookouts was widely supported.

Many mountain bikers felt the proposal would be advantageous in promoting and developing their sport. While Nail Can Hill currently offers this, it was generally felt by those who enjoy the sport that Albury and surrounds had the potential to attract many more riders by enhancing the offering.

While the statistics show some support for the improvements at Eastern Hill, there is strong opposition to the project. This centres around a number of major issues as shown by the themes used, however the most divisive is the impact which mountain bike activities will have.

Many of the submissions came from people who identified as living in the area or who regularly enjoy the natural environs of Eastern Hill. Loss of amenity and the impact on their lifestyle, whether this be from increased traffic, concerns about overuse of the hill precinct or the loss of what they enjoy and appreciate about the area were apparent throughout the submissions. This can be further demonstrated with the formation of a community group, Friends of Eastern Hill, which has formed to take a cohesive approach against the proposal.

Many of the submissions were well-researched and considered in their content, while several people made more than one submission to demonstrate their thoughts about the project.

However, as identified earlier in this report, AlburyCity staff have identified in the feedback several misconceptions and inaccuracies around what is being proposed to be done as part of the Eastern Hill activation plans. This appears to have added to the community angst around the project and will need to be clearly addressed and corrected in going forward with any elements of the plan.

The community engagement process which was used during the project was also highly contentious. Many people who made submissions felt they had not been engaged with by AlburyCity in a meaningful way, particularly those who live in the neighbourhood. This will be a good learning point for future engagement activities, particularly with the need to ensure all community members feel they are given the opportunity to have their say.

Of the feedback contained in the submissions, it should be noted that AlburyCity has reported that it is already undertaking many of the actions which people have raised, including working with Aboriginal groups and consulting with the family of Elke Black around the memorial seat repositioning.

Aboriginal significance:

While this was a smaller issue raised through the feedback, there are concerns the input of Aboriginal peoples has not been sought in the development of the proposal. Throughout the submissions, it was raised that Aboriginal people have strong links with the Eastern Hill area and this must be carefully considered in any plans to develop the area. Engagement that is specific to this group will be productive for both Aboriginal community members and AlburyCity, helping to guide the latter on the cultural considerations which need to be made.

Memorial seat:

The memorial seat which is located at Eastern Hill in memory of Elke Black will be another consideration for AlburyCity in the development of the plans. Several family and friends of the late Albury woman have implored AlburyCity to maintain the seat, if not in its current location, within the Eastern Hill precinct. This has also raised

media attention and will need careful consultation with the family going forward. AlburyCity has clarified that it will retain the memorial in the project redevelopment.

Walking trail improvements:

The submissions made it clear that Eastern Hill is greatly enjoyed by many as a walking area. While concerns have been raised about mountain bikes and walkers being able to co-exist in the precinct, there is strong support for the trails being improved for walkers. Many spoke about walking in and around the Eastern Hill area being a daily routine, while others offered that the current trails were not up to standard and well overdue for improvement.

Revegetation and habitat restoration activities:

A major part of the feedback was around concerns for the natural environment on Eastern Hill. This was categorised as impact on flora, fauna and the environment. Many spoke about how they had experienced some close interactions with animals in the area and felt concerns about how they would be impacted by the area becoming more developed. Others talked about the biodiversity of Eastern Hill and need to be mindful about maintaining its integrity. Any development of any nature will need to be carefully managed to ensure impact on the natural surrounds is minimised. Strong community support for regeneration of the area is shown in submissions.

Proposed mountain bike trails:

As mentioned above, this is the most divisive part of the proposed plans. In general, mountain bikers feel that both they and broader community will benefit from the construction of mountain bike trails. However, for other sectors of the community, the concern ranges from the loss of amenity this would bring other users, the safety concerns particularly to walkers and the environmental impacts. It was raised on many occasions that mountain bikers already had a facility in Albury at Nail Can Hill and that Eastern Hill should not be negatively impacted by introducing trails to this natural environment.

Water tank precinct:

Many of the submissions could see the potential for the water tank precinct and how the enhancement of these would be beneficial. Revegetation around the area was also suggested. In terms of opportunities, some submissions spoke about their wish to see the water tanks artistically treated to activate the area. It was also felt that there was tourism potential for this, similar the silo art which has become prominent in many towns.

Trig Point lookout:

Increasing access to the Trig Point area was well supported by many, with some strongly in support of the boardwalk and viewing platform propose for the area.

Others felt that suggested improvements were over the top and lower scale plans would suffice.

Rotary Lookout:

Improvements to the Rotary Lookout, particularly from its current state and low appeal to the public, were generally welcomed. Many felt it is a greatly under-utilised asset for the community and visitors. There were some concerns that the consultation around this project had centred largely on Rotary. The ongoing involvement of Rotary in the lookout and seeking its feedback on any improvement works will be essential going forward. Car parking around the site was generally welcomed. There were concerns that that lookout would need to be complementary with the natural surrounds. Broadly speaking, this is one of the more well-supported parts of the plan.

Traffic management:

This was an evenly weighted area, where some people felt traffic slowing mitigation measures would add to the amenity of the area, while others felt that increased traffic and vehicle movements would pose a safety risk.

Conclusion

It is evident that there is strong support both for and against the project.

The most alienating issue of the plans appears to be mountain bikers and the impact they are perceived to have on other users. However, the strong support from the mountain bike community was also apparent in submissions.

People had a wide range of concerns about mountain biking, including safety concerns for walkers in the area to damage to the natural environment. However, it must be strongly noted that there are also many people who are favour of increased activity in the area and whether this is mountain biking or not, the activation of an otherwise under-utilised area has wide community support.

There are also several comments made in the submissions which are not in line with what AlburyCity has projected for the site. These have been repeated in several submissions and AlburyCity will need to address these and correct them in the public forum. Doing this may go some way to leading to greater community understanding of what is being proposed.

In general, those who are familiar with the site and the scope of works being proposed can see significant merit in the improvement of hard infrastructure and the benefits that doing this will bring to residents and visitors.

Again, it must be clarified that this assessment of the submissions could only be based on what was written. While some people may feel they have been wrongly categorised, AlburyCity may choose to provide opportunities for people to further clarify the nature and meaning of their submission. Doing so will also add a greater depth to the consultation process.

Draft Eastern Hill Activation Master Plan

Public submissions

Names	Feedback

A Brown Multiple submissions	Page 302 of the Council Meeting Agenda from 8th August 2022 states costing to be $4,737,000, however the paragraph below states that is an indicative costing only and the final cost will be between 30% - 50% higher. As such, the real cost blows out to be between $6,158,000 - 7,105,500. WOW!!! Appalling that Albury Council is willing to spend that much money on a development that the community did not want nor ask for, especially when there are much more important issues that money could be spent on within the community. Has Albury Council forgotten that the town desperately needs low income housing, and that money could be used to purchase land that is becoming available at Thurgoona and is earmarked for 240 houses? Has Council forgotten the flooding that has occurred on Dean Street multiply times in the past 12 months? Has Council forgotten about Albury Base Hospital and its needs? Has Council forgotten about aged care and community services needs? I'd definitely say YES, Albury Council has forgotten and it would seem does not care, as the needs of 300 Mountain Bikers are apparently that much more important than those of the rest of the entire community. Please do not approve this Activation Plan, it will destroy what is so wonderful about Eastern Hill and instead use the money on more important issues. Speeding along East Street will not be solved by placing a roundabout at the top of Walsh Street. Driver's speed from the moment they go through the Schubach Street roundabout heading up East Street, all the way down to the Borella Road roundabout and vice versa. East Street is now used as a bypass from Thurgoona as the Riverina Highway/ Young Street Road structure is a fiasco and traffic is always back up, so it's easier to use East Street and then get onto the highway that way. What will stop the constant speeding would be fixed speed cameras at various points over Eastern Hill, from Alison Court to Borella Road. Additionally, the mobile speed unit could be used to do a blitz on East Street and have it moved along the street placed at different points. Fixed Cameras would be much cheaper than building a roundabout. I find it very concerning that Albury Council chose to bypass procedures within their own Community Engagement Policy 2019-2023 and when asked to explain why that was allowed, received the following answer from a Council representative at the QEII Square pop up: " Yes, we know we missed steps but we are learning from it, but we are at passed going back as we are at the draft stage, so we are giving extra time for submissions." To be so dismissive of Albury Councils failure to follow their own Government policy is something that the NSW Office for Local Government should investigate, as the Eastern Hill Master Plan is a complete debacle. Additionally, there has been no research done on the native Flora and Fauna that exist on Eastern Hill, because it doesn't fit into their narrative of developing Eastern Hill and having mountain bike trails right through Wild Orchid areas, along with Kangaroo and Bird Habitat. I am very saddened by the behaviour of Council and their quest to destroy the wonderful area that is a sanctuary to so many people and nature, as Albury is becoming such a concrete jungle with so much over development. Please leave Eastern Hill alone and fix up the tracks.

	Disgusted this master plan has even made it this far!! Eastern Hill does not need mountain bike trails. Albury Council needs to maintain and upgrade the trails on Nail Can Hill and leave beautiful Eastern Hill alone. When will Albury Council finally say enough with the overdevelopment happening in this town? It makes me so sad that this plan has even got this far, and residence were not even consulted, instead it was Bike Business Owners and Mountain Bike Clubs that had the most input. Shame on Albury City Council!!!
Adam Green	I live in Beechworth with my wife and two sons who all ride and compete on mountain bikes. I think the plan is a fantastic proposal and I fully support the sensitive development of MTB trails in the area. We often travel throughout Victoria, Tasmania and NSW to ride our bikes and to have more options on our doorstep would be tremendous. The growth in the MTB sector has been immense over the recent years and it is heartening to see a local government recognising the economic, environmental and health and being benefits that mountain biking offers, well done!
Adam Harris	Ok

Adrian Casey	I would like the council to delay any commencement in enacting any of the redevelopment actions within the Eastern Hill Activation Master Plan. I'm not in favour of all of the planned changes, I strongly believe the necessity is not there for the extent of changes and the projected cost of this project, these funds would be better allocated to something that is in greater need. I don't believe the lookout changes are complimentary to the surrounds, I would hope that there could be an alternative that blends in, looks more natural. My main concerns are that: - Eastern Hill is significant as it is, the current appeal is that it is a relatively nature space, peaceful given its location. - Mountain Bike tracks totally 20kms will not be ecologically sustainable, will more likely have a negative impact despite any attempts to re-establish native flora and fauna - insufficient consultation with existing users, and First Nation peoples (this area does have cultural significance that we need to preserve and tell everyone about) - the intersection of Walsh and East Sts as planned will create significant disruption to the traffic flow - in my mind the proposed positioning of pedestrian crossing needs further consideration. As a regular user to Eastern Hill as a walker and for its restorative benefits to me I am in favour of Council improving the condition of the access road for vehicle traffic. In favour of updating the existing amenities, for locals and visitors to the area. Over the years I have seen little maintenance to the existing tracks, small efforts would I believe see an increased number of people access the walk to Trig Point and Kiewa Valley lookout in particular. I hope that Council does not give final approval the Eastern Hill Activation Master Plan as it stands, I believe there needs to be a much broader consultation process. I feel that the proposed redevelopment is weighted in favour of access and use by the Mountain Bike community. Thank you for your time.
Adrian Keighran	Leave the hill alone, the mountain bike people have Nail Cain, and from what i hear there are no walking tracks up there. This hill is untouched beauty

Al Sarre	I am concerned about the lack of proper process in the Draft Eastern Hill Activation Master Plan (DEHAMP). For example, the survey data used as a guide for the DEHAMP was clearly biased, and much more effort should have been made to obtain a representative sample of respondents – how else can you know that you have adequately captured community views and sentiment? The DEHAMP "have your say" survey also reflected a bias towards mountain-bike riders, apparently driven by publicity by the Albury Wodonga Mountain Bikers. The Council should have done much more to publicise the survey among all Albury residents and key stakeholders. Even the questions in the survey indicate a bias towards a result that would favour the mountain-bike option – with one question specifically directed towards mountain bikes and no other options receiving such attention. I was stunned to learn that only the Rotary Club and Albury Wodonga Mountain Bikers were invited to participate in workshops to collaborate on and plan the DEHAMP. This is patently inadequate for a proper community engagement process. I feel that many Eastern Hill stakeholders have not been properly consulted on this plan, and there appears to be a bias within the process towards favouring development of the area for mountain bikers, potentially at the expense of other legitimate (and low impact) users. The lack of a holistic approach to the development of Eastern Hill does not inspire confidence in the Council and its ability to make decisions in the best interests of all residents and other stakeholders. This matters because decisions made now will affect the area, its users, and the city, for decades. The plan deserves a much better process than you have provided to date.
Alan Brink	I am opposed to the mountain bike part of the proposal based on: - 1. Poor community consultation process - it has been very much slanted by a bias due to unfair statistical analyses favouring the mountain bike community. 2. I understand that the Nail Can Hill Reserve is being damaged due to mountain bike riders. This tells me that this activity is environmentally damaging so the same will eventually happen at this location. 3. The Eastern Hill Reserve is a beautiful natural environment which is a pleasure to walk on and view from a distance. The mountain bike tracks zig zagging across the hillside will destroy this natural look and also destroy the natural habitat of native species that live in this area. 4. Any modification to this steep hillside with tracks cut into the soil must lead to eventual erosion due to rainfall and the continual impact of mountain bikes. Tracks will need to be regularly re-made leading to wider tracks and even more erosion problems. 5. The lookouts and the modification of the ridge track should be the only changes to this area, thereby creating a minimal impact on the hill area and maintaining the overall appearance both from the hill itself and the surrounding region. 6. Council must find a less visible area further out of town to establish a mountain bike track as the activity itself is a very healthy one and no doubt exciting - BUT NOT HERE!

Alan Harrison	We are opposed to this plan as we believe it to be an inappropriate site for this activity! These types of activities would be more suitable in a more rural location where more suitable parking and riding courses can be developed! Eastern Hill should be maintained as a separate tourism and locally significant area!
Alan MacDonnell	I have lived in the area since 1991 and feel very fortunate to live near such tranquillity and nature. My neighbours and I enjoy the scenery want to continue to enjoy Eastern Hill Reserve as it is. I have grave concerns for people who are aged and have limited mobility such as myself, as well as people recovering at the hospital and visitors to the cancer centre they are encouraged to walk up our beautiful hill, now these people could very well be in danger of being collected by a high-speed mountain bike tearing through the terrain as we quietly go about our business walking and exercising in a peaceful and unspoilt setting. Just this morning we spotted a family of kangaroos in the hills very close to us, a mountain bike could easily collect one of these animals or disturb them and push them out on to a busy road- East Street causing serious danger to everyone involved. We must maintain the peaceful environment of Eastern Hill Reserve for ourselves and future generations.
Alana Hancock	Too much of our precious land has already been taken away from us with all the new housing estates! Leave Eastern hill alone. As a rate payer I would like to see improvement where it is needed try fixing the footpaths on every street first. I have seen to many stumbles and falls on Dean St, Kiewa St, Olive St and even in the AMP Lane and Volt Lane. Money would be better spent on a high-rise carpark at the front of the hospital. Leave our bushland alone!!!
Alana Nesire	Eastern Hill IS NOT the best location for Mountain Bike activity – it is too small an area to provide quality bike trails and terrain variety. If Council wishes to develop Mountain Bike facilities in Albury, upgrade and adequately manage the Nail Can Hill range which is a much larger area and does have some infrastructure in place. It would be a more reasonable idea to review Mountain Bike usage of Nail Can Hill and develop a plan to correct the damage done on these poorly developed tracks. Nail Can Hill have the potential, if managed and funded adequately, to be a world class mountain biking area – similar to Derby in Tasmania. Eastern Hill area is relatively small and beautifully suited to low key activities. Small scale improvements to current paths and outlooks would be welcome, keeping the area as natural as possible with minimal infrastructure impact.

Albury and District Historical Society	Submission of the Albury and District Historical Society relating to the proposed development on Eastern Hill. The Albury and District Historical Society asks that Council be cognizant of, and take into consideration, the historical significance of the site in any development. This includes the history of the original First Nations people in the use of the site and the notable historical events on the site following European settlement. Some members have expressed concern about the prospect of a permanent alteration of the landscape. We raise our concern that the introduction of a high energy mountain bike activity is incompatible with the serene nature of the site and the fragility of the native vegetation and grassland. Any development on Eastern Hill would present the opportunity to erect Information boards to explain its history. The Albury and District Historical Society would be prepared to assist Council in the wording of any such story boards.
Alex Chapman	This is a complete waste of taxpayer money and resources. The track provides a quiet place away from everyday life that is enjoyed just the way it is. To change this into what is proposed would take away the very beauty that brings people there in the first place.
Alex Holmes	I regularly walk this track with my children, we have done this for a few years now and plan on doing it for many more. I understand this area may need some upgrades, however constructing a space that encourages many people at one time will only be to the detriment of the environment. Kangaroos are regularly seen by us when we walk, wildflowers grow as they are supposed to, untouched, birds are in abundance, and the views are amazing! All of this will be compromised by encouraging a large number of visitors/tourists to the area. Of course, I want others to enjoy the magic of this area, maybe though they can enjoy it in the same way I and many others do….in its natural state.
Alison O'Callaghan	I don't get it. Am I supposed to fill out the survey? It says its closed. Are these pictures what are going in up there?
Alla McCarron	Until very recently I was a resident of East Albury (for 38 years) and frequently visited Eastern Hill to either walk the track or enjoy the view. I was surprised to see the information reporting the large number of people using the area for bike riding as I don't recall see any riders during my many visits. While I support the proposal to improve access for people with mobility issues, I feel that the construction of mountain bike tracks will greatly affect more passive use of what is now a beautiful natural environment. Many of the problems reported as occurring on the Nail Can Hill reserve, by the use of mountain bike riders will surely be transferred to Eastern Hill. I hope that Albury Council reconsiders its plans.

Allan Arthur	Hello Albury City Council Living close to the Eastern Hill and being a frequent user, walking our dogs up there 3 to 4 times a week, I consider myself very lucky. It is a great asset in its present state and condition, it is natural, untouched with a simple track up and down which is nearly hidden from the eye, all that use it, love it, and our dogs love it, and it is so social so friendly so community, that before all this action has been sprung upon us, it was taken for granted. To build a serious of bike tracks that your consultants have proposed will destroy the tranquillity and peace forever, it will be gone. Erosion will be created from top to bottom, and constant work will be needed in the attempt to stop and control wash aways subsiding tracks, etc etc. Members of our family are keen mountain bikers but they are of the view it would only create a modest facility at best, in other words a complete waste of time and money. There is 85 hectares at Eastern Hill and 1200 hectares at Nail Can Hill, so why not inject the energy and funding into the Nail Can concept as it is already up and running, it has the capacity but badly needs work on it. It seems the council want to create a world class facility attracting bike riders from everywhere, well great but fix up Nail Can, make it something to hang your hat on, it has a great name, it has space to work with and it is already up and running, but it needs work and energy. The lame excuse of taking pressure of Nail Can is simply pathetic and Eastern hill with tracks all over it is not the answer. Council will end up having 2 problems to sort out. I hope you see some common sense in what you decide to do, but i can tell you a lot of people will be very, very disappointed if you go ahead with this proposal
Allan Black	My family were made aware of the "Master Plan" for Eastern Hill by a third party who wanted to make sure that we were informed that the commemorative bench in memory of my late wife was earmarked for replacement. I am officially writing to say that our family are very disappointed that we were not consulted beforehand and/or that (more likely) the third-party who put the plan together did not take the time to recognise the significance of the existing bench. As part of any approved plan, we would like the bench to be incorporated into the design. We would also like to say that any funds allocated to this development should focus on the genuine improvement of the site. Rather than retrofitting a completely unrelated strategic plan - namely the 2021 Albury Mountain Bike Strategy - which it seems is the Council's focus of the original proposal. I believe that a focus on improving the Rotary Carpark, two-way entry, maintaining pathways, improving signage and equal access would be a good use of the council's funds on this occasion. I am also in favour of all general recommendations noted in the plan.
Allen Newman	I support the construction of good quality and well-made mountain bike trails on East Albury Hill - but believe they must be separate from walking trails (as is planned) and considerate of all the users of the hill.

Allira Krautz	Just completing a submission form to provide feedback regarding the draft new trig point viewing area, I just wanted to provide feedback that the draft area appears to have a concrete base. My feedback is that concrete in such a naturally beautiful location is extremely ugly and on a hot day would make the area unusable.
Allister Dishon	I think it a fantastic idea where mountain bikers and bush walkers can co-exist which would take the pressure off Nail Can hill.
Amanda Duncan-Strelec	Having read the Summary of Concerns submitted by the Friends of Eastern Hill group, I am not only part of the group, I am in full agreement with their submission. Therefore, I support their view that there should be a moratorium on any decision until full details of the design, construction period and full and final costs are investigated and released for public comment. Given the level of controversy related to this project, it might be a wise idea to have a Council poll in conjunction with the next election. A Council poll of this nature is non-binding, will not cost a lot and will allow the Councillors to know, without doubt and in no uncertain terms, whether our community either supports EHAMP or does not want Council to proceed.
Amanda Eaton	The Rotary and new Trig Point lookouts will be assets. However, I strongly object to the proposed mountain bike trails covering the east side of the hill. My reason is that this would destroy an important native wildlife habitat. That side of Eastern Hill is home to kangaroos, echidnas, and an abundance of native birds including striated thornbills, many native grasses, chocolate lilies, and glasswing butterflies, to name just a few species. Research in the area of the MTB trail on Nail Can Hill has shown that wildlife has been seriously depleted since the trail was opened. Riders cannot be counted on to stick to the trails and even where they do, their presence is enough to seriously disturb the native animals and birds in the area. Mountain biking is a sport that by its nature destroys the landscape it is in. Why not develop trails in areas where native animals have already been driven out such as disused quarries or timber plantations? It would be a terrible loss - and a disgrace - if this proposal goes ahead, depriving our native animals and birds of their habitat for the sake of a sport which could take place elsewhere. I cannot believe this Council could be so irresponsible. Finally, I am dismayed at the lack of community and specialist consultation on this proposed development. I know that the local branches of the Field Naturalist Society and Birdlife Australia were not consulted. This is disturbing, as it suggests that the Council may have been trying to quietly push through the MTB trail plan. This would be not only irresponsible but disgraceful.

Amanda Giblin	I am in full support of this activation plan: - The upgrade to the carpark area is to be commended, it is currently ugly and has litter everywhere. There are no places to sit and enjoy the views. There is no gathering place for people outside their cars and I've had trouble with keeping my kids off the bitumen when arriving there for our walks which is unsafe. I'm in full support of making this more attractive, safer, with rubbish removal and more visitor information on surrounding views with signage etc. - The footpath is an excellent idea to help more people access this area. We use this walk frequently with grandparents who are getting less able to use the track without walking aids and a concrete path would mean we get to keep using it as a family. Similarly, we couldn't use it with prams when the babies were little as well so a footpath would have meant we could have continued using it at that time as well. - The bike tracks are an amazing idea and I welcome this with open arms. It's so important to have bikes be able to use this area, we are a family of 5 and would use this so much rather than pack the bikes onto the back of a car to drive them over to Nail Can, Thurgoona or Wodonga. It is accessible for all the families in East Albury and encourage kids to be out exercising on their bikes in a clearly marked and maintained (therefore safer) environment away from cars and trucks on the roads. This kind of outlet for kids is massively important for their mental health, fitness and appreciation for nature. - Signage would be a wonderful idea so that we can learn more about our area; local Wiradjuri culture, the Hume & Hovell story, landmarks, flora and fauna. Bring it on - with learning and understanding comes respect! - INCLUSIVITY is the main point here, if we upgrade the uses on the hill more Albury residents (and visitors) would be able to use the place for recreation. It means that not only a few people get to use the place - it means people with disabilities, prams, bike riders could use it AS WELL AS physically able bush walkers and picnickers. - Any opposition to this plan to "leave it how it is", only suits some people of our city because they want the use of it to themselves, which isn't inclusive. I should be able to go for walks with my grandparents and ageing parents without worrying about whether they'll trip on the current track, I should be able to take my kids up there on bikes to enjoy our area and teach them about health, fitness, nature and our local area. I should be able to have a safe area to get out of our car with kids and dogs without worrying that they'll be run over in the carpark by reversing cars because here is nowhere for them to mill about. - We would not be ruining the hill, we would be bringing more healthy social interactions and behaviour to the place and the antisocial behaviour that is happening there currently would stop. - This is a brilliant plan, and I am in full support as a bushwalker, bird watcher, bike rider, and picknicker. Please do this for our city and for our residents.

Amanda Laycock	I have engaged with this reserve over the last 20 years as a resident of Albury City. I like to walk up there, often with my dog. I walk from Doctors Point, down to Mungabareena or from the lookout and carpark, along the Hume and Hovell track to the chair at the end of the spur. I also walk past the hospital next to the Kurrajongs and up to Eastern Hill from there. I agree with installing toilets and a drinking fountain near the car park. I agree with signage communicating the history of the area. The stories of Mungabareena should be told in consultation with local aboriginal groups. The story of Hume and Hovell should be told there too. It's a great place to educate locals and visitors about the Hume and Hovell story. They came from the north near Table Top mountain, tried to cross the river at Nouriel, took 3 months to walk to Howlong and still failed to cross the river there and then walked east and crossed at a point further now under lake Hume, where the rivers were smaller. You can see along every valley to tell this story and it's a great local story, up there with the Uiver, that could be very well told in that place, up on Eastern Hill. I disagree with widening the track past the trig point. I would ask that the path past the trig point stay just as it is and that the spur past the trig point remains unchanged. It is a wild special spiritual area for many people in the district. The chair should stay there, and it should remain a place of quiet reflection and meditation. Unchanged. We don't have many places like that in our busy town and in fact, to have such a special place, so close to town, is an incredible asset to the wellbeing of the people that should be honoured and respected.

Amanda Pagan	I am fundamentally against the Eastern Hill masterplan. Many of the submissions you have already received in opposition outline my concerns, so I won't reiterate them. Instead, I will focus on just two issues-resilience and a sense of place and how poorly the proposed plan has understood these vital issues. Urban resilience is defined as the: "measurable ability of any urban system, with its inhabitants, to maintain continuity through all shocks and stresses, while positively adapting and transforming towards sustainability." Positive adaptation on Eastern Hill requires us to all believe in and understand the complex ecosystem on and within Eastern Hill. The natural ecosystem is not just made up of flora and fauna on top of the hill but the many layers that make up the hill below the surface that have existed overtime. Stock may have grazed the hill once, but their disappearance has seen many species return. Disturbing this rejuvenating eco system will put an end to years of nature's work. Simply planting more trees does not represent a positive adaptation to a complex ecosystem. The proposed plan clearly has not been referred to a qualified and experienced ecologist who could effectively review the true impact of the plan on the existing ecosystem. The plan talks about the weed eradication and tree planting as the solution to an ecosystem demonstrating the complete lack of understanding of what an ecosystem is and how to nurture it. Sustainability also requires us to consider how humans and nature can live together in a way that does not see one species dominate over another. As Albury continues to expand its metropolitan fringe, the sustainability of the city is ever reducing. We cannot continue to pretend that nature is not markedly impacted by this. The recent floods around Albury have brought much of the wildlife closer to our homes as their lands are inundated. The carcasses on the sides of our roads this year are a stark reminder of how badly we've managed our own "sustainable" growth. People living sustainably also means their wellbeing must be supported to ensure that they can survive the "shocks and stresses" of life. It is apparent from other submissions that Eastern Hill is a place of well-being for many and inextricably linked with Aboriginal people and their sense of country. During COVID-19 the hill became a sanctuary for many. Not because of the mountain biking opportunities (because kids could have built them in that time, but didn't!) but because people could walk, sit, run, talk and play on the hill and enjoy the unencumbered views. The lack of harshly formed tracks and hard infrastructure on eastern hill is exactly what helps return people to nature and improve their wellbeing. Despite the fact that these aspects of well-being are clearly observable on eastern hill today, the plan seems to have completely misunderstood both what a sustainable hill should look and feel like and how it contributes to the wellbeing of people. Lastly, Eastern Hill has a sense of place that is undeniably special in the midst of a city. Place is a difficult thing to get your head around, but it means different things to everyone one of us and takes into account the cultural, historical, economic and personal experiences that make up a place and what it represents to us. My gravest concern with the masterplan proposal is that it appears to consider the hill as simply an economic or recreational opportunity without regard for the other aspects that arguably have more importance. It presumes to know what each "user" of the hill might want without doing any kind of true study to know how and why people like to use the hill and enjoy

	being there. All I can say to this is that without this information, the council is likely to build something that worsens the sense of place for all people. It would be a shame to consider that this Council would pass a poorly thought through plan that clearly undermines the resilience of Albury and has the potential to negatively impact the wellbeing of so many residents and visitors. However, I fear this is likely. My only advice to councillors is that you have a once in a lifetime opportunity to muster your strength and not pass this plan. Sure, if there are some safety concerns in the plan-fix them. I dare say you shouldn't need a masterplan to fix a safety issue. You have the opportunity to focus on the true resilience of a city and make sure it is a wonderful place now and into the future. Continuing to "build" more things is not a resilient future for us, the flora and fauna of eastern hill or the planet. I beg you to leave the hill as it is and let it continue to do its wonderful work of rejuvenating itself. There is even opportunity to use this planning process positively to garner community spirit to assist with ongoing rejuvenation of the hill. Communities can deliver amazing things when they are asked to. I'm sure if issues like all abilities access was put to the community to find a solution, they would find one that is cheaper and more effective without ongoing cost to council. If you do approve this plan, then just know there is a future where you or the next generation will look back and be horrified about the fact that you allowed this plan to proceed. May you have the strength to recognise this and do the right thing?

Amber Shipard	I am writing to object to the DRAFT Eastern Hill Activation Master Plan. Firstly, I would like to state that Eastern Hill is already activated. I and my family, along with many others, use this space every day. We enjoy it for walking, we love the natural settings and we particularly appreciate the views down the hill to Mungabareena reserve and the Murray River. Of particular concern to me are the proposals to put mountain bike trails on Eastern Hill and to develop Doctors Point and Devils Glen. Having lived in Doctors Point most of my life, I have spent a lot of time walking through Doctors Point reserve and Devils Glen. This place is full of animal tracks, and I regularly see kangaroos, wallabies and echidnas. The space you want to bulldoze and put paths and car parks in is the only corridor that these animals can move safely from Mungabareena to Doctors Point. If you develop through here as the plan says you will take away their refuge and they will die. Doctors Point already has many problems with speeding drivers and Mungabareena is regularly torn up with four-wheel drivers and neither Albury Council nor the police do anything. Putting more development in is just going to make this problem worse and I worry that someone will get hurt or killed. Growing up here I have not been able to ride my bike safely in and out of Doctors Point but your plan does nothing to help bicycles, walkers and runners to be safe but instead you will put development on an area that floods and wreck the animals' homes in the process. Doctors Point is a flood area and only a couple years ago we got flooded in and it looks like we might again soon. Adding in the bike tracks and other parts of the plan in this area does nothing to fix the actual problems we encounter living in this area. You would know this if you actually came and talked to us. The mountain bike park will ruin Eastern Hill. I never see mountain bikes on Eastern Hill, but I see walkers all the time. There are walkers of all ages, there are families and there are people who walk their dogs. Eastern Hill is a safe place for people, and they don't have to worry about or watch out for mountain bike riders who have no care except for themselves. Lots of people from my area use Eastern Hill. My family and I don't understand why you are wanting to give the hill to mountain bike riders, most of which won't even live in the area because if they did, we would see them now. Eastern Hill is a beloved space for my family, and I urge you not to go ahead with this plan and take it away from us.
Andrew Bassingthwaighte	I'm happy with the plan. Can't wait to see more detailed plan moving forward.

Andrew Bennett	Just my two cents. I've been up walking on Eastern Hill now for 7 years. In that time, I've seen a mountain bike on one single occasion. I'm unsure why the push to put bikes up on Eastern Hill? If the bikes are kept separate to the current walking track, then it may be doable, but the reason everyone goes up there is the peace & quiet. I ride a bike myself; Nail Can & Humpback in Wodonga are good spots. I'm not quite convinced we need to change a very popular walking track over to bike use when other existing MB tracks are far from busy. Anyway, hate to sound like a NIMBY, but the long-term benefits to the local community aren't clear to me here. Developing the lookout is a good idea, I send everyone I can up there as it's a great spot with a nice view. I'd just ask for some deeper investigation into who this is meant to benefit, and why that particular group is being focussed upon. Thanks.

Andrew Boyd Barber	I am making a submission to support (with some suggested improvements) the draft Eastern Hill activation master plan. I wish to commend the council (and consultants) for a well-considered master plan proposal. I found the 6 pages to be informative, well-illustrated and compelling. I am a semi-frequent visitor to East Hill. I enjoy the birdsong, the scrubby wooded grasslands and the views (in particular the visual connection to many other hills across Albury Wodonga). I value the hills in Albury (and Wodonga) as they hug our urban areas and create our horizon lines; they are special places for both humans and our endemic flora & fauna friends. Finding the right balance between human enjoyment and a natural sanctuary is critical. I broadly support the draft master plan because it proposed such a balance. It improves the hill for nature and for human enjoyment without being over developed (points for not proposing a gondola). And begins the efforts to add back its deeper spiritual and cultural meaning. I fully support the following aspects of the draft master plan: - The creation of an equal access path to the trig; everyone deserves to enjoy that amazing view. - The ecological improvements; with revegetation, formalised paths and clear signage to keep people to set locations. - The creation of a new entrance roundabout that remove some existing scary intersections and to provide pedestrian-priority crossing locations that are safe for all ages. - The provision of mountain bike paths in a considered way; that separates bikes from walkers (including land bridge) and respects the sightlines from the ridge. - The suite of measures to improve existing entrances, wayfinding and looping paths. - The commitment to spiritual activation and the embedding of indigenous values. For further improvement I encourage consideration of the following: 1. Renaming / dual naming of Eastern Hill to allow the implementing of traditional Wiradjuri language names (as suggested, broadly, in the recently adopted reconciliation action plan). 2. Creating a dedicated well-being node in immediate proximity to the hospital main entrance. With an equal access entry and pathway to an area of seating where it's possible to be surrounded by nature and not see the hospital building. 3. A clear strategy, approach and consistency for how this hill fits in with the wider Murray River corridor and other hills in the Albury Wodonga area; how do they all speak to each other. 4. Indicate aspirational acquisitions of private land that will further enhance the master plan area. Such as the continuation of the ridgeline path south of the Kiewa Valley Lookout and new pedestrian links through to Murray Cres / Whinray Cres / Bernhardt St / Mountford Cres. These links will further assist with the masterplan intention to make the area more accessible and to create loops. 5. The provision of power supply and water in the vicinity of the car park to allow for food trucks / coffee vans and occasional events.

	6. Additional safe pedestrian crossing points along East Street near to Palm Drive, Heath St and between Hampton Court/Wirraway St. 7. Consideration of CPTED principles in the detail design, in particular for the car park area.
Andrew Frankel	Just do it. Don't listen to too much whinging.
Andrew Klemm	Get it done, ignore the haters. Maybe dial down it down a tad, just make it safe and accessible to all. Should be just be for the select Doctors Point community.
Andrew Nicholson	Well done Albury Council, I think this is an outstanding plan for our city with excellent attention to detail to cater for all hill users. As an East Albury resident (Norfolk Street) and Mountain biker I look forward to being able to ride purpose built trails without having to traverse the city where I have already been hit by a car once before while riding to Nail Can hill. I have always believed that we could have outstanding mtb facilities our city and the master plan proves the viability of it all. I really look forward to the future of the sport of MTB and of our city in general. Thanks for the great work!
Andrew Plant	I think the draft looks fantastic. With multi-use spaces and trails it caters for everyone. It's a great use of what is basically a cleared site, and the addition of new vegetation will help offset the new infrastructure. Trails already exist to some point, and it should take the pressure off Nail Can Hill and its fragile ecology. The tourist attraction aspect of it will also benefit the local community. Great work Albury Council.
Andrew White	I'm appalled that as a resident of East Albury, and a daily walker of East Hill, that I am only now hearing of plans to develop this precious area. I feel that in the effort to make these natural places more accessible to others, the act of doing so will disturb the essence of what makes East Hill so special to many of us. I am concerned that the peaceful trails will become a hub of tourists and noisy bike riders. Mungabareena Reserve and East Hill have already been so heavily disturbed since the arrival of our European people, and I don't believe this development should continue until further consultations have been undertaken with local residents and the Traditional Owners of this Country, we call home.
Angela Bennett	Please do not make this a mountain bike park!! Local residents enjoy the walk along the ridge without the bikes - I walk the ridge every morning and I see an abundant of bird and native wildlife (kangaroos, wallabies and wombats) and they will surely be moved on. Eastern Hill is such a lovely spot to walk - please we do not need mountain bikes carving up tracks and deterring pedestrians. Local Walsh Street residents are against the bikes. There are enough mountain bike options around town.
Angela Kloppenborg	If you can't maintain the tracks at Nail Can Hill why would we allow you to spend more money on another mountain bike trail only to have it fall into disrepair in the future? Maintain what you already have... there are enough mountain bike tracks, it's not fair to have our walking tracks taken over by bikes. Bikes can travel much further and get up to speeds that are not compatible with walkers. Walkers need tracks close to built-up areas, bike riders do not.

Angela Lindegreen	Please DO NOT touch this beautiful walking space. It's the most peaceful and healing walking track and everyone loves the tranquil seat underneath the trees. I walk this regularly and I see people sitting on the bench needing that tranquil time in nature. It's an unspoken rule to let people be quiet underneath the trees. Please do not take this away from our community… it's the one place we can go to enjoy nature at its best. If you use this track regularly you would understand how special, it is to everyone just as it is. I strongly disagree and think it would be entirely ruined by this proposal.
Ann McAulay Mutliple submissions	One of my many concerns regarding the draft plan is the lack of insight into the needs of the wildlife. The eastern flank of the hill has been degraded for years and is the perfect site for regeneration of the endemic vegetation which would then support the remaining pockets of fauna and flora. In the Albury region we have many experts whose advice on restoring the damaged areas of Eastern Hill would be invaluable. I believe that time with minimal intervention is most important. The aim of encouraging native bushland within the city of Albury is worthy of discussion. Regeneration (with help) may take years, but it can be done. Planting and weeding could involve volunteers. With protection and encouragement, the animal wildlife would establish their own pathways with minimal intervention. Definitely the biggest problem with a plan for restoring the health of the hill would be the development of bike paths of any description. I strongly object to the bike paths in the draft plan. Having read the master plan at the council offices I am none the wiser about the actual bike path route, the materials of which it will be constructed or the impact on the environment. As a frequent user of the East Albury walking track, I am concerned that the Devil's Glen area is fragile, and the track cannot be easily widened without damage to the environment. This was glossed over and there was little community consultation. Certainly, land holders adjacent to Devil's Glen were not consulted.

Ann McAuley	I am not in favour of introducing bikes onto Eastern Hill. This is the only walking path on the hills around Albury where it is possible for walkers who are hearing impaired or elderly to walk without fear of being skittled by bike riders. Many bike riders fail to announce their presence by ringing the bike bell, or they expect the walker to continue on the projected path not realising that some walkers will wander slightly. The sudden arrival of a bike going past on the right or the left, at speed or slowly, is unnerving. So, it is a relief to walk on the only bike free public path on a hill within the city of Albury. The path could certainly be improved by the regeneration of the bushland surrounding it. Now is the perfect opportunity for creating a reserve where the Aboriginal Community could have input into linking this area with the cultural site of Mungabareena. Native plants no longer living on the bare sections could be reintroduced from the bush on the water tower precinct of the hill on the western side of East Street. The native grasses, bushes, orchids and trees would bring the beauty of the bush that is now evident on Nail Can Hill back to Eastern Hill. However, this must be done before further degradation of Eastern Hill occurs. The track from Murray View Road to East Street, built as a track suitable for golf buggies to allow residents of Doctors Point to access their homes during flooding of Doctors Point Road, is an example of how quickly a well designed, built for purpose track can become a maintenance problem. Recent rain has decimated a newly contoured pathway that had seemed to cope well. No longer. It is not fit for purpose at the moment. Narrower, steeper mountain bike trails, no matter how well designed, would fare worse more quickly with weather conditions not as extreme as current conditions. Bike tyre tracks dig in and collect water more quickly than footprints and the total length of the trails would require more maintenance with equipment that would further damage the environment. A mountain bike trail will prevent plant, animal and insect life prospering as it should with regeneration. The present sign at the start of the track from the lookout area states that "sticks and leaf litter provide essential foraging and nesting habitats for many fauna. Continuing the submission that just closed on me before it was completed. for many fauna species and should be retained". How does this allow for the construction of a mountain bike trail? Construction would involve heavy, noisy machinery disturbing not just the native fauna and flora. It would also impact on the lives of those living in the vicinity, of those who regularly use the area for exercise, of those who value the peace and privacy of the area. I have grave reservations regarding the wisdom of the Eastern Hill Activation Plan. I feel the entire plan should be open to discussion by all the residents of Albury. I am not against MBTs, but I am against the MBTs on Eastern Hill. The beauty of this area is enhanced by no bikes coming up unheard behind you while you are walking. Even with separate designated trails there will be overlap. I feel that at least one MBT on Nail Can Hill could be built to the standards planned for Eastern Hill before anything is begun for Eastern Hill. Spend money on Nail Can Hill to undo the damage there before making a decision on the trails on Eastern Hill.

	It is hard to reverse a decision and even harder to reverse the damage from a poor decision made without adequate community input. I believe we should minimize manmade structures and keep Eastern Hill as natural as possible. This is the perfect time to create a nature reserve on Eastern Hill with input from the Aboriginal community. The area is adjacent to Mungabareena and is of great cultural significance. The reserve would help in the preservation and protection of wildlife, both fauna and flora, which is currently under threat.
Ann Moore	I am strongly opposed to the mountain bike trail being built on Eastern Hill. I use Eastern Hill for recreational walking and am concerned at the safety impact that mountain bikes will have on walkers, particularly young children and more senior members of the community. I have walked other trails that are also used for bikes and have found the speed used by the bikers to be quite intimidating. I am also concerned that the use of mountain bikes will lead to the illegal use of trail bikes. I believe that the building of a mountain bike trail and its subsequent use will have a negative impact on the local wildlife. I enjoy bird watching and find Eastern Hill to be a good location to observe birds. This will be less enjoyable with mountain bikes in the area, as they will most likely cause disturbance to birdlife.

Annette Baker	I would prefer not to be writing this submission. And I would prefer not to have spent the past eight weeks speaking to many like-minded people in our community who have been blindsided by a significantly concerning community engagement process done by AlburyCity. One with blatant desire to achieve a predetermined outcome for Eastern Hill. To discover that our voices were not heard throughout this seriously concerning community engagement process is my reason for now writing this submission. We and the 100s of like-minded people who use Eastern Hill love this space, just how it is. I call it our EH, as I've walked the hill for 35 years as do others who walk daily when we are in Albury. We were a family of five, our three kids did what they could at different ages and stages when they were growing up, to get to the top of the hill and bingo they were old enough to walk or run and enjoy this unique part of Albury on their own or with their friends. No complaints. No suggestions that they would use the hill if it had better paths. Respect only, for what we had so close to our home. We are now a family of four, our daughter died in 2011 and never failed to tell us that her favourite place in the whole world was being on top of Eastern Hill. On his visits back to Albury from Montreal, the first thing our older son does is drive to Mungabareena for a float in the river with the dogs, followed by a walk back home over Eastern Hill. On our younger son's visits back from Melbourne, he joins me and my husband with his and our dogs for the walk along the ridge, to ground himself before heading back to the city. He was the first person to alert me to his concerns after he read the DEHAMP, asking the question, "what do I need to do re Eastern Hill, that proposal is very hard on the eyes." He added "why on earth does this organisation need to add more heat retaining concrete to the world is beyond me." Nouriel Park being a prime example. Importantly for our family over the years have been the 100s of walks that we have done while holidaying in places throughout Australia and recently (before COVID -19) in other countries. Walks give both locals and visitors/tourists the opportunity to slow down, to connect to country, to explore a township or city, to reflect, to think and to chill. As a tourist in different towns and cities we have walked varying distances that are marked with approximate return times. All of which has benefitted us both physically as well as mentally and the people of all-ages that we have met along the way. We now recognise that this has become a rare and important thing. There was never anything to suggest that Eastern Hill needed a Draft Activation Master Plan, in particular a plan where the community and stakeholder engagement was extensively misrepresented as stated in the briefing to council on 8 August 2022 (Council Minutes 13.3 (p 298-299). No matter what the select few stakeholders (AWMB Inc., Rotary Club of Albury and a small number of AlburyCity departments), envisioned for Eastern Hill, we the users were not sought at any stage during the DEHAMP planning and have only recently become a small part of the process after the submission process opened. Hoping to appease voices with opposing opinions to the DEHAMP plan, Albury residents were encouraged to attend any or all four of the Information Sessions that were quickly arranged in response to the true stakeholder's (users of EH) angst related to the seriously flawed and biased process thus far. As recorded in the minutes of the meeting on 8 August, councillors were informed that in the first steps of developing the DEHAMP there was "extensive community and stakeholder engagement. This is simply not true. In the early planning stages, nine adjoining landholders to EH were contacted or had letters sent to them by council. I could not tell you the number of times I've

	been told that “this is a “draft plan” only and what you need to do is write a submission and include what you would like to see happen out of the activation plan and/or write other suggestions. This is difficult for me as I feel it then legitimises a totally flawed and biased community consultation process that has somehow managed to slip through the eyes of the keepers/senior staff at council. When voicing my concerns at the third Information Session, I was flippantly told by one councillor, not to be concerned about the process as the original survey was not going to be used as part of the process and to write a submission. The councillor then went on about how everyone was sick of hearing the concerns that (users of EH) have about the biased and flawed process. At another Information Session I overheard a council staff member refer to the (users of EH) as whinging, whining and entitled. If the original consultation phase had been conducted openly and objectively and council had asked the residents of Albury “what the optimum use for Eastern Hill would be”, we would not be in the position we now find ourselves in opposing the DEHAMP plan. AlburyCity, Eastern Hill is one of only a very few pieces of land that you have not developed, so in 2021 a Mountain Bike Strategy was devised. Those of you who are reading this know what followed and it has not been a process that an organisation such as yours has anything to be proud of. I urge all councillors to read every document available to you that is related to the prior and current consultation process to date. Clearly, the MBTs on Eastern Hill idea has come from the previous council. Does this new council want to leave a legacy of good decision making or a potential travesty of Mountain Bike Trails on Eastern Hill? The Mountain Bike Trail idea that was sold by the Project Manager to only a few adjoining landholders as “freeing up Nail Can Hill trails”. The Mountain Bike Trail idea that, if (God forbid) came to fruition will end in disrepair, no different to Nail Can Hill trails. Please AlburyCity, maintain and get one area only up-to-speed and leave Eastern Hill for walking trails only. Walking trails on Eastern Hill (along with regeneration of natives to the area), will add more value, beauty and longevity from a Tourism perspective to this magnificent city rather than another MBTs that your organisation will not be able to maintain. Your principle should be to integrate with the natural environment and not add foreign materials or alter things substantially. When voting, I urge all councillors to consider both the input and insights from your constituents, in particular the value and significance that Eastern Hill holds and has held for so many. The DRAFT Eastern Hill Activation Plan came as a complete shock to me and many East Albury users of the hill. It has been difficult to fathom how AlburyCity and Yonder got to this stage without consultation with the actual users who were not invited to be at the table of stakeholders. Who made the decision that AW Mountain Bikers were stakeholders? The process including a Rotary group that paid or sponsored the toilets at Eastern Hill Lookout and three areas of Albury Council staff is unfathomable. Why weren't environmental groups outside of Albury Council invited to the table and representatives from our traditional landowners. Shame. The process is a lot on the nose, conflicting, confusing and deeply upsetting. When speaking to a council staff member last week, I was told that residents whose properties bordered Eastern Hill were phoned about the plans.

	I asked the council staff member who took the call about why residents hadn't received letters from council and was told that Albury Council couldn't afford it. I was then told that there were confidentiality concerns about contacting residents (this made no sense). Albury Council's communication team have done a very poor job in getting information to all ratepayers that need to know about this draft plan. I have had to do step-by-step talking to people on where to find the submissions form, the dates for the information sessions are at the very bottom (when using a phone) and the two PDFs that are an important read sit at the bottom as well. The closed survey seems to get high priority and as communications people should know, that's where you lose your reader. That might be the aim. The more I look at the draft, the more it reminds me of a Lavington Football Ground fiasco. Remember Albury Council, this was not the current council's idea. While there might be money, please consider a peaceful environment for one part of Albury. You have your Nouriel Park and the continued concrete jungle of a river precinct/project.
Annie Phothisomphane	I don’t think they need viewing platform and everything else. They should fix the car park and the toilet block. I think money should be spent upgrading our sporting grounds. There are already mountain bike tracks at Nail Can Hill and they are better then what is being proposed.
Annie Stephenson	This proposal is an absolute disgrace, and not indicative of the community's opinion. Mountain bikers, by Council's own admissions, have destroyed Nail Can Hill, detailing the erosion, and negative impact on flora and fauna. Suggesting that pandering to this minority group and allowing the destruction of this wonderful area is unforgivable. Please do not proceed with this proposal.
Anonymous	The Trig Point Viewing Area looks amazing. It seems like a survey marker. With lots of tourists around, it's going to be really difficult for Surveyors to use this Survey Mark. The design shouldn't use the Trig Point as the focus of this viewing platform. Put a new geographical stone marker nearby and use that as the focus of the design. Also, there should be some shading area nearby.

Anthony Housego	Thank you very much for providing the opportunity to comment on the Eastern Hill Activation Plan. I make this submission on a personal basis and, in particular, as someone who has enjoyed the untouched amenity and natural beauty of the Hill for over forty years. While the submission is made in a personal capacity, I would also like to draw in it where relevant on my professional experience in public policy and economics. It is important to stress from the outset that I am not opposed to development, as long as it is based on sound and broad based consultation, and balances the views of all stakeholders, together with a robust consideration of costs and benefits. Based on these features, where there is a compelling case for conservancy, and for limited or no further development, I would strongly suggest that this occur. As well as being sensible from a process and policy viewpoint, it is largely budget neutral, while generating benefits that, though often less tangible in financial terms, are nevertheless a key to a functioning society and communal wellbeing. My family moved to East Albury from Sydney around 1972, and family members have lived in the area since that time. I spent many of my formative years on the Hill. It is from this time that I grew to love the outlook there, and shared that view with the increasing bevy of individuals and families who could be seen walking the ridge, many to get some quiet time for reflection and a respite from the growing busyness of life. The case for further development set out in the Activation Plan focuses, in my view, on providing greatest amenity to a select group of users (and, indeed, to people who may not have ever used the Hill to date). This includes mountain bike riders, who already may have some facility over at Nail Can Hill, and also motorists, the latter of whom will gain much greater access to the area than has previously been the case. Other users, in particular the previously mentioned walkers and families, many or most of whom would probably prefer a “do no harm”, conservancy approach, have not received an equal focus in my view. Council’s task should be to balance the requirements of all users, considering existing or new alternatives regarding facility across the Albury region, and the costs and benefits that I previously mentioned. Your task is therefore not an easy one, and will require you to consider diverse views, and balance short term gains with longer term considerations of individual and community wellbeing. The Plan, in this regard, should in my view consider in much greater detail the zero to minimal cost alternative of doing little more, or nothing further, to the Hill. As stated, I think the Plan and associated consultation to date has missed the quiet users, those who gain much utility from walking that area, alone or in groups. It would be a great shame to undervalue the benefits that this group, and by implication the broader Albury community, would gain by ensuring the Hill remains largely untouched. Thank you again for your consideration.

Antony Keys	There are many good things in the plan such as walking track improvements, disabled access and facilities and road access at the Rotary lookout, but I have the following concerns: 1. The publicity for the drafting process seems to have been weighted towards social media. Physical signs publicising the draft plan only appeared recently. Older citizens who don't often use Facebook, Twitter etc. have not been involved. This means the plan is being presented as a 'fait accompli" to be commented on after it has already been formulated, seemingly by Council and the MTB community. 2. The nature of the consultation feedback has resulted in possibly a skewed outcome. The respondents are overwhelmingly male and young. It appears the MTB community has successfully mobilised and responded in numbers. This is their right to do so but it has resulted in other, less organised members of the community (the silent majority?) being excluded from the process. 3. I am worried about the impact of MTB activity on the natural values of the hill. MTB activity on Nail Can Hill has resulted in much damage done by tracks, some which are "unofficial", to the environment e.g., erosion. I'm sure the MTB groups are fairly responsible but there are many riders who are outside these. If the Council and Parks officials cannot control such activity, how are they going to manage on Eastern Hill? Mountain biking is primarily about an adrenalin rush, not an appreciation of the natural environment. 4. I notice that the plan has some areas of shared pathway. I don't believe that mixing bikes and pedestrians is a good idea. You should be able to stroll, look at your surroundings, and do some bird watching and the like without having to worry about being hit by a bike. There are not many places in and near Albury for walkers only. Wonga Wetlands is the only one I can think of. You can't even walk down Dean Street's footpaths with there being a bike around. In summary there are some good aspects of the plan but its central thrust, MTB expansion, is flawed.
Archie Drummond	I'm 14, like walking my dog up the hill, don't like bikes zooming pass me and making me and my feel uncomfortable.
Asanki Fernando	Not everything needs to be over developed. People visit Albury to be close to nature. We have an abundance of native wildlife and natural beauty on Easter Hill please leave it and preserve it for future generations. We don't need another look out or bike tracks. This hill is perfect the way it is.
Asanki Fernando	What a waste of money and resources. It's beautiful the way it is and doesn't need to be over developed. Can we leave some nature for animals too instead of making Albury a concrete jungle. Please leave this natural beauty untouched.
Ash Stokes	I like that you are considering making greater use of Eastern Hill for walking, mountain biking, tourism, etc. In particular I am keen to see formal mountain bike tracks along with separated walking tracks. Mountain biking has increased massively over the last 15 years with little additional facilities locally. Additional locations for these activities would help to spread out the load on trails, roads, and residents that live nearby. It also creates opportunities for people to get outside and active. Great to see this plan being considered.
Ashley Henderson	I have looked over the plans for the new upgrades and feel they are unnecessary and over the top. The hill is beautiful the way it is, I frequent the hill a lot and would be disappointed to see it changed, lots of people walk this trail and walk their dogs.

Ashley Irvin Multiple submissions	I've been walking eastern hill for the last 5 years since I discovered it when I moved to the area. It's so quiet and tranquil which is why I love to walk it so much. But please don't ruin it with bike trails and concrete. The rotary lookout could absolutely do with an update, but please stop there, new bike trail will simple force all the wildlife to leave if they don't die of stress first, bikes will damage the environment beyond repair of this small slice of heaven, that many walkers already enjoy as it is. All we ask is that the walking trail be maintained, and the noxious weeds be better controlled so that the many, many people that love to use this trail (as it is) can continue to do so without turning yet another naturally beautiful spot into a concrete jungle. Please save our hill! Please please please don't change this hill it is beautiful, quiet and the perfect escape just the way it is!!!!! Sure, upgrade the car park and the lookout there but no further you or will ruin the tranquillity of this place that many of us love and cherish. All this track needs is a little extra love in the way of noxious weed control. Please don't take away this little piece of heaven that is easily accessible without having to far out of town for the same feel and peace
Bec Cooper	My submission is to express support for improvements to facilities and passive recreation and connection to culture that encourages inclusion and accessibility in a much loved asset of our community. The value of eastern hill is in quiet reflection, bushwalking, family picnics and family strolls in a safe place where nature is accessible. The proposed mountain bike trails do not align with the value locals currently get from eastern hill. Mountain bike facilities have been constructed on Nail Can hill where many people from our community no longer feel comfortable, welcome or safe taking children for a bush walk. The proposed mountain bike trails will cause division in the local community and destruction to an otherwise peaceful place where passive recreation and connection to nature and culture is still possible for the local community. The proposed mountain bike trails will disturb and displace the mob of kangaroos and wallaby's that call eastern hill home - another significant value locals love about eastern hill. I agree the car park and lookout facilities need upgrading, interpretation signage is needed, cultural values need to be included and better fit for purpose facilities will encourage more people to engage in passive recreation and nature appreciation however mountain bike trails will have the opposite effect. Focus should be given to the various issues created at Nail Can hill by opening the mountain bike trails before replicating them on eastern hill, causing more community division and isolating members of the community who wish to enjoy the hill peacefully and safely. There has not been adequate consideration of the impacts to traffic and parking in the local community etc. by the construction and promotion of mountain bike trails. While mountain bikers are able to be consulted in large groups and have a loud voice, they do not represent the views of the community and those who enjoy the ability for a peaceful, safe, accessible and welcome bush walk need to be heard as well.

Bella Schofield	I am a local to the Albury Wodonga Mountain bike trails and race enduro and downhill mountain bikes. By having these new trails in East Albury, it encourages young and upcoming kids to be active and outside enjoying the trails of the hill. Yes, we already have Nail Can Hill but by proceeding with the plans of 'Eastern Hill Activation Plan' means we are able to spread our options by engaging everyone from the community by being closer to other surrounding suburbs such as Thurgoona. I myself ride mountain bikes and would love to see this plan move ahead. On behalf of myself and the other mountain bike community please consider this approach.
Beryl Barlow	I have lived in the Albury region for 80+ years, and I have seen Albury Council suggest proposals, implement developments and make changes across the city. Some of these implementations have been successful and some have not. The proposal to "activate" Eastern Hill represents a project that is not aligned to residential needs, does not support building a sustainable City, and only supports a minority group i.e., Mountain Bikers. The current state of the Hill is appalling, the site is full of weeds, thistles, blackberries, and Bathurst Burr, if the site is not maintained now, I can't imagine that the Council will all of a sudden be passionate and committed to maintain this area appropriately. Maintenance should already be a council commitment. I do not what to be walking this area and be threatened by people on bikes, the separation between bikes and people is just not enough, the site is simple not big enough to have a safe and effective development of mountain bike trails on the Hill and keep people and children safe. Invest in areas that represent the entire community such as additional hospital facilities, aged care, support to Cancer facilities, maintenance of existing facilities, complete the Aquatic centre proposal, and leave these unrealistic and minority group focus ideas well alone, and leave Eastern Hill away from Mountain Bikes.
Beth Simpson	I think it looks great and will be a significant improvement.
Bev Fairbairn	Please do not allow mountain bikes onto Eastern Hill. This is a beautiful walking tract, and I am a senior citizen and do not want and should not have bikes roaring down on me when I am out trying to stay fit.
Bev Knight	I have been walking up Eastern Hill on a regular basis for many years now. I love the nature, the peace and the views. I believe having bike tracks around the hill would destroy the peace and tranquillity the walks offer. Please do not include any bike tracks. They can use Nail Can Hill. I agree in maintaining the tracks and improving the entrance road, but not building the large viewing decks. Please let us just enjoy nature as it is. Thank you
Blake Tinworth	We should have mountain bike trails

Brad Howard	I am writing against the proposed traffic alterations and mountain bike trails in the Eastern Hill Activation plan. As an East Albury resident, I am concerned that the addition of a roundabout on a very steep section of road will make the exit from Walsh Street even more difficult than what it is, and impeding traffic will compound safety issues on that intersection. I am also firmly against the type of development proposed and mountain bike trails specifically. This proposal will fundamentally alter the experience that people want and are able to enjoy on Eastern Hill. The absence of development and connection to Mungabareena Reserve below is actually what makes Eastern Hill the wonderful space that the community values. If Council were to proceed with this, it would demonstrate that they are tone deaf and wilfully ignoring the concerns of the people of Albury. I am also concerned with the apparent lack of consultation that has occurred and it seems that Albury City is trying to drive through their own agenda against what ratepayers went.
Brad Spinelli	My family and I support the Eastern Hill Activation plan. I think the separation of the MTB and walking trails will be a good thing and having MTB trails on the east face of the hill is utilising land which currently does not get used for anything. I also support the upgrade of the lookout and trig point - May need some more car parking spaces as I think it will be very popular on weekends.
Bradley Taylor	This would be an incredible asset to Albury. This is the sort of infrastructure that would actually attract people from outside the area. This magnificent area is slowly but surely being swallowed up by housing development, without making use of the natural beauty. The MTB track would be something for the local youth to do, other than internet and causing trouble as they are bored. Cashed up MTB riders also travel far and wide to experience something new.
Brendan Robinson	Really looking forward to seeing the full scope of this project proposal implemented. We know that good design enables both the ecological and human activity goals this project seeks to deliver. Continuing to do nothing will only encourage illegal trail building and convince other users that cyclists are irresponsible when this couldn't be further from the truth. We all want a better outcome for this site.
Brett Nicholson	As with many other residents on a property adjoining Eastern Hill, I am disappointed with the lack of communication with residents before formulating a change of use of Eastern Hill. I am a frequent user of the Devils Glen and ridge walk paths and enjoy the peaceful quiet nature of the area. I was led to believe a previous environmental study identified this area as a wildlife corridor with access to the Murray River and often see kangaroos transiting through this area. There are currently few bikes that use the area and those teenagers that did during COVID were interested in a small area with jumps and slides. I don't believe this is area has suitable height or length to attract the mountain bike traffic away from Nail Can hill. Some roadworks and parking improvements would be fine, but without the mountain bike traffic you could eliminate the need for a roundabout and just install and new outbound lane exiting to the South. I would oppose any car park on Doctors Point Road and would suggest you present a flood strategy for Doctors point road to precede any mountain bike strategy. Regards, Brett Nicholson

Brian and Vicki Keogh	We are writing to express our objection to the proposed development of the mountain bike trails on Eastern Hill in East Albury. The landscape of Eastern Hill as one walks south along the ridge is largely unaffected by development and provides a tranquil and beautiful place to enjoy the views to the east and south of the city of Albury. Albury City has the jewel in the crown with this beautiful area being so close to the CBD and easily accessible. The use of the area to create bike trails will scar the hillside for all time and ruin the amenity of the area. Further, the trails will lead to erosion of the surface of the hillside, lead to the destruction of vegetation and have an adverse effect on the wildlife in the area. The natural beauty of this area should be preserved for the enjoyment of all residents of Albury and not destroyed for the benefit of a relatively small number of mountain bike users. We also wish to express our concern that council has proceeded this far into the project without proper consultation with the residents of the city.
Brianna Salke	Not everything needs to be turned into a tourist attraction, leave it natural so the local me can enjoy it daily as it is beautiful just as it is
Briony Dixon	Good opportunity to optimise green space usage for wider community including children and mountain bikers benefiting mental health and community engagement. Much needed linkage of trails for efficient use of current under-utilised area ideally incorporating Mungarabareena. Great opportunity for positive development that will benefit all and increase community activity. Development of established lookouts the lowest priority, however Improved access for less able community members worthwhile

Bronwyn Fulton	As a local resident of the Eastern Hill area, I wish to voice my disapproval of the planned Eastern Hill Redevelopment Master Plan mountain bike trails. We knew nothing of this proposed development until speaking to a neighbour recently. As long-term rate paying residents of the Eastern Hill area, we would have expected that Council would have communicated in some form with us. Even a simple letter box drop would have ensured that all residents were informed of this proposed development. In this day and age where everyone & every government is consumed with going green & protecting our environment, I find this suggested development deplorable in every sense. Why is Albury City Council set to go against environmental trends and destroy the nature, peace and tranquillity of Eastern Hill? As local residents we often walk along the ridge and enjoy the serenity and nature this place offers. It truly does take you away from the hustle & bustle of our busy city. Why has this EHRMP been done in such a secretive way? It seems this development is focused only on mountain bike riders and not on the residents and users of this beautiful hill. We are so blessed to have such a beautiful piece of nature in the heart of Albury. Why would Albury City Council want to destroy such an area, especially when we are the envy of many other areas? We worry that if this development does go ahead, in later years it will end up in a state of disrepair like the trails and paths on Nail Can hill. Why can't the existing paths & trails on Nail Can Hill be upgraded? Surely this would be the least expensive option for council. Please abide by Albury City's Community Engagement Plan of 2022 and conduct an unbiased & widespread community engagement that considers the views of all stakeholders. As stated previously as local Eastern Hill residents we were totally unaware of the proposed development so therefore not engaged at all by Council on this development. We do not believe that the survey conducted in 2021 regarding the Albury Mountain Bike strategy was an indication of the entire community. Nor do we believe Albury Council has engaged effectively with local Aboriginal Elders and their community. As I write this email I am immersed in the sound of bird songs that as Eastern Hill residents we enjoy every day. If the proposed redevelopment goes ahead this will have a permanent & detrimental effect on the nature of this beautiful hill. Is this what Albury City Council wish to be known for? Yes, we have come across mountain bike riders in the past while enjoying a peaceful walk along the ridge. All we can say is that walkers and mountain trail bikes CANNOT safely co-exist on the one path. Does this mean that mountain bike riders are going to take preference over local walking rate payers? Please leave Eastern Hill undeveloped and in its natural state as it is today for all to enjoy.

Bruce Jackson	Is there going to be anywhere that you can go in Albury to find a quiet place to reduce the stress of city living - which Albury has now become? You used to be able to go down to the river and find a quiet place but now all readily available and easily accessed areas are developed and crowded. Looks like a lot of car traffic is also going to be generated by this proposal. Cars slowing and entering East St. Are there going to be turning lanes included to reduce the potential for accidents? Council hasn't shown to be too good with traffic control over the last few decades. As for the mountain bikes, have council members proposing this ever had a look at the damage the bike trails have done to Nail Can Hill? The level of erosion has been extensive caused by compacted soil, vegetation loss and tracks that form rivers. What about the native animals that exist there? Not many places left for them. Has a detailed investigation into the species present on the hill been carried out? Unlike Nail Can Hill there are many residents very close to where this development is being proposed it would seem. One of the great things that I moved to Albury because of was the amount of untouched greenery we had all close by. It gave the city a good feel. Slowly that is all being lost. I joke to visitors to the city that the council goes - oh look there is a natural spot - let's build something there. Many places in Sydney and Melbourne have more green spaces than Albury in their local suburbia. The lookout could be improved but the road must be made safer to enter and leave East Street. What next, a Gondola or chair lift up the Eastern side? Just to be clear. I am against sections of this development especially mixing fast travelling bike riders with walkers and dogs looking for a peaceful spot to go.
Bunty Driver	No mountain bikes! These guys need something, but they don’t stick to the areas provided now and cause a great deal of degeneration of the bush. It has been a wonderful area to have big dogs run off lead and there will inevitably be a collision part from that, the plan looks fine

Cait Mitchelhill	I grew up in East Albury with our family home backing onto the bush land at the top of Mount Street in East Albury. The freedom of having walking and running tracks that haven't been built up was one of the attractions of moving back to regional NSW after spending the best part of 25 years living in big cities both here in Australia and in the UK. Bringing my family home to Albury, where we are lucky enough to have access to the Murray River and the surrounding hills was an easy decision to make. I loved growing up in Albury and wanted my children to experience the joys of living here so close to nature. I live in Central Albury and enjoy walking my two dogs in areas where I can release some of the stress from day to day life. I find walking over the ridge across Nail Can can be really busy with bikes especially on the weekends and school holidays. I prefer to walk in areas where there aren't many people, it gives me a chance to think and de-stress from day to day life. Having to be on alert that a mountain bike might come flinging out of the narrow tracks can be stressful for not only myself, my dogs but also for the bike riders. So, my husband and I have taken to walking across the Eastern view ridge over the last year or so and do so 3-4 times a week. I love the fact that you can walk across the ridge feeling safe from bikes especially walking on some of the narrow tracks. I enjoy the ever changing views from the ridge and the sense of peace it allows. When we pull up in the car park there's quite often people sitting eating their lunch, having a coffee etc. at the picnic tables, I agree that the viewing platform could be an area where people visiting could appreciate the view. The car park also seems to be a spot where young people head to at night-time and eat their takeaway. Quite often when we arrive it can be strewn over the tarmac and occasionally along the tracks. Although I've discussed having more bins with my husband, he points out that the litterer's have access to bins but are just not prepared to get out of the car to discard their rubbish. I feel if we have more development there will not only be more traffic but more rubbish that will go with it. It won't just be isolated to the car park but will also be left at the look out and along the ridge. I understand that there seems to be a need for more tracks for the mountain bike riders, why can't there be more development of the existing tracks on Nail Can that could be linked up to splitters creek or to the river tracks out to Wonga wetlands. There are beautiful walking paths for people who have mobility issues around west Albury boat ramp, Nouriel and across into Victoria. Perhaps with the new development by the river a smaller bike riding area could be developed for families who love to picnic by the hovel tree .some grass covered mounds could be built to encourage junior riders who could enjoy riding Nail Can tracks. Please leave Eastern hill as a natural walking path, I agree that more trees and shrubs could be planted to help with erosion. It is a beautiful part of our city that should be preserved and enhanced instead of being developed. Thank you
Caleb Myers	It should go ahead, vital for Albury to add to an already extensive network of MTB trails.
Caleb Patterson	Opposed to proposal bike tracks to Eastern Hill.
Cameron Hardy	The MTB trails being separate from the already established Hume and Hovell walking trail is such a great idea, from someone who utilises the area for hiking and riding my bike I would love to see this. Instead of having to drive to hunchback or Nail Can

Cameron Shipard	My submission is against mountain bike trails on Eastern Hill and also the extension of paths and car parking in Doctors Point Reserve and Devil's Glen. Mountain Bike trails are not wanted by the majority of the community in this space. Additionally, the development of Devil's Glen and Doctors Point reserve will add little to the amenity of Albury City but comes with great cost to ratepayers and places detrimental pressure on the small number of land based native animals that survive in this space. Albury Council has either ignored or failed to investigate before drawing up this plan what people actually want for Eastern Hill. Any user engagement would tell you that it is loved for what it is, that it goes to the very fabric of what people love about living in Albury, being able to have such an amazing area, largely undeveloped, that is easily accessible in the middle of our city. The views and connection to Mungabareena below are all the more part of what makes this place special. Mountain bikers are well served with Nail Can Hill and the question should be asked as to why mountain biking is considered to be of more importance or is given more of a voice than the current users of Eastern Hill. Albury Council should prioritise maintaining existing mountain bike facilities rather than create further damage, and in this case conflict, in other parts of Albury. Plan doesn't reflect what community wants Eastern Hill is a valued community space used by people of all ages, families, dog walkers, trail runners, walkers and sight seers. It is valued because it isn't developed. Albury Council has failed to undertake any engagement with existing users. This plan will ruin this space for those who enjoy it now for what it is and I, like so many others, are asking what right does Council have to take that away from people, to prioritise a small number of mountain bike riders over all those who use the space now? Sadly, Mungabareena Reserve and Doctors Point Road are filled with roadside rubbish and increasing hoon behaviour. Instead of building more paths and infrastructure on the hill and in Devil's Glen, residents would be far better served by fixing Doctors Point Road up so it is flood resilient, increasing rubbish collection, monitoring hoon behaviour and the community would be better served by the addition of cycling and walker paths along Doctors Point Road to support the already large number of users who use this road into Mungabareena and at the same time providing safe passage for people exiting Doctors Point. These are all things that an objective engagement process would identify. Environmental damage and destruction of land-based animal wildlife corridor How does Council justify sending heavy machinery to carve out the side of the hill for these trails? What sort of damage needs to be done to put in place the so-called land bridge? One of the reasons cited for extending mountain bike paths is to take pressure off Nail Can Hill because it is degraded as a result of mountain bike usage. In addition to carving up Eastern Hill how does it make any sense to create further degradation in other parts of Albury through extended mountain bike use? No assessment has been undertaken about the erosion let alone the pressure this places on the lagoon and connection to the river system below. In regard to Devil's Glen and Doctors Point, there is no cost/benefit analysis that has been undertaken to demonstrate the value that developing these areas will provide against the cost and detriment to the area. The plan has no reference to the fact that there is a single

	wildlife corridor that connects Mungabareena to Doctors Point which is through Devil's Glen. It is home to an array of native land-based animals that have somehow endured despite being locked in by road all around. There are echidnas, wallabies, native lizards, snakes and likely Sloane's Froglet in the Doctors Point Reserve precinct where a car park is proposed. No justification is given to the development of paths and car parking, nor any assessment made as to the existing value of the area. Devils' Glen is already accessible with established paths. The main concern is that Council does little to maintain what is already there. Development as proposed will simply put further pressure on this important wildlife habitat with very little gain for the community. Plan not fully costed and imposes further impost on ratepayers The plan submitted to council indicates that private land at the top of Walsh Street needs to be annexed in order to build the new car park entry but no indication of cost to purchase this land. How is it acceptable for a plan that costs millions of dollars to be put forward for endorsement with such a significant item unassessed and unknown? Additionally, an ongoing maintenance charge is cited for the development. Most sports require participants to pay, why should the ratepayer have to subsidise this proposal, particularly when the majority of people don't want this in the first place. Council doesn't maintain what is already there The existing paths on all sides of Eastern hill have been neglected by Albury Council for over 10 years with not a single bit of maintenance undertaken over this time. Surely Albury Council should take care of what is already there rather than build more. Council may be able to secure grant funding to build these things in the first place, but the maintenance is then borne by ratepayers and experience tells us that Council can't keep up with the maintenance, so I question the justification of expanding infrastructure. I would also highlight that the Doctors Point area is a natural water course. Council in their wisdom put a path through connecting East Street to Murray View Road after the 2016 floods as a means to ferry residents out in golf buggies in future floods. That path has washed out over and over since because it is in a water course and the proposed paths are an extension of this. Mowing and weed management is already a concern in the area where multiple phone calls are required to get Council to come in just to mow along the existing paths. Traditional owners ignored The traditional owners have highlighted that Eastern Hill would have been a special place and it is connected to Mungabareena below, they have asked that Mungabareena is not developed and yet Council is still proposing trail heads at Mungabareena and a mounting bike path. How is it acceptable to Albury Council to totally ignore the traditional owners as well as overlook that Eastern Hill is an intrinsic part of Mungabareena? Albury Council conflict and flawed process has not provided an informed plan This plan has not been done in consultation with the community, users of the hill have not been included in its design and it is very clear from the community response, having now been given the 'privilege' of seeing Council's proposal is that this is not at all consistent with what people want. A large part of the community now finds itself having to argue against this plan rather than be engaged in its design. This has seriously undermined the trust in Albury Council and raises governance questions about this and future processes that may be

	undertaken in Council led developments. Councils' submission to the Albury Councillors on August 8, which resulted in this plan being put on public display, indicated that 'extensive community engagement' was undertaken. This is incorrect and deceiving. In fact, targeted workshops were undertaken with specific interest groups, Council consulted internally, minimal effort was taken to engage traditional owners and an examination of the survey which Council has relied upon has shown that it was heavily influenced by the Albury Wodonga Mountain Bike group with spikes in responses aligning to that group engaging its members through social media. Ordinary users of the hill and residents were given no such accommodation. Anyone who actually engaged users of the hill will tell you that there is very limited mountain bike use. An objective user survey process would also have confirmed this however for reasons known only to Albury Council this was not seen as important. Councillors should be able to take at face value that Council has done what it says it has, Councillors should be able to rely on statements such as 'extensive community engagement' has taken place and when that is shown to be incorrect it questions the veracity of the entire process, plan and associated recommendations. Further, residents should be able to place reliance on Council following its own policies. Councils' own community engagement plan states that Council will' engage with the community before you develop a draft document a plan is developed'. It further states that public exhibition should not be used to show the community the draft document for the first time. The first time residents saw this draft plan was when it went to public exhibition. This is directly opposed to the published process Albury City states it should undertake. Why? The conflicted nature and agenda of Council and sheer contempt that Council has shown ratepayers in this process should in itself be call for this plan to be halted.

Cara Crosswhite	Thank you for providing the opportunity to review the Draft Eastern Hill Activation Master Plan. This part of Albury is significant to my family as they had early land holdings in Doctors Point and also much of East Albury. Our family have been keen walkers/hikers through much of the area included in the master plan for the past 30 years and have witnessed its use change over that time. The proposed access improvements via the East Street/Walsh Street roundabout and new entry plan are to be commended to make it safer for walkers as well as car users as currently when walking/running you need to go out onto East Street and walk along the side of the road where there is not much room to safely operate when connecting between Eastern Hill and the water tank area. Hopefully the proposed roundabout may also prove to help slow the egress of traffic along this stretch of road as well. The proposed pedestrian crossings are key to making this proposed roundabout safe for pedestrians on this busy section of East Street. I cannot work out the need for the proposed land bridge along the section of path from the Rotary lookout to the Trig lookout. This would seem to involve major building and excavation works where it is not required and also prove unsightly by blocking the lovely views from the existing and proposed paths. The area where the proposed Trig lookout platform is to be built has become quite degraded over the last 10 years as more and more people have discovered this lookout with lovely district views. The proposed lookout with interpretative signage, hopefully telling of the indigenous and early Australian history of occupation of Eastern Hill, along with transparent mesh decking is welcome to help stop the further deterioration of this area of land, including the paths to and from the area. It would appear that both the Doctors Point Reserve and the Kiewa Valley Lookout components of the proposed masterplan is lacking, some might say focus has been targeted mostly on the Rotary and Trig point lookouts and these other areas do not show the detail of proposed works to the same extent. It is noted there is proposed seating and interpretive signage to the district vistas that present at the picturesque Kiewa Valley Lookout but to what extent? And what exactly is proposed for the Doctors Point Reserve in terms of seating and signage? I have great concerns for the how the proposed MTB Trail network might integrate into the wide expanse of landscape along The Ridge Precinct. Currently it is largely open grassland and the proposed restoration of the ecology by planting local species in "fingers" creating habitat links from ridge to river is much needed. However, this planting will take decades to mature to the point that the proposed MTB trails do not appear as scars across the slopes, from ridge to the river, and highly visible from the major viewing platforms proposed at the Rotary and Trig point lookouts. Viewers on these lookouts will look out over unsightly bike trails cut into the landscape rather than the current grassed and wooded sloped landscape. There are many MTB trails in the surrounding hills of Albury, Nail Can Hill, just to name one, providing an extensive variety of trails for mountain bikers. The focus of Eastern Hill should be directed towards the historically important Hume and Hovell Track which appears in the proposed masterplan to have almost been pushed aside to make way for the MTB trails. MTB trails are singular in use and do not mix well other recreational users. To give over so much land space to a singular use on Eastern Hill is not in the best interest of the people of Albury who should have access to this open space, not just mountain bike riders.

Carl Evans Multiple submissions	I believe that the integration of health sport promotion and increased tourism though the use of well-built riding and walking tracks as well as view areas to take in the great views our area has to offer is the best use of council's time, money and resources allocations. It will also be something for generations to enjoy. I believe this would be a huge improvement to the area. Great use of a recreational area otherwise under-utilized and a great tourism opportunity from the integrated mountains bike tracks
Carl Pille	Increasing accessibility to Eastern Hill is a great idea. Walking across the hill has given me many years of peaceful enjoyment and should be enjoyed by all. The plan to overhaul the roads has been long overdue. However, I am completely against the development of mountain bike trails on the hill as this will negatively impact the character of the land the council is trying to increase accessibility to. What is the point of making it friendlier to the disabled and elderly if bikes are whizzing past? In my opinion, this directly opposes the ethos of the hill. Additionally, creating mountain bike trails on the hill is a major disturbance to the flora and fauna of the hill and is completely tone deaf to current societal issues of sustainability and environmental conservation. To maintain the character of the hill, I implore the council NOT to commence development of mountain bike trails.
Carol Ryding	If MTB trails are included in the master plan, please ensure they completely separate from walking/pedestrian paths. Mountain bikers have completely taken over the trails in Nail Can Hill in Glenroy and they have very little regard for walkers on "their" tracks. Preservation of vegetation and trees should also be paramount as there is quite a lot of damage done by fast moving bikes along the tracks.

Carolyn Billett	I am asking for the Eastern Hill plan to be stopped or significantly redesigned to remove mountain bike trails and ensure that any intervention respects the natural and undeveloped space that the community values so much and currently enjoy about this precinct. The plans as proposed will fundamentally alter this space and appears to fail to appreciate why this largely undisturbed and peaceful area is such an important reserve for so many. The land bridge is completely inconsistent with the minimal impact the plan attempts to portray. The heavy machinery required to install this, alone, would cause considerable degradation to the area. Further, the mountain bike trails themselves will contribute to erosion and any installation of this nature will put pressure on the lagoons and reserve below. I also note that as a keen walker who has utilised the Nail Can Hill Reserve, for over 40 years, I have noted the degradation that mountain bike trails have caused in that Reserve, which is a far larger area. The Eastern Hill proposal would therefore be at much greater risk of erosion. In addition, in such a confined area, the risk of collisions between faster bike riders and walkers is heightened and is another reason I think the proposal to install bike paths should be abandoned. I also believe there is no utility in exploring further development through the Devils Glen and Doctors Point reserve areas. These are important habitat areas for many local land based native animals and disruption along the lines being proposed will simply drive them out, ultimately to their death given the area is otherwise hemmed in by road networks and the river. The lack of thought about this proposal should be of great concern to someone who loves nature. I would lastly like to comment on the lack of engagement in forming this plan. It is quite clear from the community backlash and coverage in local media that Council appears to have a predetermined agenda which is of real concern. As a regular user of this space for walking, I was not aware of this proposal until it was raised with me by a friend. Council does not appear to have followed their documented engagement approaches and questions really should be asked by the Councillors as to the process that resulted in this plan being presented with an assertion that 'extensive' community engagement was undertaken. I appreciate the opportunity to provide this feedback.
Cassie May	I think Eastern Hill is stunning as it is. Why disturb nature and disrupt things when it is perfect and well used (& loved) the way it is?
Catherine Pratta	Leave the last bit of beautiful nature alone! Locals love the natural walk and enjoy the view as is. We don't need bike tracks and concrete along a hill that locals have enjoyed for years. There is nowhere as peaceful as the beautiful ridge in Albury, and it needs to stay that way!

Cathy Sanj-Herzina	I would like to thank the Albury City Council for allowing us the opportunity to make this submission. Firstly, I am bitterly disappointed at the manner in which the initial consultation process was conducted. It seems that only a select few were privy to making a contribution in the initial consultation process. As a consequence, we have now been presented with a costly unrequested plan that a substantial number of stakeholders find objectionable. I strongly believe Eastern Hill should remain the beautiful sanctuary that is, for locals and visitors alike to appreciate. A place with unparalleled views, a place for one to be able to relax and unwind from the hustle and bustle of everyday life, a place for children to explore, a place with such close access to the city centre. It concerns me that we may lose this sanctuary to the proposed infrastructure and mountain bike trails, which will undoubtedly lead to increased traffic and noise. In my experience, bike riders do not stick to their tracks and are likely to become a potential hazard to walkers and wildlife in the area. Through rider usage and rain, mountain bike trails will lead to environmental destruction and erosion, as evidenced at Nail Can Hill. The proposed mountain bike trails will also threaten the existing wildlife in the area. Therefore, for these reasons articulated I reiterate my strong objection to the Draft Eastern Hill Activation Master Plan.
Cecilia Burke	I love many aspects of the strategy, particularly upgrading the carpark and toilets - and encouraging more people to visit. As a resident of East Albury, I would support low level mountain bike trails suitable for family/recreational riding. The proposed new road entrance would need to be signposted well in advance as the traffic along East St can travel extremely fast in both directions and could cause serious safety issues, unless traffic slowing/calming devices were used either side of the 'saddle' in the road.
Charlene Gleeson	I have been a resident of East Albury since 2011. I often walked the Hume & Hovell track including around Doctors Point, up to and across Eastern Hill, down to Mungabareena, down East Street and around the hospital area. The tracks were barely visible at times, signage too small and often the grass too long. I often lamented that so much more could be done to develop and maintain these tracks. The Hume and Hovell story is an undeveloped Asset to the area and so it is very pleasing that finally development is to occur. We have just spent 10 months exploring the West and East Coasts of Australia and have seen some amazing and thoughtful developments in the many towns that we have stayed in. We have walked on many boardwalks, stopped at many lookouts, marvelled at the scenery and enjoyed immersing ourselves in the local history. Whilst we have been doing that, we have been spending our tourist dollars in those towns. Albury needs more attractions that will entice visitors to our area to stay and enjoy our city and surrounds. I support the development of the Eastern Hill area - it has always been dangerous crossing the busy East Street so improvements to the road would be welcome with a crossing. With the increase in usage of electric bikes I would welcome the opportunity to ride around the area on a bike track so wanting the walk path to be a shared one. In relation to the mountain biking proposal, although not a mountain biker, it appears that additional areas are needed. It is a growing activity and as long as it is done an environmentally and sensitively as possible, I support the initiative. Good luck as many of the locals are riled. I believe that this area needs to be shared with all and not the privileged few.

Charlene Jennings	I agree improvements to access the car park should be made and perhaps clearer marking of all the tracks however it should remain solely available for its current use. Red light hill would be a more appropriate site for bike tracks to be created. Eastern hill is not big enough to accommodate both.
Charlie Platt	I reckon we should have a mountain bike track on eastern hill because it is hard to get to nail can hill or other places to ride. If there is a track in East Albury I can ride there from my house. I like that there is going to be a skills track and a pump track and a jump track so I can practise before going onto the bigger tracks.
Charlotte Houston	When in Albury, this is my favourite walking spot. I no longer live on the land or have easy access to the bush, so this is a wonderful way to experience the sense of being away from built up landscape and suburban infrastructure. It's like a miniature back paddock for Albury, and a great place of peace and contemplation. The current plans seem intrusive and over specified. The signage on the handrails forms a barrier to the magnificent view. I agree that a looped track would be great and allow for more people to access the area. The grass tree wayside stop on the Hume Highway is a great example of this.
Cherie Earsman	Aren't we looking to a future that's about re-generation? This protect certainly isn't that and it's not what the community want.
Chris Kenny	2-3 weeks ago, I researched the concept plan for Eastern Hill from Albury city website. This document differs from the Master Plan link on the have your say website. It included the concept images on the landing page for Trig Point and Rotary Lockout AND a more detailed concept plan with referenced markers such as Improved Signage in the Murray View Rd Cul-de-sac This document is no longer publicly available, and notwithstanding it was a Concept plan provided far more details Our property adjoins the Devils Glen reserve on 2 sides and I am not trusting council in this process with various versions of information in circulation. This is a concern and I am not supportive of the proposed redevelopment where there has been very opaque processes and information throughout
Chris Smedley	Drugs

Christine Crechton	This development is wrong for many reasons. • The process was flawed from the onset. Community consultation was limited to owners of adjoining properties. • This failed to recognise the sizeable community of walkers, hikers, birdwatchers, photographers and nature lovers who frequent this area. • Signage was poor. • Eastern view residents were ignored – they will get to view the 'eyesore' and inevitable noise. Please consider the following – • If this is to become a popular tourist attraction - The parking area will need to be 'bigger', the entry/exit road widened. As it is at the moment 'idiots' find it difficult to build up speed. - Kids on bikes are dangerous – they will tear across that road intent on the destination. At least the hospital is close. - There are 2 'trail bikes' which delight in tearing over the South Albury bridge, along the walkway and through old East Albury. No regard for anyone. I feel sure the redevelopment will suit them just fine and it's closer to home. Such fun. - East Street is a major artery for traffic, including emergency vehicles. Major works will be involved – can we afford the time. Just think about the Alexandra Park thoroughfare. It's still going on. So, gut the full benefit of this "tourist mecca" to be please locate it in a space which will allow for expansion of tracks, parking and eating facilities and not rob the locals. • As a Nordic walker and dog walker (on a lead) and not at the same time these are my concerns. - We need 'green belts and pristine bush as the climate changes. These are the 'lungs' of cities. Think New York Central Park! What vision those people had. - Fauna and flora are so important – I love walking in the quiet, looking at the flowers emerging, listening to birdsong, seeing eagles soaring overhead and hoping to glimpse that wallaby. - Children need to learn to appreciate quiet and nature. We are a society that feels they need to be 'entertained' and they become 'bored' and fractious. They can appreciate a 'nest', or baby birds. - During lockdown I walked more as the pools were closed. It was so peaceful by the river appreciating the mist rising or walking East Albury hill. Life didn't seem so constricted or frightening. - So many people use this hill – it never seems crowded as we all have different schedules. The age range is incredible – well over 80! Can you imagine if there wasn't a special place for us to go? - The link for the animals goes without saying. Please reconsider as when it's gone it's too late.

Christine Hoare	Why weren't more of the elderly consulted before this Master Plan on Eastern Hill was presented to Council? Under your Environment webpage you have listed the following - "As a public land manager and with responsibilities for land use planning, we protect our environment and regulate activities that impact on our natural resources". How can you then endorse Mountain Bike tracks on this beautiful nature reserve? Look what it has done to Nail Can Hill. As an elderly person, we enjoy our local nature reserves where we can walk unhindered by the sound of mountain bikes. Build a track out of town for them to enjoy.
Christine Huggard	Please don't remove the memorial bench dedicated to Elke Black. The council gave permission for it why break a family's heart all over again by removing
Christine Walton	As a resident of Doctors Point for 22 years I am mystified by the plans council has to develop Eastern Hill. The area has long been enjoyed by residents for contemplative walks. I am concerned about the effects the development will have on the native flora and fauna. The area is only now beginning to recover from the grazing of cattle and is still very susceptible to erosion. Doctors Point is zoned Environmental Living and Eastern Hill is zoned Recreational. It seems incongruous to me that activities damaging to the environment should be considered for an area adjacent to one where the environment is protected. Our household was one of the very few who were advised of the proposed development as our property actually borders the development. We received a phone call a little over a month ago. Our opinion was not sought, we were simply told that the project was planned. This is not consulting with the community. I am also dismayed that the traditional inhabitants of this area were also not consulted about the development. Does Council only play lip service to "paying respects to the Elders past present and future"? While I know little about the recreational needs of the community, I sincerely hope that this plan is not mostly about ticking off quotas or appeasing certain groups. The natural world is needing our protection, as climate change attests. We have a beautiful, largely undisturbed area, enjoyed by many just as it is. Please consider very carefully any changes that are to be made.
Christopher Plaisant	We need this project to happen.... This will motivate people to go for walks and jump on their bikes I love what Albury council is doing for the community

Claire Brooks	Thank you for this opportunity to respond to the draft Eastern Hill Activation Master Plan. I had hoped I would be able to provide a very detailed response to the plan however in case I run out of time I will simply note a few items. In summary I'd like to see 1. Increased and more inclusive access to Eastern hill, with safe walkways and improved access to toilets (as planned). 2. Revegetation program, perhaps involving community volunteers to secure the native remnants, create a biodiverse safety channel for native wildlife (https://www.parklands-alburywodonga.org.au/rewilding-project-bringing-wild-orchids-back-from-the-brink/) 3. No MTB interference with the quiet enjoyment of the environment 4. Development of a comprehensive pedestrian plan incorporating the small pockets of remnant bush as well as highly urbanised areas.

Claire Simpson	With regard to the proposed development: I am in favour of improved road access and safety in the entire precinct. - East Street is dangerous and people drive far too quickly there, with access to eastern hill difficult as a pedestrian. This must be improved. Actually, there ought to be better pedestrian access at other points on east street too- crossing that is like running a gauntlet. - Pedestrian access around Doctors Point should be improved and I'd welcome the boardwalk that's proposed on the narrow section with nowhere to go if cars are coming both ways. It is very dangerous. I submit that this part of the proposed plan has not gone far enough however- there should be wide, quality, paved pedestrian/bike access to Doctors Point that continues around the entire tight corner towards Schubach Street. I cannot currently safely walk with my children here. Or ever contemplate riding a bike with them in tow, which I would love to be able to do e.g., to access south Albury/causeway/parks. My neighbour's dog was killed running with owner on side of road near proposed boardwalk- it's only a matter of time before it's a human and I think that would be absolutely negligent. So- please extend the safe pedestrian pathway further (actually please give us a decent path the whole way around Doctors Point Road!). People treat it like a racetrack to mungab which is unacceptable, and the verge is currently so overgrown that one can't escape. Improved car parking facilities. - Especially at East Street. I like the proposed improved car parking/lookout/facilities here. It never feels particularly clean or safe currently. CCTV would be good too. I think it works to have this section more "developed". Other areas I feel would be better with pared back development. E.g., Trig point. I don't think this needs a big platform, as I favour the simpler natural feel that currently exists. I do think though that an improved trail across the main ridge would be of benefit to those that have mobility issues or who have prams. I'd hate to see this concreted though. A wide, compacted (but joint friendly) earth-coloured path with natural edging would be fine! I'm not entirely opposed to mountain bike tracks. It has potential for a great local resource especially for young people to encourage them to get outside and I believe we should be inclusive- this hill is not just for some. However, I think council needs to provide clarity on potential ecological impact from mountain bike use (e.g., potential erosion, impact on wildlife) before this could proceed. I also would hate to be walking and have bikes use paths in error or compete for the space and I think there should be consideration for stakeholders other than mountain bikers. I know there has been consideration into this in the design but I note e.g. in western face there is a path below the walking track, so the walking track is changed and could feel less secluded and peaceful, one of the great things about the main ridge track currently. It seems there's some issues with timeline in that mountain bike trails are done before any other infrastructure is started e.g. road safety, revegetation and the timeline of 25 years seems inappropriate for that. Please consider how this work could be prioritised, with some emphasis on current users and residents' safety prior to other changes such as mountain bike trails.

Clare Meagher	Please don't touch this area. There are less and less areas now that aren't developed that we can go to with our family that feels like we are a million miles away. Our children treasure our family walks along the ridge and feel like we are on a real bush walk, just them and nature. It is a perfect place, just the way it is.
Clayton Wood	What a great way to give people another reason to get off the freeway and have a break. This will be great for locals, but if word gets out, I think it will get a lot of people stopping for a quick look being so close to the freeway exits. What is there is now is so far beyond repair, it not only needs an upgrade, but a reason to get more tourists and uses of the space. A bike path and mountain biking opportunities would be great. Great for kid and adults but a reason for people to visit Albury.
Cody Hewat	The Eastern Hill lookout and MTB development is a big step forward for the community and the way we involve the next generation with healthy and active environments. The community lacks this sort of environment. Thus, the design will really enhance many generations willingness to get outdoors and enjoy the inner city circle without travelling outside out of town. I fully back the plan

Colin Gundrill	Support Agree with Master Plan Principles Agree with Project plans except Mountain Bike tracks Agree with installation of all abilities track across the peak but could be less obtrusive Agree with East Street traffic management plans and alternative access to lookout Don't support Construction of Mountain Bike tracks Reasons for Position Original plan design statement started from a position of including MTB without adequate public consultation The strategy claims it is small network of tracks this is not the case All abilities tracks and mountain bike riders are not safe in the same area. Albury has some of the best passive recreation tracks in the country, the only issue is sharing them with reckless bike riders who travel at great pace. They do not give way, and this will be the same if the development proceeds. Every effort to separate both riders and walkers will not be successful. A small number of riders will use all abilities track and create safety issues, that is a given. The destruction of Eastern Hill through the construction of these bike tracks. Surely there is a better option to enhance the passive recreation use other than construction of mountain bike tracks, this could be the premium hillside walking/passive bike riding track if the North face was developed into nature walks. This would be a better option for the native flora and fauna. I support council providing MTB facilities this is just the place Car Parking The existing plan does not have enough car parking access and people will park anywhere that they can ruining the existing environment Future Maintenance Requirements This is not related just to bike tracks; history indicates that maintenance on council owned recreation facilities is a burden. Current level of maintenance on the hill leaves a lot to be desired and would have to improve significantly to maintain such a facility
Colin Kernaghan	This plan is an excellent idea – it will be good for everyone: walkers, bike riders and nature lovers. The upgrades need to happen, it is a very run-down place at the moment. Well done Albury City for putting this together.

Colin McAulay	While I accept that there are elements of the proposed plan, I submit that there are many aspects which are ill conceived and detrimental to the future use and amenity of the site. Positive Aspects: 1. The amenity block is archaic and not fit for purpose. This should be replaced with an updated facility appropriate to the need of all visitors including disabled access. 2. The lookout area needs to be significantly upgraded with improved access, better parking, seating and viewing areas supported by appropriate signage. 3. The walking tracks need to be stabilized and upgraded to cater for walkers of all ages and physical capabilities. 4. Plans to manage and restore the native vegetation and promote wildlife corridors is to be commended in principle however this intention is inconsistent with plans to introduce mountain bike tracks in this degraded and sensitive area. 5. Recognition of the need for disabled access is commendable however the lack of allowance for supportive handrails on steep slopes and steps is very short sighted. Major Concerns 1. The concept of introducing and developing mountain bike trails into this sensitive area is ill conceived, inappropriate and potentially destructive to the physical and cultural amenity of Eastern Hill. 2. Mountain bike activity will by nature be destructive to the sensitive Eastern slopes of the area, contributing to soil erosion, and land slips. 3 Attempts to restore native and endemic vegetation in this significantly degraded ecosystem are incompatible with the concept of a system of descending and ascending mountain bike trails. 4. Mountain bike activity is totally incompatible with more passive pursuits such as walking, sightseeing and wildlife appreciation.

Colleen Hannon Multiple submissions	I am severely disappointed that despite acknowledging shortcomings in the community consultation process and obvious bias in the survey data, council staff have continued to conduct themselves with a general tone of defensives and ongoing bias in all discussions I have been involved in or witnessed. It is disappointing that council staff saw people's passionate objections to the process and the plans as a nuisance rather than seeking to reflect on why there was a backlash. I will be sorely disappointed to know that members of my community contributed to the deterioration in our wellbeing – and that of the planet's – by an ongoing desire for more, more, more. (Name removed) called these activation plans aspirational, but I would argue they are very, very short-sighted – both in terms of who they service and how well they will protect our community – and the planet's – wellbeing. When the tracks of eastern Albury hill were not maintained. And they still are not. My brother in law who lives in Gunbower close. Mowed the walk to keep us all safe. Pease leave Eastern Hill as it is. Really , just go and look at Nail Can and see the damage & erosion mountain bikes have caused. The users of the hill were not consulted. Only the mountain bike group & rotary. The wildlife up there is amazing. But will be no more if this proposal is approved. Who actually thought this was a good idea?
Cooper Hall	I'm a 14 year old mountain biker travelling 2+ hours most weekends to ride some quality tracks these tracks would mean a lot to not just me but the 100+ people who live in this region that ride mountain bikes
Courtney Chubb	It appears on face value that downhill bike track is considered more important than passive recreational use. As the plan does not inform, nor consider holistic use, Council should reject the proposal until such time that an adequate study is undertaken. Passive recreation is far more conducive to environmental health of areas and should be considered as important to community. I certainly hope history of use and cultural heritage matters are considered carefully when looking at any proposal.
Craig Lefoe	Hi, I would like to make 3 points. 1. Quality versus Quantity - More investment into the maintenance of the Nail Can Hill mountain bike tracks are required. Make Nail Can a tourist attraction and not have multiple tracks that are only half maintained due to cost. 2. The eastern hill area is a place for relaxation in a natural setting. Providing disability access is an excellent idea so everyone can enjoy the area. 3. Don't overdevelop. Just because it's there doesn't mean you need to develop it. Provide better access and more seating with a minimum impact on its natural beauty. This, on its own, is a major attraction. It does not need viewing platforms and mountain bike tracks.

Craig McMillan	I fully support the Draft Eastern Hill Activation Plan. Eastern Hill presents a safe multi use area for people of all ages and demographics to enjoy public spaces. Cycling in particular is often the choice of exercise and entertainment for families, having something they can easily access, is safe and rideable, will increase the numbers of active members of the community. I believe this plan meets the needs of the wider Albury residents, not just those fortunate enough to live on its slopes. Outdoor space is a community asset and as such I feel you have done an excellent job of balancing the needs across a community. Change is needed, the asset is not being maximised.
Craig Quinlivan	The addition of trails to Eastern hill would be a great facility for walkers and riders. It is such an underutilised and barely managed site at the moment. The clean-up and development of the carpark looks fantastic
Craig Sheather	As a resident of East Albury, I frequently visit Eastern Hill for exercise, to walk my dog and to explore the bushland with my children. I have reviewed the master plan and after much consideration of the positive and negative impacts I'm happy to support the master plan for the following reasons: - The re-development of the reserve will attract visitors, increase tourism and create economic benefits to Albury/Wodonga. - A well-designed, purposefully planned bike facility is an investment for the community. It will be a safe place for kids to ride (encourages them to get outside and be active). - Mountain bike trails create a sense of belonging and ownership, dramatically improving the quality of life in the community. - The reserve is currently underdeveloped - it has the best views in the region and should be a more accessible 'showcase' destination. It also has the potential to be one of the highlights of the Hume and Hovell Track. - The master plan includes adequate environmental considerations to protect, retain and enhance wildlife habitat and surrounding native bushland.
Daddy Sins	No people will get injured
Dale Furze	I think the plan looks great. Hopefully you can make it happen so everyone can access the hill safely. If this goes ahead it will be considerably different to the smelly Pig Farm hill of the early 70s (Murray's Pig Farm). Personally, I'd love to ride on some new bike trails.
Dallas Murray	I think a development of the area would be a huge tourist attraction to the region. Both walking and riding trails. There has been a lack of development of the local trails for whatever reason (but no fault of the local cycling club) This could potentially be a massive financial boost to the region as well. Having another area to hold cycling events. But it's not only about that, new walking trails with one of the best views in Albury along the way.

Dan Tarasenko	I am writing to declare my support for this development. The Bega Valley Shire developed a similar MTB plan, and it has added 10s of millions to the economy in tourism and supporting business. It has been so popular for the region the NSW Government recently awarded another 60 million in funding to develop a second area. Few activities bring this sort of economic activity with no impact on the environment. Well done. My family will be visiting once complete.
Daniel Kernaghan	Great idea for all of it. Well done Albury City. This hill needs revamping, and the mountain bike trails are a great idea. More people would use it if it had MTB tracks and better walking paths. It should be for everyone to use.
Daniel Rooke	As an East Albury resident who lives very close to the hill, I couldn't be more excited about the proposed redevelopment outlined in the Eastern Hill Activation Master Plan. I regularly use the area when walking my dog or getting some fresh air and would be even more inclined to do so once all of the walking trails have been improved. At present they are pretty degraded and overgrown, and I love the idea that making these more accessible will allow more people to enjoy the views and natural feel of the hill that I do now. Whilst I am not a mountain biker, I believe the proposal to incorporate an array of biking trails is a great idea. The sport is enjoying a massive growth in popularity, and I am all for anything that encourages young people to get outside and be active. I also believe the Walsh/East Street intersection will benefit from the proposed addition of the roundabout as it is quite a dangerous intersection at present. There is a combination of factors that make it unsafe - the steep rise into the intersection when entering from Walsh Street, the lack of vision when approaching and the propensity for vehicles to push or exceed the speed limit along East Street. All of these should all be alleviated to some degree with the construction of the proposed roundabout As a young person who is concerned about the state of our environment, I believe the proposal has been tactfully done and it looks like much consideration has been given to preserving the natural beauty of the hill. The proposal to re-vegetate the area alongside construction of the trails is an important aspect of the plan to me, and further to this I'd also hope that there will be ample waste receptacles that are regularly maintained.
Daniel Wright	I really like the plan. I love spending time on Eastern hill but it's sad to look at the carpark and somewhat ad hoc walking track to the trig point. As a ratepayer I have my fingers crossed that this plan goes ahead and would be more than happy for my rates to go towards this project. I think the upgrade to car parking, viewing, and all ability access to the trig point are a massive plus .

Danielle Cale Multiple submissions	Thank you for the opportunity to have our say on a space of land that I use regularly. I am a mum to four school aged children who spend plenty of time playing sport and of course watching TV. We all love our regular escapes to Eastern Hill. Sometimes driving up to the look out and walking across or if we are feeling brave walking from home. I believe the space is therapeutic and relaxing not just for myself but for all of us. As research suggests there are significant mental health benefits from spending time in nature. The thought of making the calm and pleasant hill a tourist attraction is appalling. Similarly, the idea of mountain bikers all over is disgraceful, they already have a hill to use, and many sensible bikers prefer spaces where they travel away from other users. We should be making it easy for families to get their kids outside and into the great outdoors rather than making it more difficult to find untouched natural places. Leave the hill alone. Enjoy the natural beauty as it is. No one needs a platform to stand on to enjoy the environment. I often take my 4 young children and dog for a walk over the ridge. It's calm and beautiful and a lovely place to explore. Wasting money on making a peaceful place less much peaceful is disappointing and an outrage. Please preserve the beauty and don't touch this place of healing and connection.

Darcy Creece	Overall, I'm fairly happy with this plan. My particular highlights include track and signage improvements, increased DDA equal access, and improved vehicular access via a roundabout on East Street, and revegetation of degraded areas. I'm not a mountain bike user, but I support the creation of Mountain Bike tracks in the Ridge precinct area, as there are currently a number of impromptu MTB tracks and jumps being created in the better quality areas of bushland, which providing a designated area would help reduce. I believe that the Ridge Precinct area is the most appropriate place to put MTB tracks, as it has the most degraded environment, being former grazing area. As an ecologist, I'm also excited to see that revegetation will be planted in and around the MTB tracks on the ridge precinct area, which will help to rehabilitate the area back to what it would have been like before it was cleared to allow for grazing. One of my criticisms is of the 'fingers' of revegetation in the Ridge Precinct. To provide the best outcome for restoration, the reveg areas need to cross the top of the ridge, which the visualisation you have provided doesn't show. I understand that you want to keep some sightlines clear for the lookouts, but I believe that you could allow the reveg to cross up and over the ridge halfway between the Kiewa Valley lookout and Trig Point lookout, and still keep sightlines, whilst also providing a better corridor for wildlife. Ideally, I would like to see part of the ridge in the Ridge Precinct revegetated to a similar state as the ridge currently is in the Water Tank Precinct. One of my other concerns is with the creation of a 3 metre wide fire trail on the ridge in the Ridge Precinct area. In particular, I'm concerned that cutting a wide firetail along the ridge top will have negative impacts on the few existing remnant trees which are mostly along the top of the ridge. Old remnant trees provide valuable resources for wildlife and are vulnerable to compaction of soil around their roots, or potential cutting of roots when creating roads/tracks. One of my favourite elements of this Draft Plan are the planned connections. The connection of Doctors Point Reserve, Eastern Hill and Mungabareena Reserve with footpaths will be exciting. The connection of Eastern Hill and Mungabareena through Revegetation of the Ridge Precinct will provide valuable habitat and corridors for wildlife. The provision of equal access paths in sections of the reserve will also help provide connections between the community and nature that previously weren't possible. I'm also excited to see better focus on weed eradication. Weeds such as bridal creeper (a Weed of National Significance) are pervasive throughout much of the remnant bushland on the reserve. Other garden escapees are also present, including Cootamundra Wattle, Silky Oaks, Blue Periwinkle and Jonquils. I know there has been some vocal community opposition to this plan, but overall, I find it to be fair and reasonable, whilst providing an exciting vision for the future of Eastern Hill. If significant revisions are made to this draft plan, I would like to see the revised plan opened up to a second round of community consultation.

David A Crichton	First and foremost, it would be most interesting to know the consultancy fees for developing this horror. There is and never was any necessity for such a “master plan”, for the simple reason that the existence of raw bushland and within the municipal boundaries of the town is virtually impossible to find. Therefore, Eastern Hill must be left in its “raw” – if not “pristine”, state. It has always been a quiet and pleasant area for many of us to jog and walk, with or without dogs. Several of us residents of East Albury, will indeed, continue to do so, regardless of any despoliation which is carried out. The installation of a formal hike track can only add more environmental degradation to the area. I should note also that mountain bikies will be expected to give way to walkers using our existing tracks. It is a matter of great disappointment that Council apparently saw fit to send letters to only a select few of the residents of East Albury. This is to say nothing of all the ratepayers of the Albury community at large – a glaring omission if ever there was one! Please leave East Hill alone. P.s. there are plenty of matters requiring much more attention and expenditure!
David Barraclough	Eastern Hill is located in the centre of Albury, visible from all around with the eastern face visible from Eastern View Estate, Riverina Highway and parts of Thurgoona. To cover the eastern face in a mountain bike trail network would be an eyesore, not to mention detrimental to the flora and fauna. The hill needs a little maintenance, not to be "activated" and turned into an adventure park with irreversible damage from flow trails. I'm all for the upgrades to the East St entrance and lookout but the reduction in carparks concerns me. This car park is already full on some days with up to 25 cars able to fit. Trail maintenance and additional walking trails would be fantastic. With the rise in mental health issues, more spots to sit and enjoy the peace and quiet would benefit so many local residents.

David Gleeson	I would like to say that (as an Eastern View resident) I, in principle, support an upgrade of the Eastern Hill Lookout area. As a person who has recently started travelling around Australia it is important that Albury develops and continues to develop points of interest. However, I would like to make the following comments. The seat 'donated' by the Black family should be retained somewhere in the plan. I'm happy for it to be moved to another 'nice' spot. I sat on the bench many times and feel their donation to the community should not be discarded in this plan. The 15 car parking spaces seems inadequate. There doesn't appear to be any provision for visitors in motor homes or Caravans. I acknowledge given the limited space; this may not be possible. However, can some of those 15 car spaces be suitable for longer vehicles, say 8 or 10 metres? I know this won't cater for caravans but could allow some motor homes to visit. I'm wondering if additional parking (overflow) could be made near the easement of Sunrise Terrace. I note, at times, vehicles currently park on that verge on East Street near the easement of Sunrise Terrace. The 1.5 m walking trail from East Street Roundabout to the lookout should either be restricted to walkers or if shared with cyclist, designed to restrict the speed of cyclist. I worried it may become a downhill 'race' track for younger cyclists. I support the separation of MTB bike riders from other users and to do as much as possible to reduce their visual and noise impact on other users, i.e., using vegetation etc.
David Henricus	I have viewed the proposed plan and I am in favour of it - as long as bike riders are kept out of the main pedestrian areas. These pedestrian areas include the two main viewing areas and the trig path. Ideally, a carpark should be built for those who drive to Eastern Hill to ride. This car park could be built along East Street somewhere between Heath St and the small water tank - can be constructed on the western side but the eastern side would be preferable. There is a small area of land directly opposite the proposed roundabout of East/Walsh St where a smaller carpark could be constructed. These alternatives would keep cyclists away from the main carpark up on the hill. This is important as once this project is completed, then there will be a tenfold increase in walkers and cyclists on this hill. Parking will be at a premium.
David Hynd	I think it will be amazing to get Eastern Hill upgraded with this community focussed infrastructure. My family live in Kookaburra Way, just down from the planned area and we are all so excited. We love the outdoors and, in the past, have wondered why this was never opened up to the public as the view is amazing and showcases the entire region. I can see the Weir, all of Albury and stretching right down to Wodonga. To be able to take my family up there on developed bike tracks will be a great bonus. Great job, it looks amazing!!

David O'Connell	There has been little to no community engagement on this plan. Asides from a recent post on social media. Not all of us live on social media. I do however live 300 metres from East Hill and use the tracks and hill regularly as I have done, with my family for almost 15 years. I would be interested to know how many members of the community were made aware of these plans and how the council engaged with the community over this proposal? Why can't investment be made on Nail Can Hill's existing bike tracks which are already used and seen by the community as the area for mountain biking in Albury? There are already drainage issues for the residents of Mountford Crescent in Eastern View Estate due to the current development there. Further development will not only decimate any remaining flora and fauna on the eastern side of the hill but will continue to erode the landscape and create issues for the new homes being built there. Underhanded with a distinct lack of transparency and the typical arrogance we have come to expect from Albury City Council.
David O'Connell	Update the car park and look out by all means but mountain bike trails are environmentally damaging. Who did you consult in a two month window? A small section of the East Albury community. The vast majority would oppose your plans. Want to do something positive, build a sports and aquatic centre for the community.
David Strelec	I have read the Summary of Concerns submitted by the friends of Eastern Hill Group and support the submission. I support the requirement for further consultation with the local community considering the proposed project caters for a minority group being the Competitive Mountain Bikers. The disruption to the local ecology is not warranted and an alternative location like the Gap and Nail Can Hill area already in use could be expanded and improved for the purpose. The Eastern Hill path requires improvement to continue catering for pedestrians and cyclists only with minimum if not nil disturbance to the natural beauty of the area. Please re-consider your current project proposal.
David West	It is of great concern the proposed Eastern Hill Development re ongoing maintenance. As a local resident it has been observed that the council is unable to maintain an acceptable standard of current walking track in area. This includes Doctors Point Road; the council is unable to maintain the current infrastructure let alone make more work.
David Wilson	Thanks for the opportunity to make a submission. Please take care with this redevelopment not to take away the aspects that make the reserve attractive to existing users - the plan points out the experience of walking along the open ridge is a quality of the site, paving the trail would take away from that and would be a mistake. Paving the path will push trail runners and walkers onto the new MTB trails, creating exactly the conflict the separation aims to avoid. Some development of the various lookout points may be beneficial but over development will ruin the experience. I hope there is a serious focus on connecting the Eastern Hill trails with other trails in Mungabareena and Nouriel parks, rather than changing the existing trails.

Dawn Brooks	I have lived in East Albury for 53 years. I, family and friends have regularly walked the Eastern Hill. I don't see the need for an extravagant amount of money to be spent revamping this area . Some upgrading would be beneficial, but not to the extent intended. It has been very upsetting for residents in this area not to be consulted about the draft prior .Also it is very disrespectful to the family of Elke Black to remove the bench seat put there in her memory . It is a shame that other bike tracks around Albury haven't been maintained by council.
Deborah Irving	As a nearby resident and regular user of Eastern Hill Reserve I am keen to share my experience and hopes for the future of the area, so that any approved Masterplan can properly reflect the views of those who love and wish to protect this special environment. The current Masterplan appears to prioritise a brand new mountain bike trail in an area that has never been used for this purpose. Given the current state of maintenance of Nail Can Hill it is very worrying that AlburyCity might go ahead and develop large parts of this beautiful reserve only to intrude on the native wildlife and flora and then leave it to degrade over time. Why spoil a place that is currently enjoyed so much by so many for its natural and quiet beauty to serve one specific interest group? If AlburyCity do intend on moving forward with a plan for Eastern Hill then it should prioritise the safe access, native regeneration, maintenance and connecting current walking paths, parking, rubbish collection, CCTV security, BBQ and picnic area and acknowledging our First Nations knowledge of the area.
Deidre McDonald	This is an excessive, costly development for an already well developed and busy area. Lengthy bike tracks already exist from central Albury through to the water works and surrounds. This plan is not true to what remains of this small natural pocket of undeveloped area. It should be left as is. I would consider a development like this more appropriate in areas such as red light hill or Springdale Heights. These areas having been ignored for a number of years by councils.
Deirdre and Anthony Atkins	We do not support the proposed plan for activation of Eastern Hill for mountain bike riding. I believe the initial consultation was biased toward the MTB community and the majority of Albury residents were not fully informed. The letter box survey reached only adjacent landholders. We believe the environmental impact will have a detrimental effect on the hill. We walk and ride MTBs on Nail Can Hill and can see the damage caused by the bikes if they are not well monitored. We witness mountain bike wheel tracks on sections of NCH where bikes have been banned. Tracks on NCH require improved structure, designated areas and better monitoring. The recent race that was held on NCH used 'the unemployment track' which is banned for bikes and now bikes continually use this track. In summary, we believe NCH needs better structure and designated trails and that NCH should be adequate for MTB riders. Access to NCH and car park e.g., behind Kalianna need major improvements. Developing Eastern Hill for walking trails would have our support.

Delphine Nicholson	I am against the redevelopment of eastern hill as a mountain bike trail. There are better ways to use public money. It is a peaceful natural environment and should be kept that way. What happens to the many kangaroos using Devils Glen to move between the horse paddock (Drs. Pt reserve I believe you call it) and the hill and Mungabareena? Do they need to use the roads instead or worse, compete with walkers through the glen? I think upgrading the lookout facilities and carpark would enable better access, but definitely do not think there needs to be a further viewing platform and bike underpasses disturbing the tranquillity of the hill. The seat at the end of the walk is treasured by locals. I welcome better walking access along Doctors Point Road, but the road needs to be upgraded to above flood level and ensure better access for residents of the area. I believe there was money allocated for this work many years ago. Where is that money now? The remedial works to make "golf cart" access during floods is totally impractical and not well planned.
Denis Hunter	As an Eastern Hill taxpayer for some 50 years, I am against this proposed development. I am not against the bike track but not on this hill. There are a number of problems to consider. These being traffic flow in the area with the Base hospital traffic movement and the traffic using the east street ,also would the road up to the proposed development from the hospital up east street be up graded with safety railings .Also who would maintain the area and has the damage of vandals been considered e.g. stolen cars burnt and damage to seating which has happened over the years .This area did have a BBQ but was desecrated over the years Also what is the cost and the run over costs .
Denise Sellwood	Whilst I agree that some improvements are needed at Eastern Hill, that being picnic seating & toilet facilities, I totally disagree with the proposed amount of money that is set for the overall master plan & to have a roundabout sanctioned in the midst of East & Walsh Streets is totally absurd & dangerous. Nail Can Hill already has bike trails set up so please keep our Hill for walking & calm enjoyment please.

Denise Tink	I have been a resident of Gunbower Close for over 30 years. I would like to voice my objection to the 8 kilometres of mountain bike trails through this beautiful parkland. We walk Eastern Hill on a weekly basis and treasure the tranquillity, the natural wildlife and how peaceful the environment is. It is used by many Albury residents for physical and mental health, photography and just getting away from the daily "hustle and bustle" of life, whilst enjoying the native wildlife. Whilst I support the improved development of the lookout, and a new toilet block for local residents and visitors, I would like to express my concerns re the following: - a) There is a need for additional parking (over and above the current proposal for 17 parks). This will not meet the needs of local residents and visitors. b) If the development does proceed, then there needs to be dedicated paths for walkers and mountain bike riders (ensuring there is no crossovers nor potential accidents). c) It will need dedicated capital funding by AC and will require regular maintenance. This needs to be accounted for in Councils yearly budgets and allocated appropriate funding. Not like the current Hume and Hovell Walking track at the end of Gunbower Close, which is in a dangerous state of repair (and potentially subject to future accidents). This will need to factor in general upkeep and rubbish removal etc. I look forward to furthering feedback regarding this proposal.

Dennis Hickey	Questions that I have about the proposal. How has Council actively managed the existing Bike trails on Nail Can Hill to enhance their value? What has been the maintenance procedure and by whom. How have the separation of walkers and riders been managed. Has the terrains environmental condition deteriorated? Do walkers and other passive users still feel safe using all the areas? Currently on the Northern Section of the Eastern Hill area in the proposed Master Plan is used predominately by passive users being walkers, joggers, dog walkers and some pedestrian commuters going to work in the hospital. Even residents from Hilltop Cancer Hostel use the area in between treatment sessions. The visibility is such that any bike traffic would give no warning to these passive users. While it is not proposed to open trails for bikes in this area, it would be inevitable that an increase in bikes users on the southern section of Eastern Hill would spill over onto this northern area and create new trails. For this reason alone I strongly oppose the opening of Mountain Bike Tracks anywhere on Eastern Hill. Nowhere except by high security fencing has areas been successfully excluded from spillage use and this is not possible in this area. In recent years Council have endeavoured to close off the use of existing single track walking trails to bike users by star pickets, webbing and hay bales. This effort lasted a few days. To be successful would require daily maintenance. The C2 Zoning Sets out objectives in Paragraph 1 a number of clear responsibilities of Council that would seem to include a responsibility to be aware of consequences of actions made on adjoining areas. I am now making Council aware of this potential damage to the area. The proposal states one the reasons for the new bike track is to relieve pressure from the existing Nail Can Hill area yet it also says it will bring more MTB tourists to the area negating any benefit on the environmental rehabilitation of the areas by spreading the users over more trails. Other Issues. The proposal to use some of the existing water tanks as an art trail is a cop out to abscond the necessity to either remove redundant tanks or remove graffiti from them. Currently they are an eyesore and have had little effort by Council to remove these tags. There remote location means there is easy access at all times. A natural bush land setting is not the place for high visibility artworks The proposal to locate a Viewing Point close to the rear of houses in Whinray Crescent should be to at least be on the northern edge of the existing clearing to protect the privacy of residents. Finally, can I say I have been an East Albury resident for aver 70 years, and have lived in a number of houses backing onto this northern part of Eastern Hill for 50 years and have probably walked over this area more than most?

Des Rose	Firstly, before I go into the individual points, I would like to say the way this plan was prepared and the surveys supposedly done, does no credit to Council and its staff. To not properly involve the local residents is appalling. I live adjacent to and walk the Eastern Hill lookout area every week. I received no notification by any means of this project. No social media, no newsletters /emails, no Have your Say subscribers list (whatever that is), AlburyCity Newsletter (never received that) etc. And the survey numbers quoted are a joke - 554 out of 52,000 residents - 1% - it does not pass the pub test. Now, my response to your individual items as per your plan: 1. Enhance entry experience, sounds good but how is it going to be done, there is no room for car parking at any of the places marked with a 1. Re Doctors Point reserve - where will the car park be - keeping in mind the water table level that is there, and water is currently lapping the road. 2. Improve track surface & drainage - no problems with this aspect. 3. Restoration opportunities - okay, question though, does this mean these tracks will be closed? More information required. The Heath St Precinct needs a good burn -off - full of weeds and rubbish. 4. Relocate access to public land - dead set against this, track should remain as is. 5. Tank art trail, good idea, enhance the artwork already there. 6. Take in the View. Again, a good idea, but I have reservations, in that, council has shown it is incapable of keeping these areas clear of rubbish at only one location currently, how are they going to cope with 5 times that number. Re Monument Lookout - I hope Council does not intend to have a car park there. 7. Easement to Sunrise Tce. Good idea, but short on detail. Reserve my decision on this until council details how it is to be done. 8. Improve traffic safety on East St. Again, looks good on paper, but I have my reservations on the practicality of the roundabout and the pedestrian crossing at it. I suggest that the planners spend a couple of days at that intersection and just watch the traffic - they don't slow done and a raised crossing may just make it worse. I would like to see the crossing at the current entrance road to the lookout - much better vision there, I think. 9. Redefine the vehicular entrance, Again, a good idea. Only issue I may see is the residents access. Would suggest a cattle type grid at the entrance to the lookout to slow down the hoons roaring through. Is it proposed to have the pedestrian access along this road as well? If so, I don't agree it should be associated with a 5 way roundabout - too dangerous in my view. The pedestrian access to the lookout should be utilised from the existing road access and connect with a pedestrian crossing on East Street there with flashing lights and a 40km zone. 10. Car parking. Good idea. CCTV would be great to deter hoons and would suggest a direct live feed to the police station.

	11. Enhance visitor experience. Again, a good idea. But again, I reiterate my doubts that council isn't capable of maintaining the area currently, so I am worried about their ability to do so with improved facilities. Also, I would hope the proposed toilet facility would be more than 2 cubicles. 12. Designate MTB gatherings and events. Another good idea. However, as per 11. I would suggest that any "events" be supervised with a $800 cleaning deposit applied to the organisers, fully refundable if the area is left spotless. 13. Separate MTB users from other users. Again, it seems a good idea, though the devil could in the detail. Is there really a need for a land bridge? Need more information about this area before it goes ahead. 14. Equal access to Trig Point lookout. Nice sounding words, but how is it to be constructed? Crushed gravel or similar would not be suitable in wet conditions for those using wheelchairs or similar. Has a raised mesh platform path been considered? 15. Trig Point Lookout improvements. Sounds impressive to what is there, but I'm not so sure that it can be maintained by council. Current record on East Hill is far from ideal / substandard. I would prefer it to remain as is. 16. Devils Glen. Good idea and would improve that experience a lot. 17. Access at steep and low areas. It sounds good but I would not agree with this proposed idea. It takes away from the experience of walking through the highs and lows of the reserve. Walking through this area you should accept the good with the bad. That is nature. 18. Improve Pedestrian access along Doctors Point Road. This is long overdue and should be the number one priority in my view. Council needs to build a pedestrian cum bike path all the way from the Schubach St intersection through to Mungabareena Reserve. It is VERY DANGEROUS to any pedestrian of bike rider along that road. This can then link up with the Borella RD / Riverina HWY pedestrian/bike path. 19. Create walking Loops - as per 18. 20. Gunbower Close - this is long overdue and should have been already done. 21. Kiewa Valley lookout. Good idea and would improve that experience a lot. But again, I reiterate my doubts as the council isn't capable of maintaining the current area now. 22. Realign H & H track. Sounds okay, but it does intersect with a MTB track and despite any signage council may erect and I would imagine a number of MTB riders would use it, up or down, to the detriment of the track road base. 23. Develop MTB trail network. This looks impressive but I am worried that with 6 trails on that very steep slope there will be erosion issues which will lead to sediment flowing into the Murray River. Can Council absolutely guarantee this won't happen? I have my doubts. 24. Restore the local ecology etc. Sounds good on paper but how will it happen? In my view there a quite a few areas that need a good fire to get rid of all the weeds and rubbish. Who will do this?

	25. Protect Mungabareena Reserve. As per 24. Finally, I would be quite happy to discuss any of the above aspects of my submission with any councillor or employee at any reasonable ON SITE.
Diana Lawrence	Myself and a number of other East Albury residents walk Eastern Hill every day. The walk provides the feeling of being out of town, in a large open space with beautiful views and flora and wildlife (kangaroos & birds). The non-graded and paved track adding to the natural appeal of the hill. It's a place of peace and tranquillity. Many feel the mental health benefits of walking the 'bush track'. The donated seat at the end of the track provides a lovely spot to stop and listen to the quiet and enjoy the views. Our dogs also love this hill and meet many of their friends during our walks. Please don't 'pave paradise' when there are multiple mountain bike tracks available on Hunchback and Nail Cairn. (As mountain bike riders I really see the need to build tracks on Eastern Hill and scare the natural setting.) Has there been any consideration regarding the kangaroo population on the hill?
Dianne McKenzie	I believe mountain bike trails on Eastern Hill will do irreparable damage to the flora and fauna. Developing Eastern Hills car park, facilities and walking trails to cater for all walks of life will be of benefit not only to the people of Albury, but also visitors now and it will be a great legacy for future generations to enjoy nature and preserve the flora and fauna on the hill.

Digby Jacobs Multiple submissions	I acknowledge that the East Albury Hill Activation Master Plan has evolved from the initial work about which I had concerns. I still do. Much of the development is consistent with accommodating both bike riders and pedestrians / walkers / dog walkers and mobility impaired people - although I am still concerned about their separation. Identifying a land bridge crossing is a cute way of proposing separation at one point, but both pedestrians and bike riders are known for their creativity and pioneering and will always create new pathways and cross paths. The revegetation identified will need to be sufficiently established prior to any access by bike riders and others. Currently the map shows bike trails through the revegetation. Proper establishment will mean fencing, site management and robust exclusion from those "strip" areas for, say, a decade or more. Re-establishing native vegetation with trophic diversity takes time and can look messy". After establishment the revegetated areas will need carefully identified bike passage so as to not destroy those qualities built up over time... inclusive of specific exclusion areas of habitat if vulnerable species re colonise the area. As pointed out in the Plan, the area has numerous ecotones (not stated but identified) - extremely productive for biodiversity. These are not neatly planned for such as an urban developer might like them to be and they tend to look messy to eyes that want order. However, they are vital for the health of our environments and (I am only presuming this) would likely be carbon sequesters. I see that cultural maintenance and enhancement is one of the features of the Plan. Will the signage and artwork and spaces be conducive to regional First Nations People's culture and heritage? I may have missed that bit. East Street traffic management is a conundrum and cannot be managed simply with the addition of a roundabout. As far as that road is concerned it may be appropriate to manage the traffic speeds between Percy Street and Palm Drive so to achieve multiple benefits including the current level of hoon driving. Protective pedestrian crossing in East Street may constitute more than "raised pedestrian crossings". Rumble strips on the approaches would be of benefit as well. Developing tracks on the eastern side of the precinct per 23 needs very careful consideration indeed. At this point I recommend not doing so and leaving that as a solely walking precinct. The area has an abundance of native flora and fauna - including a wealth of fungi, lichens, mosses and crusts. The area provides ample opportunity for mountain bike explorers to go off piste which would impact these important things. An exclusion precinct would also provide walkers - who don't always mix with riders frankly - a place where they could walk unmolested.

	Management and maintenance costs money. The Albury City Council will obviously need to consider this if it commits to supporting a proposal which would mean active and effective weed, rubbish, traffic, drainage, trail infrastructure, toilet infrastructure and other management. I look forward to hearing from you on the 31st Aug! 09 Sept 2022 DRAFT Mountain Bike Strategy dressed up in a shiny Eastern Hill Activation Master Plan. Staged elements to distract from overall impact. Do the difficult thing…Implement and fund a sustainable mountain bike and passive recreation plan for Nail Can Hill. Extract the mountain bike element and implement the rest of the Master Plan. In this and further submissions I will raise specific issues one by one for the Council to consider. Each of my previous and my following submissions are to be counted as discrete. Why? The Council appears to weigh the numbers of submissions as a primary criterion. Numbers count, I get it. The Council adopted a strategy of consultation on implementing mountain biking areas that was prejudicial and unfairly skewed. It sought the mountain biking community via a representative body – which I expect rallied its membership. I ride mountain bikes but am not represented by any representative body. As a long term trail, road and mountain bike rider it has been my dream since childhood to ride in places where I don't conflict with the conservation of urban bushland nor others' quiet enjoyment. The Eastern Hill precinct should remain a place for quiet, low impact passive recreation and conservation. In another submission I conceded that the design appeared to address some of my and others' concerns about maintaining and enhancing a peaceful area for passive recreation and for the use of mobility impaired and disabled people whilst addressing some mountain bike management issues in the area. I was wrong. I hope that my descendants have a safe and quiet place to walk and be at peace on the Eastern Hill precinct but it appears as if the Council is angling to pander to noisy development proponents rather than the ones who wish to maintain and manage quiet natural havens. Just concentrate on working out how to resolve the issues at Nail Can Hill rather than creating more at Eastern Hill. I will draw a parallel with boating recreation on our rivers and mixing mountain bike riding and passive pedestrian recreation. In recent years on our rivers there have been increasing incidents of clashes, some dangerous and very aggressive, between wake board and wake surf recreators and the likes of tinnie drivers, kayaker paddlers, canoeists, and swimmers. That said there are areas of our rivers where power boating is discouraged or not allowed, and speeds are restricted. There are distinct and separate areas for people to enjoy in their own ways. They have a choice and if people wish to mix it up, they can go to those areas where all activities are available.

	In most cases in the riverine context the responsible authorities have designated areas based on maintaining safety, the environment of the river, the amenity of the river to towns and so on. The Eastern Hill Activation Master Plan (master plan) seeks to formally collide incompatible uses. This is not a good idea. It may be that the current users of the Eastern Hill precinct can just go elsewhere. Why not? There's plenty of space out there. But they're the incumbents whose environment includes a peaceful area for their enjoyment. High impact boating is not allowed in the river at Noreuil Park. I submit that Council, by supporting the mountain bike elements of the master plan, is breaching its social compact, expressed in documents such as Albury 2030 and others, which seeks to maintain a strong and vibrant community across all demographics. The master plan will disadvantage some significant elements of the Albury community who are urban and who seek quiet enjoyment in the natural environment. If the mountain bike elements are extracted the master plan then the social compact is maintained. The master plan appears to be priority easy fix sub set of the DRAFT Mountain Bike Strategy (MBS). This is an example of implementing a plan to deal with a knotty issue in one place by exporting its problems and adding them to another place. This is disingenuous to say the least. It's the three card trick and is the sort of tactic used when a contentious and difficult issue in one area is diffused by offering a solution in another area at the expense of others. There's really good bits in the master plan on offer as well. But in order to have those in the master plan's present configuration the inherent nature of the precinct will be savaged. Shiny beads are on offer here. The master plan would stand on its own – with some improvements – without any element of the MBS jammed into it. The Council is to be congratulated in extending the consultation period for the master plan and for organising information sessions. I attended a master plan information session on the evening of the 31st of August 2022 and was alarmed to hear some things including issues relating to consultation and engagement, project design, potential staged implementation, scant preliminary environmental assessment and others. The master plan identifies mountain bike trail development interspersed in the 25 "activities" (master plan page 2) but the Council project manager stated that the MBS part of the master plan was to be implemented first and the rest would happen over time. It is clear that the Council construes the master plan as a component of the implementation of the MBS – which on the Albury City Council web site is identified as in DRAFT only. The MBS cites action needed to ameliorate the issues at Nail Can Hill. The Council has provided piecemeal funding to address some of these issues at Nail Can Hill but not addressed the primary proposition that walkers, and mountain bike riders need to be sufficiently separated there so that these recreational ecologies do not clash. There is sufficient space at Nail Can Hill to

	develop facilities to keep these recreational ecologies apart, rather than to foist mountain bike activity on a much more confined area where separation is improbable if not impossible. There is a significant private landholder neighbour at Nail Can Hill who, at the information session on the master plan cited that her submission on the MBS was not addressed. She commented on the behaviour of the mountain bike riders as really concerning using terms like “rude” and “destructive” to others. She indicated that she had not understood the concerns of the Eastern Hill community and would support that Council listen to them - us in that the presence of mountain bike riders in her vicinity had upset the amenity and enjoyment of her property to a large extent. Perhaps revisiting her issues may prove one avenue to improve the situation at Nail Can Hill. The Council project manager stated that first part for development would be the planning for and construction of the mountain bike focussed infrastructure and that the master plan would be implemented in stages. The project manager identified that the master plan would also be implemented over possibly “25 years”… so why worry? There would be plenty of occasions when the community will be able to have a say. Maybe so. But reversing a bad scheme can be really difficult to do. And staging can also be used to inure communities over time so that they become used to the imposition that was once not present. Cynical really. Getting a long term commitment to government funding is tricky. I expect that the Council has a reasonable picture of what the master plan might cost. I expect that the components of the master plan are also costed on a preliminary basis. A master plan of the type proposed would be expensive and disruptive. Staging complex projects generally makes sense. Staging, however, does not guarantee subsequent investment when funding priorities change. Guaranteed funding over 25 years is usually only available for major infrastructure for the likes of health, education, major roads and defence. The logical conclusion here, per Council project management assertion, is that doing the mountain bike bits will happen… the rest is up to the future – the never never. Thanks for the opportunity. More to come. Dear Albury City This is a separate submission to my previous of 9th September 2022 and it relates to the revegetation of the denuded slopes of the Eastern Hill precinct element of the Eastern Hill Activation Master Plan (master plan) The master plan disguises landscape gardening as re-vegetation implying that vulnerable and important species would benefit. This is contrary to conservation logic in that vulnerable and important species are protected by exclosures and reserves , especially when they are

	establishing. The master plan packages revegetation with the development of the mountain bike trails and trail infrastructure. Not possible. But if the master plan were to be repackaged as a master plan to reserve the area for pedestrian and disabled people's quiet enjoyment and have areas earmarked for revegetation management, exclosure and reserve – well that would be a very good concept indeed. The revegetation elements identified in the master plan are piecemeal and not consistent with revegetation best practice. For the most part the slopes either side of the main ridge can currently be considered as highly degraded. Revegetating these sorts of areas requires careful planning and assisted natural regeneration and revegetation. It also requires active management to control pest flora and fauna incursion and to exclude harmful human based activity. Then there's the need for time and patience, monitoring and surveillance and a tolerance of the "messiness" of natural regenerating bushland. The master plan shows patches of revegetation being planned for either side of the Eastern Hill ridges, predominantly on the eastern side. The plan also shows various mountain bike descent and ascent trails traversing the revegetation areas. The relocated Hume and Hovell trail is shown to intersect with the revegetation. Diagrams show how mountain bike trails would be sculpted within the vegetation for drainage management. The graphic artists depict the trails in areas with mature trees. The diagrams should be labelled "how trails might look in 50 plus years by excluding mountain bikes and with careful management" not an implicit fait accompli. Eucalypt / box woodland complexes can take multiple decades including trophic layer successions – colonising acacia etc - to mature. Revegetation for conservation is incompatible with mountain bike trails / trail establishment and high impact activities. But it is a great idea to envisage the Eastern Hill precinct as an area to re-establish woodlands with healthy understory vegetation which foot traffic can explore, or which might be excluded from traffic altogether to provide habitat for cryptic species and species requiring low disturbance. With regards. This is a separate submission to my previous of 14th September 2022 and it relates to benefits of having a place reserved for quiet enjoyment in the Eastern Hill precinct. This submission is also personal reflection on how the undeveloped - with all its idiosyncrasies - sanctuary of the Eastern Hill precinct has contributed to my own health and well being and my wife's recovery from critical stage cancer.

	It is evident that the Council has heard that many residents of and visitors to East Albury hold the Eastern Hill precinct dear as a place for quiet enjoyment. I am one of those who discovered the bush tracks and hilly aspects immediately after settling here in 2017. Great for exercise. Great for quiet contemplation. Close to the centre of town. Shortly after moving here my wife was diagnosed with critical stage lymphoma and underwent treatment under the care of the brilliant oncologists at the excellent Albury Cancer Centre. She recovered and is in remission. As part of her recuperation, I dragged her along for strengthening walks along the tracks of East Hill. Sometimes these were very short sometimes longer, but the hills and bushland and sometimes just sitting looking at views were restorative for both of us. We would meet dog walkers, runners, others recovering, meditators, families young and old. We rarely met a bike rider but those we did weren't "shredders" looking for the downhill blitz. Perhaps they were more the bike "tourers". It seemed that the more extreme riders were being accommodated elsewhere. That should remain the case. Eastern Hill precinct walks are part of my own health regime. I walk there three to five times a week. While bike riders are not barred, they are not prevalent nor encouraged. This means the area is a haven for peaceful enjoyment, health restoration and maintenance and meeting with others in an area central to Albury. The elements of the Eastern Hill Activation Master Plan that cater for those with reduced mobility and those who want a place for quiet enjoyment should be considered further. Those that look to add mountain bike down hill facilities are buying into the nonsense that the noisy and the quiet are compatible and that all things must be "developed". They would happily push out the quiet majority who just crave peace and nature. For consideration, This is a separate submission to my previous of 30th September 2022 and it relates to poor planning and environmental assessment methodologies cited at the Eastern Hill Activation Master Plan (master plan) information session on the evening of the 31st of August 2022. I also draw Council's attention to what I perceive as the consultant's distracting processes. The consultant and the Council representative stated that the master plan was to be implemented in a staggered fashion. It was also revealed that each stage would be subject to environmental assessment as it was implemented. This piecemeal approach to assessing

	the master plan's environmental impacts is a deliberate strategy to incrementally approve a development which may cumulatively be very detrimental. The consultant planners have dressed up highly impactful mountain bike development with ill thought out revegetation planning and walking trail upgrades as an attention diverting offset. This is a distraction technique which presumes that people are unable to grasp the detrimental effects of cohabiting incompatible activities. There are parts of the master plan that are reasonable and restorative of the environment and the walking infrastructure that is already in place. The Council should focus on this enhancement and restoration rather than on divisive ill-intentioned development. There is potentially some offset to be found in concentrating on reserving the precinct for enhanced biodiversity outcomes and carbon sequestration. Adding bike trails and landscaped vegetation along with drainage swales is not restorative. For consideration, This is a separate submission to my previous of 4th October 2022 and it relates to Council fomenting unrest, disquiet, division and unhappiness in its citizens. It will be my final submission on this subject. unless Council persists in pursuing the Eastern Hill Activation Master Plan (master plan) as it stands. Then there will be more submissions. I refer to the initiative Towards Albury 2050 – particularly the Quadruple Bottom Line element "Social Sustainability". The Council approach of proposing a plan that alienates and causes distress to its citizenry in order to mitigate a conflict from another area is extremely bad practice. It contravenes the Towards Albury 2050 element and it races us to the bottom. Why not have conflict everywhere? The Have Your Say section in Towards Albury 2050 cites people desiring family friendly activities, promotion of local environmental initiatives, accessibility for people with disabilities… encouragement of the use of established… etc. I may have missed the one which supports division and unrest. The mountain bike elements should be expunged from the master plan. Then it might approach a good plan. There are other bits that are a bit whiffy such as observation areas on the water tank section… probably overlooking East Albury residences and back yards swimming pools and clothes lines That might draw attention. And it would probably do to consult deeply with our First Nations people.

	By the way. Get up there. On foot. The donkey orchids have gone pretty much now and the wax lips are about if you look hard. Not so easy on a shredding mountain bike. With a bit more thought. With thinking hard and investing in remediating and working out a proper plan for Nail Can Hill… this and future For consideration. This is a separate submission to my previous of 4th October 2022 and it relates to council implementing the Sept 2021 Albury Mountain Bike Strategy Priority 2 (MTB strategy) by dressing it up as an Eastern Hill Activation Master Plan. This is very inefficient. It is my contention that the first priority of the MTB strategy be fully implemented, and the second priority of the MTB strategy dropped altogether whilst reserving Eastern Hill precinct for pedestrians and the mobility impaired. The first priority of the MTB strategy focusses on Nail Can Hill. "Nail Can Hill Reserve presents the best opportunity within Albury for the development of trail styles which will meet the identified rider demand.", (p. 46, MTB strategy). In short implementing the MTB strategy primary priority resolves the needs of the mountain biking "community". Council should defer to its own strategy rather than injecting a second priority within the Eastern Hill Activation Master Plan as a Trojan Horse. A practical and efficient overall plan would be for the Council to implement the first priority of the MTB strategy and reserve the Eastern Hill precinct for pedestrian use and for the use of the mobility impaired. Separate the two. This would also provide focus areas for the range of recreation opportunities. If pedestrians wished to mix it up with mountain bike riders they could then avail themselves of the Nail Can Hill facility and other identified regional mountain bike areas. The Albury Wodonga Mountain Bikers (AWMTB) could continue to actively discourage riding on private property at Nail Can Hill and remind riders of where the private property is and encourage riders to stick to the approved trail network. The AWMTB could also continue to support and promote environmental values, responsible riding and trail maintenance within Nail Can Hill so that those who are experiencing the opposite of those things can be proven wrong about such things happening under the wheels of rogue mountain bike riders. It has been my contention all along that mountain bike riding is an excellent pastime and I acknowledge that it is a growing sport with the potential to bring some economic energy to the area. There are responsible mountain bike riders who are courteous and who do not seek any confrontation nor collision with pedestrians. However, inevitably both use the same tracks. They cannot be separated and in a collision the energy is with the bike rider. This will force out the pedestrians. That is not a good idea at all.

	For consideration,
Donna Bosch	As a regular walker of Eastern Hill, I am against the need for over development of such a peaceful and natural environment. It offers a place to escape the hustle and bustle of city life. In my opinion Eastern Hill is unique for its central location where i am able to take the kids to view the sights and wildlife. Its further acts as a place to clear ones head as there is no better place then nature to do that. Yes, the hill requires some maintenance and revegetation, but to add a mountain bike trail network would be at a huge cost to rate payers and the wildlife life to benefit a very small percentage the community. I have never once seen a mountain bike or tracks from a mountain bike. I also walk Hunchback Hill in Wodonga and have found myself hesitating before going up there due to the increased number of bikes riding the walking tracks where they aren't supposed to be. I want to be able to walk without having to worry about bikes appearing without warning. I hope council will take the community's concerns seriously as once bike trails have been constructed there will be no going back.
Donna Holman	Not every path needs to be ‘ up graded ‘ to suit some sort of community enhancement. As someone has suggested a bit of maintenance would suffice. Better that you concentrate on the existing play parks in the Albury CBD and surrounds. I have travelled to Perth many times. The children’s play areas are amazing over there. Check them out !
Dot Williams	Please leave Eastern Hill as it is.

Drew Davey	Eastern Hill Redevelopment • The Master Plan has been developed without sufficient consultation. The stakeholders involved have been named as: Albury City Council (ACC), the Albury Mountain Bike Association (MBC), the Rotary Club (with regard to further development of the Lookout), Aboriginal community (3 people) and adjacent landholders (which consisted of only 9 households notified via a letterbox drop). This in no way constitutes intensive community engagement. The Yonder report states that besides ACC department, the Albury Mountain Bike Association and Albury Rotary Club were invited to 2 face-to-face workshops. Surely, community members impacted by the proposal should also have been included. A new full and transparent consultation process should be undertaken. • The three existing trails that are managed by Albury City Council are all shown to require a great deal of maintenance work. It appears that the poor state of the existing trails resulting from the lack of upkeep by ACC, is one of the reasons why MBC are seeking a new area. Given the state of the existing three trails, there is no confidence that ACC will be able to maintain any development at Eastern Hill differently. Investment in additional trails should not be undertaken to compensate for the poor upkeep of existing facilities. The proposed development is better suited to an out-of-town location where development of new facilities is urgently needed. The north of Albury is growing rapidly whilst East Albury is not an area that can be further developed, and roads and parking will be a problem. The proposed development shows a reduction in the number of car spaces to be provided at the lookout. • The existing traffic problems in this part of East Albury are such that any increase in traffic will just make East Street more dangerous. • The Albury City Council development of the Skate Park in David Street has been a great success and is used by a large number of skaters. However, speaking to residents nearby there are many problems at night-time when motor bike riders invade the area. Residents are constantly phoning the police who are unable to make resources available to constantly monitor the problem. This type of activity is a very likely to be repeated if trails and jumps are developed on Eastern Hill. The lack of transparency and consultation in this matter is absolutely appalling and doesn't cast this council in a favourable light at all.

Eastern Hill Redevelopment Public Forum	On behalf of the Eastern Hill Redevelopment Public Forum - a group of concerned residents of Eastern Hill and surrounds. The following is a precis of presentations made by people at our most recent meeting, and we provide these by way of submission. Speaker 1: No-one knew about the Plans until very recently. Each of the 'stakeholder' groups mobilised their members to complete an online survey from Albury City. Albury Rotary and the Mountain Bike Club are not our enemies, they just happen to be the 'stakeholders' – but as a community we were shut out. This is where the community anger came from, Acknowledged that some activation in the area is positive - new toilets, upgrade lookout, regeneration of bush, access for disabilities, but when the whole eastern face of the Hill is handed over to mountain bikes, then it is not satisfactory. Mountain bike trails will wipe out almost the entire habitation of kangaroos and wallabies on Eastern Hill, as well as other animals which live there. They will be pushed back into a smaller area and cannot all survive there. Cannot afford to lose a natural asset so close to the City of Albury. The August 8 Council meeting, eight months after the survey, four months after the stakeholder meeting, is when the community heard about the Plan after a Border Mail article. So, regardless of how many times we hear Albury City talk about extensive community engagement or consultation, it simply did not happen. We are now at the pointy end which is community feedback. Would like to take Council at their word that feedback will be considered and changes to the Plan are still possible. Speaker 2 – Long-time resident of Eastern Hill, enjoys walking on the hill daily, doesn't want to see this changed. Not against development but need to protect the things we enjoy. Like many others, first heard about this plan when walking the hill and speaking with others who mentioned the Council survey. By that time the survey was closed. Has written directly to Council and the local newspaper, letterbox dropped etc. trying to raise awareness of this Plan and help people understand it. It is not a plan which has been canvased with the residents. The survey provided on the council website asked what people would like changed on Eastern Hill – there was no option to simply put 'NOTHING' – you had to tick a box to progress to submission stage. From what we have seen in our recent engagement, Councillors are open to us. There are two things I want to leave people with. One is many voices, and the second one is a coordinated approach. What I see today, we are united. Glad to see badges "Save Elke's chair", which maybe under threat. I haven't spoken to the family, but I understand they weren't consulted. I don't understand how Council could do that to people. When you look at the percentage of people, mountain bike riders are a tiny fraction compared with bushwalkers and walkers. Speaker 3 – Wanted to strongly urge people to look at two documents – Albury City's Community Engagement Plan and Community Participation Plan. Those plans state quite clearly that Council needs to seek out and facilitate community engagement with people who will be impacted by the decision. They are meant to actively seek us out, not hide their survey away on their website. Start off by looking at these documents and then move on to the Master Plan as presented. The Engagement strategy is totally flawed and biased. First up we have the Mountain Bike strategy. It was developed by a consulting group that wants more mountain bike tracks - that is what they are after, they are mountain bike consultants. There was the survey which 338 people filled out, 90% of those being committed MTB riders, and that data has then been used to develop the Eastern Hill Redevelopment Master Plan. So, Council have only heard basically the voice of 338 mountain bike riders to determine what we want for Eastern Hill.

	Look at the Yonder report where there is a question – "would people like to see mountain bike trails on Eastern Hill"? There is a short statement that 'mixed data is provided' in answer to that question. What is that 'mixed data'? No data is provided in the report, so all we can say is our community engagement process has been flawed, and that is why everyone needs to look at the documents, put submissions to Council and have your voice heard. Speaker 4 - Has walked Eastern Hill for 65 years, firstly with grandfather, and very passionate about it. I have seen Mungabareena where the Hovell Tree (is), what happened down there, and I went to Wodonga to live for ten years and have walked the hills over there and seen what has happened. Now live near Nail Can Hill. I started walking there 21 years ago and now the only track I can walk is the 'ridge track' because of all the trails, eventually destroying all the flora and fauna, and I don't know why council doesn't encourage the mountain bike users up there to help restore the erosion and look after the flora and fauna. Eastern Hill should stay like it is, it needs a bit of maintenance for sure, and there needs to be some traffic control on East Street because it is dangerous getting out of here. But, as I said to Council when I wrote them, we don't need these plans and tracks everywhere because they only cause erosion. Speaker 5 - Asked what was going to happen to the seat (Elke's Seat). Wanted that protected as a goodwill gesture by Council – who must have given their permission for it in the first place. Wanted no mountain bikes whatsoever because he sees parents and kids and dogs enjoying walking on the hill. Wanted to know also whether Eastern Hill would be open at all times, or closed at some point, meaning it is not open for public access after certain hours.
Edward and Helen Voogt	I am opposed to this proposal for two reasons: 1) I am a senior and don't use social media that much. This means that I was not aware of the surveys that underly the development of the master plan. I would have liked to have my say on the development of Eastern Hill before the plans were developed. 2) Council has only explored walking and mountain biking for this natural asset. I would like to see council exploring more alternatives and opportunities how this piece of land can be used for the wider community. 3) I believe The Eastern Hill area to be a unique in the Albury environs, worthy of preserving for present and future generations in its present state. Any changes implemented would be to improve the sustainability of the flora and fauna. I am totally opposed to contemplated changes to introduce bike tracks or bike racing e.g., BMX bike racing etc. 4) The urgency to preserve our environment is paramount. Your efforts to solicit views from the wider community and interest groups leaves much to be desired. I appeal to council in the strongest terms to reconsider your community consultation process and undertake a more transparent and valid consultation process, with a proper and well weighted opinion seeking questionnaire, seeking the widest possible community forums in Albury-Wodonga.

Edwina Ventress	I am a resident of Mount St and was unaware of the redevelopment plans until there were articles in the Border Mail. We walk in the bush at the top of our street most days and across to the other lookouts every other weekend. It would be great to upgrade the main lookout and car park areas as the views are amazing. I think the area should remain as quiet and untouched as possible - for families, walkers/runners, those interested in nature and those needing to have the peace and quiet for well-being. I think that the introduction of the Mountain Bike Tracks down to Mungabareena would negatively impact the way that the area is used as a haven of nature and quietness.
Eliot van Brummelen	My family and I have reviewed the draft plan and are excited by what is proposed for Eastern Hill. We see the plan as a long-awaited improvement of what is a popular and well-used area providing stunning views over Albury. The new MTB trails are a welcome addition. We think the design is great and has considered all types of trail users and their experience in their chosen activity, be it walking, running or riding. The trails will be a fantastic facility which will help encourage residents to stay active and healthy. With more and more people moving to our city, it's important we provide good facilities for all trail users that spread the pressure out on different areas. My only comments on the design are: - As a Surveyor, I wanted to mention that care should be taken when developing the Trig Point lookout/platform to ensure that the Trig itself is not obstructed from view from low vantage points (e.g. Eastern View Estate). Perhaps Council can get their surveyors to check the Trig will not be obstructed by the design of the platform. - The importance of well-designed lighting cannot be overstated as it will largely determine the safety of the area in the eyes of residents. Looking forward to seeing the plan implemented,
Eliza Quinlivan	I am a user of this location for both my family/dog walks and also for my photography business. With minimal public locations around Albury, I use this location 3+ nights a week to photograph my clients. If this plan goes ahead, it will no longer be a private location for my clients to feel comfortable in front of the camera!

Elizabeth Hill	Please remember that sections of this beautiful area are extremely environmentally sensitive. Mountain bike trails should not be considered because of this. Albury already has mountain bike trails on Nail Can Hill which are not maintained very well. Albury Council should concentrate on improving and maintaining Nail Can Hill mountain bike trails instead. The current walking trails are very natural and comfortable to walk on but need more regular maintaining such as mowing etc. Regarding the Trig area, any infrastructure would scar the hill and would never be properly maintained. The mention of a roundabout on East Street to assist with pedestrians crossing is an unnecessary expense. A pedestrian refuge would be sufficient and would still slow traffic down. The entrance to the carpark would really benefit from an upgrade and it would be great if the toilets were improved. I do not see a problem with some sort of added infrastructure around the car park area. Vandalism is a real issue up at the carpark so there should be adequate security, maybe even locked gates at night. The Draft Eastern Hill Activation Master Plan is far too ambitious. Please concentrate on the basics such as improvements to access and the car park area first.
Ellery McKenzie	I like to walk with my parents, my sister and two dogs along Eastern Hill. I love it because I get to watch the kangaroos and wallaby's and look out for lots of different wildlife. We have seen echidnas, quails a lot and lot of different birds along the ridge. I want more walking trails on the hill, and more plants for the animals to hide in. If the bike tracks are built it will take over the animals' homes which makes me feel sad. I want to see lots more animals on the hill, not less.
Elspeth Leighton	I think this is a terrible waste of money on behalf of the council and completely disrespectful to the family that placed a seat there in memory of their mother. The area is popular because it is natural and home to many native species. It is a joy to walk the hill and be in nature. You are proposing to destroy nature and make it into a tourist destination. Basically, taking away the reason that people go there! Have some respect for the family and for local people who enjoy it as it is. Spend our money on more pressing situations such as homelessness and youth in need!
Em Blom	By all means redevelop the carpark and toilets. But leave the far side alone. There are other areas in Albury where you can make a mountain bike track. This is such a magical hill. I have enjoyed the peace and serenity for 30 years! Have you seen the selfish idiots that go up there? The drug paraphernalia, the burnouts, the smashed bottles, the rubbish, the graffiti, the used condoms lying around?!?! If you create more access for this, the disgust will spread further. Please leave the walk untouched!

Em Hall	The lookouts look great! Tables and chairs would be beneficial for visitors and locals. No to the mountain bike trails though, leave the rest of the hill as is, it's beautiful the way it is.
Emily Richardson	I am strongly against the addition of a mountain bike trail network to Eastern Hill. This would have a severe environmental impact on the current and future flora and fauna. I like the upgrades to the entrance, lookout and trig point though.
Emily Shipard	I am against the Eastern Hill Activation Plan. You should not put mountain bike tracks on Eastern Hill and you should not put paths and car parking in Doctors Point and Devils Glen. I have lived in this area for my whole life and am very upset that you have asked the Councillors to approve this plan when you haven't talked to the people that live in this area which only one of you lives in and you did not let people who use Eastern Hill every day have any say when you wrote the plan. Eastern Hill is used by walkers, families (including my own) and local residents as a safe place to access a wonderful natural environment. One of the best things about Eastern Hill is that there isn't a lot of development and man made things and I don't understand why Albury Council wants to wreck this beautiful place. I also don't think you should be doing things in Devil's Glen and Doctors Point. The whole area is full of animal tracks and provides safe coverage for wallabies, echidna's, kangaroos and other native animals. If you develop these areas, they have nowhere else to go as they are surrounded by roads in all directions, and I am scared they will die. Another thing to consider is the safety of kids like myself who catch the bus to get to and from school every day. Both of my bus trips in the morning and afternoon involve going over Eastern Hill. Putting a roundabout in the middle of a decently narrow street with cars, motorcycles, walkers, cyclists and busses full of school kids is not a very smart idea. I believe that it will cause many accidents. The area in which you have envisioned to put a carpark in Doctors Point is across the road from a lagoon which in case you haven't noticed, it floods. A couple of years ago I went swimming with my dog in the street because it was high enough to do so. A couple of days ago we almost got flooded again, you can't even see the boat ramp in Mungabareena anymore. Not very good spots for building if you ask me.

Emma Butko	As a resident who is directly impacted by this masterplan, I am disappointed by the lack of community consultation or notification to residents. I first found out about this proposal from a shared Facebook post. Something I find unacceptable given: 1. It could have been easily missed 2. The impact and magnitude of a project such as what Albury City Council is proposing. As a parent and Albury Resident, I am not opposed to progress and creating new recreational spaces. I do not agree however, that Eastern Hill is the correct location and I oppose that plan that council has put in place. My major concern is around safety. The Doctors Point side of East Albury is a small community with a road system that is completely unsuitable to an influx of additional traffic, pedestrians and bike riders. As a resident who uses these roads daily, there have been so many instances of near misses and issue when you combine the current low density local traffic, with walkers, limited school buses, bike riders and runners. We know this firsthand, as our dog was hit by a car and killed on a stretch of Doctors Point Road while running with my husband in 2018. Similarly, Doctors Point, Murray View Road and Gunbower Close are not suited to having additional traffic and parking for visitors. Visitors will undoubtedly park in these streets as access points to the tracks which again: 1. Further compromises Doctors Point Road 2. Creates congestion in these small residential streets. 3. Parking on nature strips causing potential damage to flora & fauna I understand there is a proposed car park on Eastern Hill, however I don't believe there is sufficient space to accommodate the number of users expected. Further, there is no public transport to this part of East Albury. The lack of public transport necessitates driving, which is something noted in the Albury Mountain Bike Strategy, but I do not believe has been addressed by council. I also have concerns around the suitability of the Eastern Hill. The Albury Mountain bike strategy states that "Eastern Hill provides opportunity for a small-scale trail network", while Nail Can has the most desirable terrain in the area for development of MTB trails that meet the identified preferred trail style of local riders". Why would we activate Eastern Hill, disturb the natural environment and risk potential damage to flora & fauna for a small scale offering when a more suitable one could be created at Nail Can, that has the ability to service a broader subsection of the community? Rather than having two substandard offerings, why not invest money in the existing Nail Can Hill offering and create something that is world class. Eastern Hill is a place of quiet enjoyment, it is not and is not suited to being a recognised recreation area. It is argued that beautiful spaces do not have to be highly activated to be shared and enjoyed.
Emma Fraser	I like the idea of fixing up the road & car park as well as adding a viewing platform/toilets and BBQ space around that car park area. I don't think the other parts of the hill should be touched along the Hume & Hovell track and behind the hospital. I am against the MB tracks along the hill and think there are plenty of these tracks on Nail Can Hill and most mountain bike people I know travel to Bright or Mt Beauty rather than do it around here.

Enid Jones	You will all remember Millie the Echidna, the famous mascot from the 2018 Sydney Commonwealth Games. I am Millie's cousin and had a tree-change years ago, moving to Eastern Hill and, more specifically, Devils Glen. I certainly haven't regretted my decision. It's become my safe place where I have peace and quiet to forage for food, termites and ants, beetles and moth larvae. I am a solitary being but occasionally hear people walking. Sometimes a dog sniffs me but I bury my head and it soon realises I'm well equipped to look after myself. It's more the foxes that terrify me (I heard one crossing East Street last weekend late at night) as well as stray cats. Goanna's too, and I stick to the undergrowth where I can hide from circling birds of prey. I have encountered the occasional child making bike jumps, but not many of them. The locals aren't too keen on bike riding, they would rather walk. Although I am a seven-year-old female, I have only bred twice. My type don't breed every year – that's good because I couldn't stand the 'echidna trails' with all those males chasing me. In fact, I had to high tail it across East Street recently to get them off my scent. I have had friends die on East Street. They have been run over and had their bodies crushed and beaks broken, and when you can't eat it isn't much fun. But mostly kind motorists let us pass. I have a very acute sense of hearing. I have heard it said that construction and reactivation of Eastern Hill is being planned. I hope I misunderstood their conversation. I wouldn't like to think my beautiful home was going to be over-run by men in fluoro vests and wide-brimmed hats rearranging the vegetation. Don't get me wrong, there are parts that I would like to see changed – better drainage, a bit of help for parrots and squirrel gliders trying to find a hollow tree branch, a bit more help for the poor old Black Wallabies being pushed out by urbanisation (they are not opportune like the kangaroos; it seems they would prefer to starve to death rather than relocate for food) but I think it is pretty perfect really. I am looking for your help in protecting the environment my family and I live in. I hope you can do that for me. Enid E.
Eric Moyle	Thank you for the opportunity to review the proposal. Eastern hill is a popular and significant feature of Albury. I welcome the council's proposal to improve pedestrian access to the area , to improve parking, the quality of the walking tracks and lookouts, and the improvement to the vegetation in the area. My concerns are 1. Ongoing maintenance. The current walking tracks in the area are badly eroded and are often overgrown. I have taken my line trimmer and lawn mower along the tracks in the past to try to keep them open for our family. The capital outlay is good, but a commitment would need to be made for ongoing maintenance. 2. Bike tracks. The opportunity for bike riders to enjoy the area is commendable. However, the bike tracks and the pedestrian areas should be entirely separate. Not all bike riders are considerate to slower pedestrians. Similarly, track maintenance to ensure safe non eroded tracks that do not interfere with natural vegetation is essential.

Ewan Hibbert	I think the Rotary lookout area looks awesome it would be nice for it to be upgraded from the dodgy car park. I think the trig point is good because it requires some dirt trails to get there, and you could have some of the signs about the surrounds at the lookout area as well Maybe re assess in a phase 2
Farren Hudson-Triffett	I live in Albury, and I recently got a new mountain bike and I love to ride. I love the plan to make tracks on Eastern Hill, please could you build them and if you do, I will probably be the first one riding them.
Fiona McCook	I am a senior resident in Albury and have just recently become aware of this plan to develop Eastern Hill. I had no idea that this development was planned and was also unaware of the survey that was conducted to gauge public support for such a development. As someone who doesn't spend all my time on social media, I would like to know how those who use social media intermittently were made aware of how to register their opinions. I am also curious to know whether environmental groups such as Field Naturalists, Birdlife Australia, Albury Wodonga Birders, Charles Sturt University, La Trobe University and others were informed about the survey and proposed development and given time to respond. I understand that 84% of respondents to the survey were males, many of whom were in the 20-40 years old demographic. I'm not sure that represents the views of our community. I would like you to reconsider this development and to make the consultation process more democratic... include, not just those who are social media savvy and have a vested interest in an MTB trail, but those who enjoy the views, the wildlife and the walks on Eastern Hill. I'm not against bicycles as I'm a cyclist myself but surely MTB trails could be planned in exotic plantations, such as pine forests, rather than disturbing a local environment in an urban area where the opportunity for walking, birdwatching etc. are limited.

Fleur Barlow	I am not that naive to consider that this Albury City Council want to get their name on development in the city that they have been assigned to represent, and that development must occur to progress any town, and as a growing community we have to support all residents. However, this proposed Master Plan for the Activation of Eastern Hill is poorly considered and does not represent the needs of the entire stakeholder groups that the Council has been appointed to represent. The process of stakeholder engagement, a bias survey construct and then the use of bias survey data to form the basis of decision making is flawed and sadly if this is how this council is making decisions, then I think a review of the skills and experience across council employees should be undertaken. For example, in addition to the survey being bias, the Mountain Bike Strategy makes reference to the Eastern Hill Activation Plan, however the Eastern Hill Activation Plan makes reference to the Mountain Bike Strategy, so which is the primary document, and which is the secondary. This would appear that the Eastern Hill Activation Plan was already in draft and the Mountain Bike Strategy, is being used as a catalyst to the delivery of this plan, which is under handed and poor representation of intent. The focus on Eastern Hill Reserve as additional Mountain Bike facilities across Albury Wodonga is not only not supported by residents, or accurate stakeholder data but also does not represent a priority need for the residents of Albury Wodonga. The addition of a 10km Mountain Bike trail is not going to bring to the economy as estimated in the Mountain Bike Strategy, with an estimated less than 0.1% of visitors actually participate in mountain biking, this investment is poorly considered. Priorities such as additional hospital facilities, road improvements, town centre car parking and things that benefit the whole community are better place. The drafted aquatic centre plans still remain undeveloped. I am personally guttered that the council would even consider this type of development on Eastern Hill. I live in East Albury, my parents and their parents lived in East Albury. I choose to live here because of the connection to the hill, the land and to the environment of this area, but the inclusion of a mountain bike park in the 'backyard' would have changed by desire to continue to live in East Albury. Listen to the residents of East Albury, there is overwhelming concerns with this Activation Plan and the way in which the plan has been developed. Don't be the council that lets the last remaining space of nature and peace be destroyed like the Nail Cain and Hunchback Hill, be better than that. I formal oppose the Eastern Hill Activation Plan and with especial opposition to the proposed Mountain Bike development. IN DETAIL: The Mountain Bike Strategy that is targeting Eastern Hill Reserve is quote aimed at "creating a sustainable mountain bike development, to create successful and sustainable mountain bike development the following key characteristics are required: It provides benefits to individuals, the community and the region; It is suited to the market and user cohorts; It is a suitable scale of development for the intended significance; Has an effective governance model; Is made up of suitable trail types for the users and terrain; Minimises impacts to cultural heritage and environmental values; Is supported by other facilities, including facilities for skills progression. The strategy talks of supporting local and then it talks tourism. A 10km Mountain Bike path is not going to bring tourism, tourist might use it if they are already in Albury, but it won't be a destination, its simply too small. If the primary purpose for domestic day visitors to Albury

	Wodonga was holiday or leisure for those staying overnight the primary purpose was visiting friends or relatives with 14% of visitors noted nature, the outdoors and sports as their top activity while in the region does not confirm that tourism is looking for additional Mountain Bike facilities in the region. The Mountain Bike Strategy talks to tourism but then indicates that Eastern Hill Reserve will support growing Thurgoona residents, One Tree Hill is better placed for this by location, access and reduced interactions with other users. Note that Table 5 of the Mountain Bike Strategy makes reference to the Eastern Hill Activation Plan, however the Eastern Hill Activation Plan makes reference to the Mountain Bike Strategy, so which is the primary document, and which is the secondary. This would appear that the Eastern Hill Activation Plan was already in draft and the Mountain Bike Strategy, is being used as a catalyst to the delivery of this plan. Poor form. The reference to "Kids are cutting in DIY tracks 'every school holidays' in this location", I have seen these tracks, they are minimal on the western side of the reserve and contain a few jumps, but do not in any way represent 10kms of trails that are proposed. Reference to Table 4 (presuming 5 is the highest positive rating), Scale of site is not a 5, the site is small, the investment verses returns based on Mountain Biking is low. Flora/fauna/cultural constraints are significantly higher than Nail Cain and yet the way this is scored, it should be in reverse as the score is added to total. The impacts on the wallaby and kangaroo populations will be significant in this small pocket of last remaining reserve to the east. A score of 5 for adequate parking is incorrect, as the parking available is suitable for current use levels not an increase and the plan doesn't increase the parking levels. One Tree Hill has significant more parking area available near the quarry and yet is scored a 1. The scores for both "Is the site located sufficient distance from nearby incompatible uses, activities or services" and "Is the site located such that noise and visual impacts for surrounding residents could be minimised" obviously was scored by people that do not use the Eastern Hill Reserve for walking or other activities. The interactions between walkers and families, and the noise and visual impacts that will be experienced by the residents of Eastern View would score this fare lower than what has been scored here. In summary the scoring of site assessment criteria is biased towards Mountain Biking (which is not surprising), but as a bias document is therefore inappropriate as a reference document for the Master Plan. Engagement Outcomes Summary: Engagement Process: If the aim of the engagement was to seek community and stakeholders' input and feedback on activating the reserve, then the survey that was used was bias towards activation activity and the Mountain Bike Strategy which we already can see the bias towards the activation of Eastern Hill. A survey that cannot be submitted without a specific number of responses, of which do not allow a response outside of activation is statistically bias and design to deliver a preconceived outcome. Noting also that the number of responders to the survey represented less than one % of Albury residents and even less if you consider the Albury/Wodonga community, and yet the survey results form a significant element to this proposal. Again, this is statistical bias, and in no commercial business I have ever worked in, and I work for large corporations, would this attempt to provide a cross section of the largest stakeholder group be of any

	relevance. Stakeholder Workshops: If Albury City Council managed the identification, invitation, and attendance of the stakeholder groups, then I suggest that they are out to touch to who the stakeholders actually are in regard to this Master Plan. A local residential group, Albury/Wodonga Bushwalking Association, local users group could have easily been considered, Glad Rotary was considered, but the other two stakeholder group Albury City and the AWMB Club have pre-arranged agendas, and very unclear why a video meeting was needed with the environmental team, surely this would have been conducted in person if we are looking to impact one of the last remaining nature reserves in inner Albury, or onsite. Suggests a lack of commitment and a preconceived outcome and agenda. Albury City Council Environment Team: If these following are included in the Environmental Team opportunities and suggest that all these are in direct conflict with Mountain Bike trails and increase traffic and users to the area; Create better wildlife corridors between areas of the vegetation and to the river; Emphasise conservation and restoration of ecological systems, including Grassy Box-Gum Woodland and Box-Gum Open Forest, and habitat of threatened species such as woodland birds and squirrel gliders; and Ensure any improvement to trails is sensitive and minimise disturbance. Aboriginal consultation: This indicates that Yonder meet with four elders but in effect only meet with 3. Issues raised including – "There was concern that a mountain bike trail head and car park at Mungabareena will encourage more people into the space, creating the potential for more vandalism/ damage. It was suggested that a new car park be located adjacent to Doctors Point Road and as close to the Eastern Hill entry point as possible. Signage should be low key and the car park itself minimal" do not appear to be fully considered no address. Increasing users will place this heritage area under pressure. Master Plan BRIEF The Brief called for a document that will allow Albury City to continue to provide a range of recreational opportunities for both residents and visitors to Albury while taking a conservative approach to the impacts on the natural environment – I do not believe that visitors to Albury will be visiting specifically to visit Eastern Hill, they may visit the reserve as part of their time in Albury, but not that it is a driver of tourism. DESIGN STATEMENT The Eastern Hill Activation Master Plan seeks to provide an aspirational and practical vision which sensitively balances future activation while protecting its unique natural character – The natural character of Eastern Hill Reserve is that simple fact that it is unspoilt through development and 'activation'. The proposed draft plan is far from sensitive in nature and far from balanced, in that it is a plan based on the sole purpose to activate the Mountain Bike Strategy at Eastern Hill Reserve. There is no plan to touch Eastern Hill Reserve outside of the Mountain Bike Strategy, and therefore the Eastern Hill Activation Master Plan is biased by intent. The Master Plan also seeks to create spatial and visual separation between mountain bike (MTB) users and other users throughout the reserve – All the signage and directional warnings will not stop Mountain Bikers from riding the walking tracks, this has been proven on Nail Cain and no, Mountain Bikers choose not to give way to walkers/runners. Any areas that bring Mountain Bikes into the same space as

	walkers will be at the disadvantage of the walkers, whom are currently the main users of the Eastern Hill Reserve. The failure to create an environment that protects walkers will simply drive the walkers away from the area to the benefit of the Mountain Bike community, which I would like to hope is not the unstated aim of this proposal. The plan proposes that restoration of the original vegetation community forms part of the mountain bike trail network development – The growing of trees (slow growers), shrubs and groundcovers as part of the revegetation proposal in amongst the Mountain Bike trails, will take time to grow and in the meantime there is a threat of erosion, vegetation destruction and creation of additional trails, especially if the area sees another winter/spring as wet as 2022. Again, this has been proven to be an issue across the Nail Cain, and very difficult to control. The revegetation of the Eastern Hill Reserve areas in support of protect, retain and enhance habitats is in direct contradiction to a high-density Mountain Bike environment through erosion, destruction, noise, interactions with wildlife and dust in summer. The plan also identifies opportunities to expand the reserve through possible land acquisitions – presume this is only to support the entrance changes of East Street, but this is not clear. If this is to extend the actual reserve, would see this as an unnecessary cost and activity. STORY-TELLING – only relevant and in keeping with the overarching plan if this is non-invasive and relevant. The point of the water tanks being painted dark green is so that the view to the hill is not highlighted by a water tank, they are currently sitting insignificantly on the side of the hill, non-invasive. GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS Protect adjacent residents from bushfire risk by maintaining a clear zone along reserve boundaries – Note that this is called out as a recommendation but is not included in the Master Plan but also note the occurrence of fire threat to the Eastern Hill and East Albury has been minimal over the past 10 + years. Remove all redundant fencing within the reserve, and all barbed wire on boundary fencing for safe wildlife corridors – Note that this activity has commenced across the reserve. Implement an ongoing weed eradication program of species such as Blackberry, Privet, Tree Lucerne and Broom, as part of the reserve maintenance- Very surprised that this is called out as a recommendation, as would have expected that the Council would have an existing weed eradication program across all of the open space council reserve areas. The current state of control of over abundant introduced species would appear to be non-existent in the Easter Hill Reserve area as large areas of Cabbage Thistle, Patterson's Curse, Bathurst Burr and Blackberry are well established. The fact that this called out as a recommendation would suggest that the Eastern Hill Reserve has been left well unattended for some time and will only be considered under this plan but should be considered as standard council business. Improve ongoing maintenance by implementing Council's maintenance regime for high profile sites – Outside of some grass mowing and bin emptying, the area has been relatively left untouched by council. Improvement into general facilities is well overdue. Implement a hierarchy of identifier, directional and interpretive signage across the reserve. Signage is important as long as it doesn't take from the natural aesthetics of the area, is maintained and relevant.

	Enhance the entry experience - Install identifier and way-finding signage to highlight the entries to the reserve - as long as constructed in a safe, easily maintainable way that doesn't increase the risk to motorists and walkers entering. Improve track surfacing and drainage - Upgrade the surfacing and implement drainage control measures to improve the accessibility, safety and ongoing management of walking, fire trail and maintenance tracks – well overdue and should not be associated with an Activation Master Plan but regular council activity. Investigate opportunities for restoration - Rationalise and amalgamate tracks and paths. Undertake revegetation where paths are removed – If the Mountain Bike plan progresses, removed pathways will require means to block bikes as it is proven on Nail Cain that the decommissioning of tracks has not stopped these from being used as addition bike tracks. Relocate access to public land - Re-align path within reserve boundary adjacent to Hilltops Accommodation - no issue with this if the owners of these adjacent properties have been consulted directly. Create a tank art trail - Consider commissioning a series of artworks on the water tanks - The point of the water tanks being painted dark green is so that the view to the hill is not highlighted by a water tank, they are currently sitting insignificantly on the side of the hill, non-invasive. The tanks are currently not something that is a viewpoint and would consider that any highlighting of these tanks from the surrounding residential areas would be a significant negative. Money should be used in other areas of benefit to the community. Develop spaces to take in the view - Provide seating and directional / interpretive signage at key elevated locations within the Water Tank Precinct – Encouraging seating in any area encourages rubbish, just a consideration as the dropping of rubbish in these areas is already an issue. Define easement from Sunrise Terrace - Delineate a pedestrian connection through the easement to the reserve – No issue with this as long as the construction considers the elements of aesthetics and erosion as the land profile is steep and the properties along Sunrise Terrace should not experience any subsequent effects due to the inclusion of a walkway to East Street. Improve traffic safety on East Street - Develop a roundabout, including raised pedestrian crossings, refuge islands and line marking at the intersection of East and Walsh Streets – would like to understand the impact to traffic flow around Albury due to these recommendations. East Street is an identified thoroughfare from the freeway and South Albury to Thurgoona and North Albury. I don't disagree with slowing of the traffic however the inclusion of an internal freeway has already changed the way residents' access other parts of the city, consequences of the recommended changes to East Street could see alternative pressures placed on Schubach Street as a thoroughfare. The inclusion of refuge islands in the centre of East Street sounds sensible unless this at the expense of the trees and shrubs that line East Street (widening). I don't not recommend raised pedestrian crossings and a roundabout, this seems like a large impact to the traffic flow along East Street and an unnecessary impact for a period of busy traffic which lasts a minimal time morning and afternoon. Personally, I have crossed East Street every morning for years to walk Eastern Hill, and not once have I considered there to be a safety risk or felt uneasy crossing the road, simply using common sense and respect in the traffic. Redefine the vehicular entry to the lookout car park - Remove existing entry of the access road at East Street and revegetate. Provide a new

	2-way road access from the proposed roundabout through possible land acquisition. Retain part of the existing road and widen to accommodate 2-way traffic. – I would agree that the current vehicle entry to Eastern Hill Reserve is narrow and at a poor angle, but I would also consider that the current roadway is wide enough for cars to pass if respect is shown, a two-way entry point will encourage speed and potentially 'hooning'. The biggest issue in regard to the roadway and entry point is that it is not maintained, and like the entire reserve area, the area has not been maintained in support of the users of the Reserve. If the current roadway and entry point was maintained, managing road degradation (potholes and shoulder damage), this really is a non-issue. Consider closing off access into the reserve after dark - this is completely unacceptable, users of the reserve are often walking pre-dawn before work and late into the evening after work, utilising the reserve as a place to relax and enjoy quiet exercise. It is also used by many to sit, enjoy the view to the weir wall and watch the stars. The reserve is for everyone, not just those that can visit in daylight hours. If the consideration for closing the reserve after dark is to stop damage or other potentially criminal behaviour, closing the reserve either simply moves the problem somewhere else or people will find a way to enter the reserve and cause damage doing so. Rationalise car parking - Provide a one-way loop to access the car park with designated 15 spaces + 2 disabled spaces. – I am unsure how this is considered rationalise car parking when the master plan is focused on increasing visitors to the site, but the car parking doesn't allow for additional car spaces. Regardless of the flow of traffic, unless the plan includes an increase to the car parking available for users, especially if the Mountain Bike Park goes ahead, this will be an ongoing issue for all users and cause conflict between visitors, bike riders and walkers who have driven to the site. It will encourage parking in nearby residential streets which will also cause undue conflict and pressure on side streets and residents. A good reference point is the Nail Cain entry point off Logan Road, this caters through many more car parks, and I have seen this full of cars and creates issues for the residents of Logan Road in regard to access to their properties and residential street parking, especially if the council and the AWMB Club are considering the Eastern Hill Reserve would be a site for Mountain Bike competition. The congestion in the planned carpark will also potentially create an environment here bikes, people, children, pets and vehicles are all sharing the single zone, this is not an issue currently but if the plan is to increase users and introduce bikes, this has the potential to be an issue. Include solar powered lighting and consider CCTV – no issue with solar lighting, but the use of CCTV is a waste of money. Unless the police can use the CCTV footage to actually hold people to account for criminal behaviour, then this is nothing more than an invasion of privacy and will not stop unacceptable behaviour. If people feel that they are being watched and or recorded, this will reduce the whole point of visiting the reserve to relax and enjoy the peace and quiet. Enhance visitor experience at Rotary Lookout - Decommission existing amenities. Provide a new accessible toilet facility at a new location. Provide shelters, viewing deck, BBQ, picnic tables, seats, water station, and rubbish bin, way-finding and interpretive signage. The inclusion of additional services to visitors to the area is fine as long as this includes a maintenance regime to clean, maintain, collect rubbish and unfortunately clean up after people. It feels that the master plan is trying to include too much in the plan for the carpark area of the reserve, when car parking is going to be the greatest issue if the plan is successful in increasing the users of the reserve. In addition, I do not

	believe that the design of the Rotary Lookout in the carpark has considered the view from Eastern View, looking up to the lookout will be intrusive and an eyesore. It is called Eastern View for a reason, and the view will now be interrupted and unpleasant, especially if the design elements are not considerate of the environment and reflectively catch the sun. Designate MTB gatherings / events - Provide a designated trail head gathering space (with paved area, signage and shelter) on the west side of the car park away from other park users - The space for a Mountain Bike trail head is simply not available at this site without creating congestion and conflict between users. In addition, the flow of traffic to the trail head, is around the loop and then a sharp left into the trail head which needs to consider parking at the trail head whilst people take bikes on and off cars, and whilst this is not what the trail head is for, it is what will happen as indicated by the AWMB comments in the Engagement Strategy "… as parents are likely to shuttle tweens (10-15yo) from bottom of trail to existing car park". Separate MTB users from other park users - Where possible, separate walkers from mountain bike users. This could include a land bridge to create grade separation – I understand the purpose of this structure, but the word ugly comes to mind. Eastern Hill Reserve is all about natural beauty and then you are planning to add concrete structures and take away from the natural beauty. I have walked all around the word and no natural walking area that includes concrete and over development is pleasant, it destroys the reason to visit. It this type of crossing / separation of users is necessary and cannot be designed out, then suggest a resign to include the crossing in one of the other major design elements i.e.: Trig Point Lookout or car park area. Equal access to the Trig Point Lookout - Develop a DDA compliant (equal access) path from the Rotary Lookout car park to the Trig Point Lookout. Improve the Trig Point Lookout - Rationalise access and provide an equal access path, alternative step access and path leading to the south. Develop a viewing and resting space with feature paving, seating and interpretive signage. Again, it appears that the plan is trying to do so much with the area, but by doing so the plan is removing the entire reason people love this reserve, because it is natural and untouched with development. Delineate the reserve boundaries in Devil's Glen Reserve - Improve access and legibility by removing all internal fences within public land – supported if the adjoining residents have been actively and properly consulted (not a supposed letter drop that no one resident can account). Address access at steep & low areas - Connect the path network with an elevated boardwalk or steps (permeable mesh construction) at steep and low-lying areas – supportive if the environment is intact and the natural aesthetics are not compromised. Improve safety and access for pedestrians - along Doctors Point Road Provide a cantilevered boardwalk (permeable mesh construction) with handrails and balustrade. – Supportive if the environment is intact and the natural aesthetics are not compromised. Utilise public land to create walking loops - Formalise paths within road reserve and other public land to connect parts of the reserve and beyond – These already exist. Improve access and drainage at Gunbower Close - Provide a floating stair structure (permeable mesh construction) to replace the existing

	steps and revegetate surrounds where required. Include a 'Pedestrians Only' sign – supportive if the environment is intact and the natural aesthetics are not compromised. Noting that a pedestrian only sign will not keep mountain bikes out of the area, suggest bike barriers are included. Highlight the view to Kiewa Valley and Alps - Replace the existing seat with new furniture and interpretive signage - Not supported. The existing seat has historical and personal significance. Just leave this space alone. It is a quiet reflective area, where people go to relax, inclusion of signage and new furniture will degrade this special place. Re-align the Hume and Hovell Track - Develop a new alignment for the Hume and Hovell Track, which is separated from MTB trail network, vehicular movement routes, and is clearly signed for improved legibility ¬– the Hume and Hovell Track is supposed to be reflective if the actual path trod by Hume and Hovell and represents history, moving this because it doesn't suit the plan is how history is lost. Again, trying to do too much with this area, it is a small unique and naturally beautiful area, don't stuff it up!! Develop an MTB trail network - Construct a small network of trails as per the MTB Strategy to be developed over a number of years, - absolutely opposed to the development of Mountain Bike trails in the Eastern Hill Reserve. See feedback below. Restore the ecology as part of the MTB trail - network development Plant local species in 'fingers' creating habitat links from ridgeline to river. Revegetation will be designed to control MTB movement and help reduce erosion. - this alone demonstrates that the plan is expecting that the inclusion of Mountain Bike tracks on Eastern Hill will result in de-vegetation and erosion, and that an identified re-vegetation plan is needed to attempt to manage this. This is an absolute travesty, if the Council is planning to build an artificial environment which will degrade the environment on the side of a hill which overlooks residential properties, the catchment and the flood plain of the Murray River. Protect the cultural and natural values of Mungabareena Reserve - Utilise the existing car park off Doctors Point Road as a secondary MTB user access / pick up point. Install boulders and plantings to restrict vehicular access beyond the road. Remove informal tracks and undertake a revegetation program. Consider replacement of the existing footbridge. – the existing car park on Doctors Point Road is an informal car park support other recreational activities, is small and often impacted by wet weather. If this area is going to be developed as part of this plan, the natural values of the Mungabareena Reserve will be impacted, you can't have both. Installing boulders will stop vehicles but not mountain bikes. What is the plan to stop mountain bike associated vehicles being parked on the roadways on Doctors Point Road, as this will be easier than using the Mungabareena Reserve area? Nail Cain and Tabletop Reserve have shown that if boulders are used to block vehicle access, people will try to move these boulders. This needs to be a smarter solution, and not just keep doing the same things that are ineffective.
Fran Kernaghan	This is a great idea, and I am all for it. I think it's really good to see the plan include tracks for mountain bikes which will encourage more young people to get out exercising and away from screens. People can choose to go up there to walk, or ride, or just sit and enjoy the views. Really good plan - I'm happy to see this space become what it deserves; open to all Albury people to enjoy.

Fran Plunkett	Why spoil the area. It's lovely in its natural state. I'm against the redo of Eastern hill!!!!
Franck Beaurain	Still to be able to jog on Eastern Hill

Friends of Eastern Hill	This document has been prepared by Friends of Eastern Hill and represents the concerns held by the group regarding the process undertaken by AlburyCity in engaging with the local community to develop the Draft Eastern Hill Activation Master Plan (DEHAMP) and the resultant plan. Our core concern is that the DEHAMP is not a legitimate document. When raising awareness of this with council, we have been asked to write a submission, stating what we like and do not like about the plan. Making a submission is akin to legitimising the plan, thus does not sit comfortably with us. This submission explores three key areas of concern. 1. Use of AlburyCity Mountain Bike Strategy to Inform DEHAMP a) Friends of Eastern Hill contend that the outcome of the DEHAMP was predetermined and thus lacked an objective assessment of the existing value of the Reserve. The framing of the Yonder briefing ahead of the development of the DEHAMP resulted in the “yes” voice for mountain bike (MTB) trails on Eastern Hill (EH) having an advantage over any other voices regarding the development of the area. No matter what other stakeholders or interested parties believed or envisioned occurring in the area, their voice was never really going to be heard. This has resulted in other EH stakeholders having to justify why the development of MTB trails should not go ahead, rather than those who want changes, particularly MTB trails, justifying such a change. In addition to the aforementioned points, and of more concern, is that the narrow brief provided to Yonder has meant that Yonder were unable to provide an objective assessment of the optimal end use of EH, nor provide an objective assessment of the value of the MTB proposal. Evidencing the views of Friends of Eastern Hill are extracts from the project briefing provided to Yonder which state quite clearly that the purpose of the masterplan was “to meet the council endorsed Albury Mountain Bike strategy” with the following to be addressed; “Implementation of a trail network”, “proposed trail heads to established at the Eastern Hill Lookout”, “descent focussed network with one or two climbs” and trails that suit “a range of classifications to enable rider progression”1. More evidence can be found in Appendix B of the MTBS where the AlburyCity Officer’s responses to feedback submissions indicate that MTB trails on EH hill were a given, with comments such as; “The Eastern Hill Activation plan is scheduled for completion in 2022. The plan will provide the detail on the proposed trail alignments, trail heads and facilities for the area.”2 and “Complete the Eastern Hill Activation Plan and seek funding for trail construction”2. These comments appear to directly contradict a briefing on the issue provided to councillors on 8 August 2022. As recorded in the minutes of the meeting, councillors were informed that the “first steps” in developing the DEHAMP were “extensive community and stakeholder engagement” which commenced in January 2022. b) The MTBS lacks the representativeness to be used as the basis for the EHAP The MTBS was developed to further advance mountain biking as a sport in the region. It therefore follows, that as the DEHAMP is guided by the MTBS, and the DEHAMP does not represent the entirety of the views and needs held by the wider community.

	This is evidenced by the MTBS utilising survey data collected from 376 people including 147 verbatims. Analysis of the survey data shows: • 90% of respondents (338 people) rode mountain bikes at least weekly and considered themselves skilful and experienced in mountain biking. Albury has a population of approx. 56,500. The 90% MTBS survey respondents equate to approx. 0.5% of Albury's population. • 84% of respondents are male. Given the most recent census recorded Albury's population at 51.7% female and 48.3% male, the MTBS has a gender bias. Furthermore, the age group of the respondents indicates that they tended to be adults (47% aged 25 – 54 years). The ethnicity of respondents is not known, however, considering the ethnic make-up of Albury, it is hard not to see MTBS as a plan for white middle aged males. This is certainly not representative of Albury, nor is it acceptable in this day and age. • 38% of respondents were from outside of Albury. This is a significant percentage of people who have had an influence on how EH is to be used. It can hardly be said that the MTBS represents Albury residents with over one third of respondents coming from outside of the area. c) Questionable conclusions and recommendations in the MTBS The MTBS utilised a scoring system to compare potential MTB trail locations in the region. This system determined that EH was one of the most favourable locations for establishing trails. Specific criteria are listed with each proposed location being scored against these criteria. On the question of "Does the location enable safe entry to and from the site, and allow for adequate setbacks from a busy road?" EH scores a 5 on a scale where 5 represents no constraints and 1 represents significant constraints. The DEHAMP offers a contradiction to the score EH received against these criteria, with a significant part of the proposal being focussed on improving the safety of the access and egress to EH. Even in the recent council forums, fixing the lookout road access was touted as a safety issue. The agenda ahead of the 8 August 2022 council meeting even cited the need "to improve pedestrian and vehicle safety" for access to EH3. It begs the question as to whether the entry to and from the lookout is a concern that needs addressing with significant road changes and expenditure (as per the DEHAMP) or – as per the AlburyCity MTBS - is it safe and not a constraint for mountain bikers and other hill users? Given that Albury City's Traffic Team supports improving access and safety, one has to question the validity of the MTBS scoring criteria. Had the EH been given a lower score for access and egress safety, it would not have received the highest rating for MTB trails. The MTBS also scored EH favourably with regard to flora, fauna and cultural constraints, indicating that the precinct was not constrained in this area. This is despite engagement with Aboriginal Elders indicating that the ridge would have been a significant place for ancestors, coupled with the known significance of Mungabareena reserve. The score is incongruent with these comments. 2. The Community engagement process was flawed and biased towards the MTB community There are significant concerns that the process for community engagement outlined in AlburyCity's Community Engagement Plan 2018 – 2023 was not followed. This is either through poor understanding of the community engagement process or because of a desire to achieve a predetermined outcome. a) The Mountain Bike Community was seemingly informed that the DEHAMP would include MTB trails and provided their support for such facilities.

	In feedback from Albury Wodonga Mountain Bikers captured in Appendix B of the AlburyCity MTBS, the group suggest that they "support Eastern Hill trails and pump tracks but no details provided therefore more planning is required". Having been aware of the proposal through engagement under the MTBS, the community was well prepared for mobilising support behind the plans in the DEHAMP "Have Your Say" survey, as such, the results reflect a skew towards respondents that partake in mountain biking. AlburyCity has expressed great satisfaction with the volume of responses to this survey, but analysis of the results would suggest that it was not AlburyCity's limited publicity that drove the volume of responses but rather this same engaged stakeholder group. This is not a criticism of the mountain bikers as they were only lobbying for their interest rather that AlburyCity has failed to recognise that a large proportion of responses have been driven through this channel. Figure 1 below reflects the volume of survey responses by day with three clear spikes evident on each of 3, 12 and 15 February. These upticks can be correlated to social media (Facebook and Instagram) posts promoting the survey - by Albury Wodonga Mountain Bikers Inc. on 3 and 15 February, and by Albury City on 12 February. When we look at the distribution of yes and no responses to the question of "Would you like to see MTB trails on Eastern Hill?" By day (as represented in Figure 2) the impact of Albury Wodonga Mountain Bikers Inc. group's call to arms is more evident, with responses overwhelmingly in favour of trails. Figure 1: Timeline of responses to the EHAP "Have your say" survey Figure 2: Distribution of Yes and No Responses by day This group is not suggesting that these respondents don't have a right to share their views, but rather that awareness of the survey in the first place did not extend much further than this cohort. Had signs been placed on the Reserve to raise awareness of the survey AlburyCity may have been able to observe a more representative data set. The impact of this skew in respondents also extends into the results of other questions, with 55.33% of respondents indicating that they currently use EH for bike riding as compared to 57.17% using the area for walking. AlburyCity has not conducted any physical site surveys to validate these results and again, this group would contend that it is not at all representative of how the area is being used. b) The survey design for the DEHAMP "Have Your Say" reflected bias towards mountain biking and failed to provide safeguards against multiple voting and lobbying Question 1 in the "Have Your Say" survey asks respondents to identify how they use EH, with a selection of uses available for selection. However, later in the survey, Question 7 is specifically related to Mountain biking: "Would you like to see MTB trails on EH?" None of the other uses of EH identified in Question 1 are explored in subsequent questions relating to increasing their use i.e., absent is "Would you like to see more running trails?" The wording of Question 8 "What type of MTB trails/features would you like to see developed on EH?" provides further evidence of MTB trails on EH being a predetermined outcome. The question is predicated on there being MTB trails, and this is reinforced by the use of "would". This stands out even more when compared to Question 9 which asks, "What other features could be developed on EH?"

	c) AlburyCity's Community Engagement Plan states that council should "seek out and facilitate the involvement of those affected by or potentially interested in a decision." This was not done. The briefing to council on 8 August 2022 (Council Minutes 13.3 (p 298-299)) states that "Extensive community and stakeholder engagement was undertaken as the first step…" This is patently false. The extent and nature of the community and stakeholder engagement was misrepresented to council and the community. EH stakeholders and other people interested in the DEHAMP have been denied an adequate say in the DEHAMP due to limited community engagement and obfuscation or misrepresentation by council staff on the scope of their engagement. This has resulted in a biased and contentious plan, underpinned by these limitations. As per the process outlined on page 14 of the Community Engagement Plan 2018 – 2023 a Stakeholder Engagement Plan (DOC14/84064) is to be completed prior to drafting a document or project idea. Correspondence from Jaqueline Owens on 2 September 2022 indicated this document is a risk assessment related to Borella Road. Correspondence from David Costello on 6 September 2022 indicated that this document number refers to an Internal Cultural Plan. When pressed on this further, neither Jaqueline nor David responded. AlburyCity have referenced a letterbox drop occurring as part of a "broader engagement plan" on the DEHAMP. When questioned on the boundaries of this letterbox drop it was revealed by David Costello on 6 September 2022 that contact regarding the DEHAMP had only been made with nine property owners adjoining the immediate Ridge Precinct. Following a request for clarification regarding this, it was stated by David that the limited scope was "due to the logistical difficulty of determining an area of influence." Council's own Community Participation Plan states that written notices in relation to developments and strategic planning functions are sent to adjoining property landowners, and any other property owners that council considers may be affected. Given that the DEHAMP covers both sides of East Street as well as areas of Doctors Point Reserve and Devil's Glen, informing only nine adjoining landholders to just the Ridge Precinct would hardly seem a satisfactory notification process. Outside of council departments, only the Rotary Club of Albury and Albury Wodonga Mountain Bikers Inc. were invited to participate in additional face to face and video workshops to collaborate on and plan the DEHAMP. No attempts were made to engage other users of the hill i.e., walkers - which, despite its aforementioned flaws, the survey results had still identified as the predominant users of the area. These workshops were highlighted in the Yonder report as key aspects of the community engagement phase. When questioned as to why other stakeholders only had opportunities to provide feedback rather than a more extensive round of workshopping, David Costello (on 6 September 2022) downplayed the role of the workshops as "informal stakeholder group meetings". 3. There is a concern that a DEHAMP Project Officer has a perceived conflict of interest. Friends of Eastern Hill hold concerns that a Project Officer with extensive involvement in the DEHAMP has a perceived conflict of interest as a mountain biker with links to Albury Wodonga Mountain Bikers Inc. The Project Officer in question has not been entirely forthcoming on the project plans with members of this group and in undertaking a face to face meeting with an adjoining landholder failed to mention the extent and number of the proposed MTB trails and the relocation of the Hume and Hovell tracks despite previous evidence outlined in this

	document suggesting that this was always intended to form a part of the plan. 4. There is a lack of trust in AlburyCity's handling of this issue to date Dealings with AlburyCity by members of this group, adjoining property owners and other concerned residents have left people with a feeling of distrust. Rightly or wrongly, that one of the most significant guides of the DEHAMP was the AlburyCity MTBS, and that it determined the area was suitable for development without appropriate justification gives an indication of an agenda being pursued by AlburyCity. That AlburyCity cannot provide evidence that its own Community Engagement Process has been followed adds further weight to this assessment. By way of comparison, it has been noted that Wodonga Council has pursued a holistic 'Physical Activity Strategy', rather than placing such significant emphasis on a small subset of physical activity in Mountain Biking. It is the view of this group that AlburyCity should place a moratorium on the DEHAMP until the significant flaws in process have been rectified and that Albury's ratepayers can have confidence that their representatives are acting with transparency and in their best interests.
Gabriella Tange	Deactivation of the space is fabulous. It would be great to ensure consideration of access to accessible pathways, water for drinking and shade. Female friendly facilities for mountain biking with change room available. With increasing temperatures, a need for water stations and refill stations should be accessible and available for people and dogs. Having a place to rest in the shade along pathways would encourage more people to be active and not discriminate based on mobility or age. A safe crossing point from the main road to support easy access to the area by foot or bike is a necessity and ensure safety for all community members. Thank you.
Gabrielle Nicholls	I'm writing to share my concerns over the Eastern Hill development. As retirees my husband and I often walk on Eastern Hill. We exercise ourselves and our dog there. We often take our small grandchildren to walk there and have picnics. I have safety concerns about the proposed mountain bike path on Eastern Hill. Mountain bikes, elderly people, small children and dogs in the same area is not a good mix. Nail Can Hill already has extensive mountain bike paths. I've had experience walking there only to have mountain bikes come whizzing past within inches. It's not safe to walk with children and dogs there so we started walking Eastern Hill. The sculpture walk by the river is beautiful but again we have had close calls with children on foot and bikes going at speed. Please consider the safety of small children and older residents before going ahead with this plan.
Gavin Rees	I like the idea of upgrading eastern Hill for it to be maintained as a walking space where people can simply wander, take in the view of the open space in the relaxing environment. Linking it with an MTB trail activity would destroy it as a walking venue. Importantly, there are other options for a MTB park, but no other large green walking spaces like Eastern Hill. A viewing platform right at the start is a great idea as this allows those who are less inclined to walk to be able to see over Albury.

Gayle Casey	I have been grappling with my perhaps emotional connection to Eastern Hill and the proposed redevelopment plans since I became aware of the proposal in August when I was on the other side of the world. Firstly I was very upset that I didn't know about the planned changes when I only live about 500 metres from this area. Left wondering what consultation, information was disseminated? It turns out when I asked Council this question that I had to actually know about it so I could look for it on the Council website. If this is the normal process, I'm very disappointed. I was told that it was in the Border Mail, which I guess is fine if you are a regular reader of this publication. I was then surprised at the extend of the proposed redevelopment, in my opinion it completely changes the whole look and feel of this relatively low key natural haven. The extent of the Mountain Bike Tracks left me feeling very puzzled and concerned for what the eastern side of the hill will be like after 6-12 months use by bike riders and any attempts to revegetate this area. I would like to state that I'm not anti-bike riding in any form, I know many who love this activity and am personally pro anything that gets people outdoors. I do enjoy riding a bike myself and take advantage of the bike paths that currently exist. I'm a regular walker and use the tracks on Eastern Hill regularly, not only is this so very close to where I live it is an area that feels peaceful, natural and not overly orchestrated (over developed). That is the attraction of this area, its relative naturalness, the space and serenity it offers. I take my grandchildren there to share what nature has to offer and actively encourage people to use this beautiful space, taking any of my visitors to the lookout or for a walk if physically up to it. So yes, please to making the road wider and regular maintenance; as well as a little TLC for the tracks. I do want others to reap the benefits I have found from this area. I also feel that the first nation's people will be able to add valuable contributions to help us understand and value the significance of this area. I believe the Rotary Lookout would benefit from a makeover, however I'm not sold on what looks to me to be a very contemporary design that is "over kill", grandiose. Which is the general consensus of those I have spoken with. It seems to me that less is best more often than not, and I would hope that there could be an option that appears more natural and blends in more with the surrounds. I don't consider myself any more important than any other community member but I'm also no less important. From the information provided by Council of the processes to date I believe there has not been sufficient consultation to get a broader perspective on who currently uses Eastern Hill, who and what access needs to also be considered for future use and how this can be achieved while preserving the beauty, cultural and historical significance. Thank you for taking the time to read my submission.
George Giblin	Can you make a bike track please please please because I like walking and bikes, but I like bikes the best.

Georgia Morris	I think the idea is great overall, but the viewpoint is a bit over the top - can't we just let nature be? I'm sure it's an expensive venture for some equipment that will be forgotten and ruined in the years to come. It would be nice for it to be simpler. There seems to be a lot of mountain biking tracks, is the sport really that popular? I walk Nail Can hill regularly and rarely see a mountain biker is it worth interrupting a beautiful nature reserve for some barely used paths? It's sort of just nice as it is now but I'm hoping you've done the appropriate research to ensure it leaves local flora & fauna in a better position.
Georgie Blom	It should stay the same but also be somewhat mountain bike path
Georgie Currie	Please, please don't proceed with the Eastern Hill development!! It's my favourite place to walk when I come home (I'm still registered as an Albury City Council voter) and whenever a friend comes to visit, they all consistently remark on it being the most beautiful part of Albury because of how untouched it is! It would be a massive mistake, please don't touch it!!!
Georgina East	This looks fantastic. What a great idea to promote outdoor activity. Looks like a well thought out and purposeful plan. Look forward to it hopefully progressing.
Georgina Glass	Leave Elke's seat alone.
Gerard Coyle	I fully support the Mountain Bike tracks planned for Eastern hill. Please link these through to a loop around Mungab and the trail to Thurgoona along Riverina Hwy. Also please plan for mountain bike trials to the area south of the Hospital around the various water tanks to activate use of this area. Also fully support the Trig Point and upgraded Rotary view areas as shown in the images above.
Glenda and Vincent Jones	Some parts of the development I am happy with, but I object to the sheer size of the development and disruption this will cause to flora and fauna in this area. The family of swamp wallabies in Devil's Glen, together with so many other animals living there, have already has their habitat savagely reduced/decimated by housing. Eastern Hill is an environmentally sensitive/threated area which includes Grassy Box areas and threatened species such as squirrel gliders and bird species, and larger trees are needed for bird nesting hollows and a source of nectar for birds and bees. We need corridors of green for animals and birds.

Glenda Chapman Multiple submissions	I believe the DEHAMP should be halted, and the end use of Eastern Hill should not be determined until a proper community and stakeholder process is undertaken. When this is undertaken, no brief should be given which favours one group of hill users/potential hill users over others. Unfortunately, with the DEHAMP the project brief predetermined that mountain bikes were always going to be the end users of Eastern Hill. This is evidenced by the Yonder report stating on p3 that the aim of DEHAMP was to "met the council endorsed Albury Mountain Bike strategy". The Mountain Biking community were favoured over the rest of Albury, leaving other Hill users having a lesser voice and also having to justify why mountain bikes should not be on Eastern Hill. In many ways, DEHAMP is a misnomer. The plan should really have been titled: Mountain Bike Strategy for Eastern Hill or Mountain Bike Strategy: Implementation Plan. A review of the Mountain Bike Strategy (MTBS) council responses to submission indicates in mid-2021 it was already predetermined that up to 20 km of MTB trails would be on Eastern Hill. Again, this indicates that one special interest group was given preferential treatment over all other Albury residents, and that the outcome of the DEHAMP was predetermined. Interestingly, all public information about the plan fails to show pictures of mountain bikes, almost as if there is an attempt to downplay or brush over the fact that the key priority of the Master Plan is all about mountain biking. Perhaps the plans developers were aware that this would not be favoured by current hill users. Besides the outcomes being predetermined, the community and stakeholder engagement process was lacking, and failed to follow council's own processes/policies. The process favoured the MTB community, engaged the MTB community and appears to have been undertaken to ensure that others impacted by, or who may be potentially interested in Eastern Hill were not included in the engagement process. The extensive evidence of this has been presented to and discussed with AlburyCity CEO, Mayor and Deputy Mayor, thus will not be included in this submission. Please see the above mentioned for copies of the document and/or presentation that details how flawed and biased the development of the DEHAMP was. Alternatively, please contact me and I will provide to you directly. In order to have my voice heard regarding DEHAMP, I have been continually encouraged by AlburyCity to write a submission outlining what I like and don't like about the plan. My concern in doing this is that in commenting on DEHAMP, I am legitimising the plan, a plan that has no legitimate basis. Having said this, I want my voice heard so will make comment on what is actually in the plan. Mountain Bikes on EH. - I definitely do not want this. There should be no MTB trails created on Eastern Hill. My justifications for this: According to the MTBS there are already plenty of “desirable destinations” for MTB “within a comfortable drive of Albury”. There are also MTB destinations within Albury already. Furthermore, the MTBS states that there are 200 active mountain bikers in Albury. This is a very small number, yet DEHAMP is set to spend a significant amount of money for this cohort. This is despite MTB already having plenty of other areas to ride. There is a wide range of other sport and cultural/performing arts groups in Albury, some with much larger numbers than MTB and they do not have access to as many areas/venues, nor do they have as much spent on them. It seems that MTB are favoured in terms of ratepayer expenditure. Additionally, one of the reasons purported re the need for MTB trails on Eastern Hill is that it will take pressure off Nail Can Hill. This is an

	exceptionally illogical argument. The MTBS states that Nail Can has been damaged by MTB use and the creation of illegal trails. DEHAMP assumes that this will not happen on Eastern Hill. Albury Wodonga Mountain Bikers Inc. (AWM Inc.) are licensed with Crown Land to maintain the trails on Nail Can. A look at AWMB Inc. Facebook page illustrates that they are struggling to do this. On the weekend at the start of October 2022, their FB page reveals that no one turned up to their trail maintenance day. It is highly unlikely the creation of trails on Eastern Hill will take the pressure off Nail Can – rather it will result in land degradation and the loss of a calming place in the heart of Albury. Priorities in the DEHAMP – these favour mountain biking – the first priority is to create MTB trails, and as stated at a council pop-up, other aspects of the plan will be undertaken when funding is available. This again reflects the bias in the DEHAMP. If the plan is to increase greater usage of Eastern Hill, then priorities like the access road should come first. Need to keep the natural feel of Eastern Hill – any changes to Eastern Hill need to ensure that the feel of the natural environment is kept. This means that walking tracks should not be cemented or graded into flat paths. Eastern Hill is a quiet place, a place for tranquillity, a place for quiet contemplation, an escape from the hustle and bustle of day to day life. Currently Eastern Hill is used for passive recreation. I believe it should stay that way. Mountain biking is incongruous with current hill usage. Eastern Hill is the natural heart of Albury. Where else can people be in such an environment so close to a city centre. This is what attracts/can attract people to the hill. Rather than an Activation Plan, perhaps efforts should be put into a Pacification Plan. Why the need to “activate” the hill. In line with this, greater effort should be put into developing a comprehensive environmental plan for Eastern Hill that aims to revegetate the area in alignment to the traditional natural habitat of the area. Efforts should be put into conserving and growing the native flora and fauna. Giving the eastern face of the hill to MTB is incompatible with this. The current design for the lookout at the trig point needs to be toned down to keep in line with the natural environment. The design appears to be trying to make a statement. The views should be the statement, and any structures should not detract from the aesthetics of the area. Walking track signage – this feature of the plan is a welcome idea. The signage should provide directions for the walking tracks, as well as QR codes that link to historical information on the use of the land, including indigenous use and the historical significance of Hume and Hovell. Round-about at the top of Walsh Street – I feel there is a questionable need for this. I believe it would be disruptive to the flow of traffic on East Street. Whilst it is acknowledged that East Street has become a “rat run” to avoid the traffic chaos on the Borella Road overpass, I don't believe a round-about will solve the issues. More effort should be put into lobbying State and Federal governments to provide the funding to ensure the overpass meets traffic demands (as was in the original overpass /freeway design). Access Road upgrade – The road up to the lookout is definitely in need of upgrading. It is a pity that council had to spend so much on DEHAMP to realise this. A simple site inspection would have shown the disrepair. Overall, whilst there are elements in the plan that are reasonable, there is more that is objectionable. I would like to again state that the plan has no legitimate basis. Thus, as part of my submission I would like to request a moratorium on the DEHAMP, and a review of the actions

	by council staff which have caused the fiasco and media circus the DEHAMP has become. My concern is that the same flawed and bias plan development will occur again, whether it is for the other parks and reserves earmarked in the MTBS or in projects that have nothing to do with MTB. Please do not redevelop this area. It is a nature corridor, and putting mountain bike tracks in there will destroy it, as will over stylised lookouts. There is so much natural beauty there and this plan will destroy it. The NE region is renown for mountain biking and has a plethora of tracks. Another one is not needed. Please do not ruin this area!

Glenda Jones (multiple submissions)	I have lived on Eastern Hill for many years and write with grave concerns over Council's proposed redevelopment plans (Eastern Hill Activation Master Plan). Some of the plan as presented by Yonder do have merit but there are other aspects to which I am strongly opposed, sections which I believe amount to environmental vandalism and certainly are not in keeping with Council's stated aims and objectives. Council states on its own website – under the title of *Our Community have had their say* – that "Protecting our natural environment with a focus on environmental sustainability" and "Creating more green spaces, utilising native vegetation and protecting existing open spaces" is what the community sees as important. Further, again on the Council's website under the title of *What do we want to be (outcomes)?* – it states, *"Albury is a recognised leader in the conversation and management of our natural assets"*. As a long-time resident of the Eastern Hill community, I am concerned that the local residents were not included in the meeting of 'stakeholders. In the BRIEF from Yonder Architects Draft Eastern Hill Activation Master Plan, given to Council members for discussion, it states clearly that they (Yonder) were asked to "Consider other users, adjacent residential properties …". That has not been the case for anyone living on Eastern Hill that I have spoken to, and I consider this a massive oversight by Yonder and by Council. It would seem obvious that the people who live in close proximity to Eastern Hill and use this beautiful area for recreational walking and cycling, bird watching, bush walking, and for the peaceful solitude of the area would have valuable information to share. My husband and I live directly opposite the small park almost at the highest point on East Street. The park has been a welcome addition to our community. Adjacent to the park is the greenbelt area recognised by Council some years ago as a 'Significant Environmental Area' – with a sign erected stating that. Nothing has been enhanced in that area since the sign was erected. At one stage Parklands Albury Wodonga planted small trees and shrubs but these died from neglect/drought/vandalism. In addition, housing and development have lessened the size of the habitat of native animals, birds and flowers in that region. The present green belt from the back of the Base Hospital, across Walsh Street, along the top of Heath Street and down into Devils Glen provides an important 'corridor of green' for the movement of animals and birds to and from the Murray River/Doctors Point. Any development in these areas will have a significant impact on the threatened species which live there – including the crimson spider orchid, golden moth orchid, sugar gliders, and the remaining Grassy Box Woodlands and Open Forest Vegetation – which Council states (Pg 15 - Eastern Hill Activation Master Plan – Engagement Outcomes Summary) will 'likely fall under a Threatened Ecological Communities listing under Federal and State legislation'. Whilst Council state they will revegetate this area and leave those corridors of green, this disturbance and intrusion on their present habitat will result in them seeking other areas to live. This is also particularly appropriate for the wallaby and kangaroo populations. While council claim they will have lots of area to live, they will be displaced simply because of the initial building and the presence of people in their area. They are not domesticated animals; they are naturally shy and move from areas with 'high traffic' and noise. They have already been driven

	back by housing development and any action on the Hill will simply drive them back further and may even result in them leaving Eastern Hill for areas where there is less intrusion. Please, please, do not allow this area to be destroyed. It is always such a joy to see an animal or bird in close proximity as we walk along tracks on the hill. Our children have had this thrill, and we want to protect it for the next generation. Part of the area does need additional protection and enhancement, and I would like to see more understory plantings, nesting boxes for squirrel gliders and birds – with hollow trees becoming scarce – and the eradication of weeds. I appreciate that Council over time have destroyed blackberries, but I have for many years pulled out a variety of other weeds, particularly three cornered jacks (bindi), camel melons and paddy melons, Bathurst burrs and Patterson's curse. There remains, however, many more weed varieties which need eradication. I urge you to use your voice in supporting the resident of Eastern Hill who are very concerned about the destruction of our beautiful natural wonderland. I have been fortunate to meet many of council's staff over the last few weeks to discuss the Eastern Hill Redevelopment Master Plan and have most of my queries answered, the exception being the 'big picture' items such as the roundabout where things won't become apparent until after the Plan is accepted. I worry that, if we wait until after the Plan is accepted, there will be no opportunity to object to certain things on the roundabout - such as are they going to take the hilltops on each side to raise the level of the 'dip' where the roundabout is to be situated (making a very steep drop into Walsh Street from east Street, and all the accompanying difficulties with pedestrians crossing, walkways, etc.) But the query that most worries me, and I need to have a response to this question before the closing of submission at the end of the month, is whether submitted will have their names and addresses left in correspondence presented, which will then be released publicly. Whilst I am very happy for council staff or councillors to knock on my door for a genuine discussion, I will not be happy if the media arrives to ambush me, or any other person unknown to me is able to access my information. If this is indeed the case, that personal information will be publicly available, I believe strongly Council needed to have included on their "Have Your Say' submission forum some information in relation to that, and ask submitters to sign a privacy statement, in whatever format that would be. will await a response in due course, and certainly expect a detailed response before the close on submissions on 4 October. I draw Council's attention to recent reports by the Australian Conservation Foundation in relation to Australia's "extinction crisis" – with hundreds of our flora and fauna at high risk of extinction. It reports that this is "arguably the worst environmental crisis humanity currently faces … recent studies show that one million species are now threatened with extinction with at least 515 terrestrial vertebrates likely to be lost within the next 20 years unless major conservation action is undertaken. Widespread clearing of native vegetation for urban development and agricultural pursuits, the spreading of alien diseases and altering fire regimes have resulted in threatened processes that have an especially profound impact on native special". The ACF specifies 'Invasive species and disease' as the most prevalent of a set of key threats impacting on nationally threatened Australia flora and fauna. Also included in this are habitat loss, fragmentation and degradation and adverse fire regimes.

	One of the species most in danger at present is something specific to our local area, the Bogong Moth. As councillors may know, the Bogong Moth has recently been listed as endangered on the international red list of threatened species. It was assessed along with 123 other Australian species, 56 of which are now listed as threatened with extinction. Over recent years there has been a 95% reduction in the number of Bogong Moths, and this has a cascading effect on other species and repercussions for other critically endangered animals which depend on it. People of our region have marvelled at the migratory habits of the Bogong Moth, taking to the air on their annual migration to the alpine regions to rest for the summer. A very recent article by the ACF, as part of a change.org petition, quotes Albury/Mungabareena as a place of significance – where First Nations people gathered from all over the region and follow the Bogong Moth Trail (quote from Leonie McIntosh, a CSU alumni, when interviewed for the ABC's This Place program). The decline in the number of Bogong Moths making their migratory journey every year has been linked to various environmental factors. In the Murray Darling Basin, the main winter breeding ground of the Bogong Moth, changes to farming practices, use of pesticides/insecticides, dryer and warmer temperatures and light pollution which upsets the natural 'visual clues' which Bogong Moths use to make their migratory journey. The night sky is no longer filled with just natural light from the moon and stars but with artificial light, particularly as cities and towns grow and spread and brightly lit high-rise city buildings develop. It is well known recognised that any darkness interruption has dangerous and disruptive side effects for insects, birds, reptiles, amphibians, and humans. It sees adult Bogong Moths fatally diverted from their migrations. But the effects extend beyond migration to navigation, plant blooming as well as when trees lose their leaves. All activities are affected by the period of light and not temperature. A season's photoperiod is the only consistent factor in the natural environment. Therefore, many species of plants and animals rely on the length of the night to indicate the proper season for budding & flowering, mating, moulting, and other life cycle activities. I implore councillors to reconsider the effects of construction on Eastern Hill, particularly with regard to the upgrading and lighting of the lookout area, Trig Point and possible roundabout at the top of East Street (to which I am absolutely opposed) with resultant noise and light pollution and disruption to the way of life of our beautiful animals and birds (many threatened or endangered species) which live in that area. A recent report by the Australian Conservation Foundation puts forward compelling arguments to support Australia's "extinction crisis" – with hundreds of our flora and fauna at high risk of extinction, saying it is "arguably the worse environmental crisis humanity currently faces … recent studies show that one million species are now threatened with extinction with at least 515 terrestrial vertebrates likely to be lost within the next 20 years unless major conservation action is undertaken. Widespread clearing of native vegetation for urban development and agricultural pursuits, the spreading of alien diseases and altering fire regimes have resulted in threatened processes that have an

	especially profound impact on native special". The ACF specifies 'Invasive species and disease' as the most prevalent of a set of key threats impacting our nationally threatened Australia flora and fauna. Also included in this are habitat loss, fragmentation and degradation and adverse fire regimes. We recognise that we have on Eastern Hill, a number of threatened and endangered species, all of which are in need of protection before it is too late and they become extinct. Australia has a very poor record of prevention of native species, and it is in all our interests to do more in this regard. Whilst I welcome the revegetation of parts of Eastern Hill to prevent erosion, to connect lost patches of natural habitat and link corridors of green for the safe movement of birds and animals, I am concerned that this might not be as carefully managed as it needs to be. Developing larger habitat patches will increase bird abundance, but how do we protect the birds and animals living on Eastern Hill now? My concern is that, once bird/animal habitats are disturbed (even for regeneration purposes), the common and more robust birds/animals return but others do not. My questions to Council all relate to the preservation of species and animal and bird families which live on Eastern Hill: How does Council best protect the family of Swamp Wallabies? Wallabies are not 'opportunistic' and travel far and wide in search of food and water. They stay in their small habitat, so any threat or disturbance is likely to have disastrous effects? How does Council best protect the population of kangaroos on the Eastern side of the Hill which have already been pushed back through urbanisation? How does Council best protect endangered flora – crimson spider orchids and golden moth orchids, and other native flowers and grasses; How does Council best protect the endangered squirrel glider and minimise the effects of light pollution on their nocturnal habitats; How does Council best protect Bogong Moths on their migration to the high country, where lights of cities cause confusion and mis-cueing; How does Council best protect old-growth timber, and extend the life of trees to enable them grow to maturity and develop hollows for nesting birds (putting up nesting boxes will help too)? How does Council best protect our endangered frog species and other amphibians? Major causes of threats to animals, birds and flora include such issues as water quality - effluent and wastewater, pesticide/herbicides leeching, Garbage and solid waste, Oil spills, Seepage from industrial sites. Our climate change emergency, extreme weather conditions causing floods, fires and droughts, alteration to ground/surface water, and pollution of streams and waterways also have an impact on animal and bird life, as do disrupted ecosystems, habitat loss, fragmentation and degradation, invasive species and diseases. The most significant threat to our native flora and fauna is, of course, human intrusion, direct or otherwise, expansion of agriculture and urban development and constructions. Facebook messages from Council just in the past few weeks indicate its commitment to green values and the retention/enhancement of natural spaces and vegetation. The community expects Council to adhere to the undertakings and commitments they have made in relation

	to these issues. I support the revegetation of Eastern Hill, and a scaled back version of the improvements to the entry to the Lookout, upgrading of the lookout and toilets, and the construction of an all-abilities track to Trig Point. However, I DO NOT SUPPORT the extension of a man-made track beyond Trig Point to Elke's Chair, the removal of Elke's Chair and the construction of a roundabout at the corner of East & Walsh Streets, despite increased traffic flow and the use of East Street as a 'rat run' for people travelling between Wodonga or South Albury to the airport, industrial hub and Lake Hume. I wish to object to part of the Eastern Hill Redevelopment Master Plan, in particularly the multi-faceted and what I consider to be excessive construction of a viewing feature/platform around the Trig Point area. With an extensive construction proposed at the Lookout, I do not see the point of simply making another large structure at the Trig Point, just a few hundred metres from the Lockout. The Lookout is indeed in need of some major upgrading, and I think this should be the most prominent structure built on the Hill. It is in a wonderful, easy to get to are and is anticipated to include much-needed toilets and an upgrade of the car parking space and roadway to simplify the entry and exit to the Lookout. I think this is great planning and I like the design and structure, although it could be scaled back a little without detracting from the zone. However, because we have a very large viewing platform constructed on this site, I think having another just shortly down the track is an over-reaction and an expensive exercise to do exactly the same thing – provide a lookout/viewing platform with signage to show people where landmarks are. Whilst I support in principle the grading of the track from the Lookout to Trig Point, I DO NOT support any grading or path widening in the area from the Trig Point to Elke's Chair and the area looking across to the Kiewa Valley. I think this area should be left as natural as possible, maybe with a little vegetation planting but left in its natural state to revegetate largely on its own and continue to provide grassland and hiding spaces areas for animals, birds and reptiles The area is a wonderful place to walk and soak in the scenery, the fresh country air, and everyone enjoys the path just the way it is without making it a large, graded area. The path does not need any grading, and in fact should be left exactly how it is now. People have enjoyed walking this area for hundreds of years, firstly our Indigenous inhabitants, then Hume and Hovell (with the resulting Hume & Hovell Track constructed for the bi-centenary), then came farmers with their stock, and most recently it has been a wildlife refuge and place for people to get out of the city without going anywhere! It has become a mecca for good health and relaxation and communing with nature, and I believe it should be left alone in its natural state with some revegetation being done in areas which are eroded and denuded. Otherwise, it is perfect. I object to the Redevelopment of Eastern Hill Master Plan, in some cases I am mildly concerned, in some places I am really concerned, but my overall feeling is that it is overly extravagant, not needed, and will be an expensive exercise for Council ratepayers both at the initial constructions stages and then at each stage after that, together with the considerable cost of maintenance of all construction buildings,

	revegetation works, maintaining trails, weed eradication .. And the list goes on. I strongly disagree with the huge impact the construction will have on the Hill and surrounding areas, and the disruption to traffic, local residents, local wildlife and the general amenity of the area. As local residents, we purchased our properties because of the serenity of that area, the location of the green belt, the attraction of being able to walk across the road and into the bush and see animals and birds up close in their natural environment. My children enjoyed these aspects, and I want my grandchildren to be able to enjoy the same pleasures. Any construction/intrusion will displace the Black Wallaby population – they are not 'opportunistic' like kangaroos and remain in the one area for their entirety. The kangaroos who 'roam' the eastern slopes will be pushed back and come into more contact with householders, their dogs, and generally have their area 'eaten' up with mountain bike tracks. Any maps that I have been able to acquire do not show in sufficient detail the regeneration and conservation works which will happen. The only map which was more detailed was a large copy on display at the QEll Square pop-up, which I thank Council for facilitating. I was able to speak of my concerns with a number Albury City staff, although they could not give me specific answers about many of my concerns, saying those issues would be decided on acceptance (or otherwise) of the Plan. Questions like what sort of road build up would be needed to facilitate the roundabout at the corner of Walsh and East Streets – would construction take the top off each hill or move soil/rubble in to make the 'dip' higher, causing a huge drop-off into Walsh Street. I have a concern also that, if cars are giving ways to pedestrians on the raised walkways at the roundabout, it would result in car/truck queuing at the roundabout and, because of poor visibility (sun glare, fog, weather conditions) and short time for vehicle drivers to focus on what is happening in the 'dip' of the hills, will certainly result in rear-end crashes. I understand the Master Plan is a very long term one (although I don't accept it will take 20-25 years as I heard a staff member say recently) so I will address my issues with the things that are most likely to be the 'first cab off the rank' in any redevelopment of Eastern Hill. Council staff have said, and the plan indicates, that the first stage of 'construction' will be the clearing and levelling land to make way for trails on the eastern side of Eastern Hill. I would remind Councillors of the discussions at the first Council Information session that mountain bike trails first, before revegetation works, was 'putting the cart before the horse'. It was believed strongly by me and others that revegetation should take place first to give the revegetated trees, shrubs, etc. time to become established before mountain bikers used the area. Obviously common sense tells me that the areas would be roped off/protected by orange tape but there is a very real possibility (certainty) that mountain bikes going at speed will simply leave the track and 'crash through' wherever they can – maybe by accident or design. Therefore, I implore Council to begin any revegetation works on Eastern Hill before the introduction of mountain bike trails and riders. I welcome revegetation of the Water Tank precinct (where there have been discoveries of endangered species such as the crimson spider and golden moth orchid) and the Heath Street Precinct. I am not in favour of wide-spread work, as I think it will further damage the fragile eco-system. This area has a far more significant co-diversity than other parts of Eastern Hill and must be protected and enhanced with minimum 'footprint' and disturbance. It is not a job for people with no experience in native planting/revegetation but a delicate balance of

	responsibilities to both the green spaces we acer for and the local residents who live there and do much of the tidying, picking up rubbish, getting rid of weeds, disposing of leaves and debris from drains and gutters to allow water to flow (in heavy downpours the leaves/branches gather at the top of the drain, with water simply "jumping" the drains and coursing down the hill). As I mentioned, there are aspects of this plan I support – but not the overall excessively grand and costly Plan. The lookout area needs upgrading with sealing of the carpark, new toilets, new bollards, a new viewing platform all necessary but not to the extent of the plans, which will be enormously costly, but I don't think will provide Council's ratepayers with 'bang for their buck'. Do we really know how many people go to the carpark and for what reasons? We know that hoons get there at night, we know that some walkers with their dogs begin from here for their walk to the Kiewa Valley Lookout (most are local and simply walk through the bush from East Street), but do we know how many people (tourists) come and spend time taking in the views? It is a beautiful area, with unsurpassed views in all directions, but I am unconvinced that it will become the tourist attraction Council staff envisage. I wish to make a submission in relation to the EASTERN HILL REDEVELOPMENT MASTER PLAN Whilst there are some aspects of the Master Plan that I support, mostly regarding upgrading the Eastern Hill Lookout and entries and exits, I strongly disagree with the magnitude of the proposal and the intention to include a Roundabout at the corner of East and Walsh Streets. Whilst I understand Council's search for innovative ideas and the upgrade of public spaces, I think this Master Plan totally misses the mark in relation to appropriate development and 'bang for buck' for council ratepayers. It is too large and too costly; scale it back by 50% and much of it has merit. My reasons for totally opposing the placement of a roundabout at the corner of East and Walsh Street include: Position : The proposed roundabout is in the 'dip' between the apex of two hills in East Street, those hills being in very close proximity to each other. I can only assume Council will either shave the top off each hill to reduce the 'dip' or put more soil onto the proposed roundabout area to raise it. If it is either of these, then the drop off from the roundabout for people entering the east end of Walsh Street will become very steep, and in reverse the steep grade will make it more difficult for drivers exiting Walsh St onto East Street. I also believe visibility will be difficult – with such a short time for drivers to see what is on the roundabout after cresting the hill/s in East Street. The impact of sun glare, bad weather and fog will only exacerbate the difficulty for motorists, cyclists and pedestrians using the surrounding roads and paths. It is cyclists we are purporting to want to attract to this area, but I see this plan as an increased danger for them. Roundabouts require many warning and directional signs for safety (an eye-sore for those living in close proximity). The central island and entrance/exit need to be well lit at night, making it costly. As I have said, roundabouts have a particularly poor safety record for cyclists and motorcyclists. In addition, the proposed pedestrian crossings, with raised walkways through the traffic islands, are in a very dangerous place – motorists exiting East Street onto Walsh will need to wait for pedestrians crossing, with the potential to cause a 'log jam' of cars on the roundabout or

	trying to enter the roundabout. To lessen the possibility/probability of accidents if the roundabout is built, this area will need to be very well lit, with appropriate street markings and signage. Statistics show that most of the accidents involving cars and pedestrians happen around crosswalks, mainly due to lack of visibility. Traffic slowing technique: I don't believe a roundabout is the best solution to the traffic dilemma on East Street – both the amount of traffic and the speed at which drivers come up and across the hill, particularly from the Schubach Street roundabout. As someone who lives right on East Street, I certainly share Council's concern at the speed at which many drivers travel, and local residents are concerned for the safety of people in our area, with a children's play park located just below the apex of the first hill. There are so many drivers, particularly at night, who do not abide by the speed limit, but this is exacerbated by the large number of heavy vehicles and 'tradies' using East Street Hill in order to cut out the traffic bottleneck at the exit from the Highway onto Borella Road and with traffic congestion which occurs at the Borella Road/Schubach Street intersection. I believe Council should urgently address how best to discourage heavy vehicles and others from using East Street as a cut through to the eastern end of Borella Road, the airport Industrial Hub and Lake Hume. For that reason, I would like to see a police presence on Eastern Hill and perhaps the introduction of a speed camera. Maybe even the building of a bone-jarring speed hump right at the apex of the hill, where people travelling at the speed limit won't be particularly troubled but those travelling at high speed will be definitely inconvenienced! Global warming aspect: Early this year Albury City adopted a stance on climate change, embracing the concept of a 'climate emergency' and proclaiming that more needs to be done, and further "we are in a state of emergency that requires urgent action by all levels of Government, including Council, to mitigate against the adverse effects of climate change" (the words of Cr Ashley Edwards, BM, 22 March 2022). Further, Council adopted "ambitious targets to cut carbon emissions" and "meeting community expectations for council leadership for action on climate change" (the words of the previous Deputy Mayor, Amanda Cohn). Construction is responsible for a very large amount of greenhouse gas, with the use of heavy machinery working in these areas for extended periods, regarding to the disposal of rubbish (concrete/asphalt, timber, clearing of land) producing copious amounts of waste, the majority of which will end up in landfill, quite apart from the belching of fuel from heavy machinery into the atmosphere in close proximity to housing. This would seem totally at odds to council's advertised position of protecting the environment and lessening our 'footprint' wherever possible. Environmental: This area (proposed roundabout) is an important vegetation habit and 'green corridor' for many animals and birds, and any disturbance to their habitat will have dire consequences. Noise and light pollution have serious consequences particularly for nocturnal animals such as bats, squirrel gliders and birds by disturbing their natural day cycle. Statics show that interruption of darkness has dangerous and disruptive side effects for insects, birds, reptiles, even amphibians. The effects extend to migration (think Bogong Moth – a record number have disappeared in recent years, resulting in them being added to the IUCN's red list of threatened special) Their

	population has decreased due to protracted drought bought about by climate change and light pollution, which often sees adult moths fatally diverted from their normal migrations. Research statistics show that changes in light signals the start of activities such as foraging, sheltering, mating, reproducing, and communicating. And further "Artificial light alters animal's circadian rhythms and creates miss-cues. Lights can draw and disorient, cause disruption to migratory birds who use the moon and stars, be very disorienting for animals who are trying to move at night, and so wildlife corridors can be compromised by even a single light and so prevent animals from moving across the landscapes. In addition, predators have an advantage by seeing over a larger area, and their prey need to seek darkness, spend more time hiding and less time foraging. Lighting changes the predator/prey relationship." Air Pollution: When it comes to air pollution, the production of dioxide gases is one of the main factors contributing to global warming. It is reported that the construction sector is responsible for around 40% of carbon dioxide emissions. These high percentages come from actions on constructions sites, transport, and the manufacturing of building materials. Dust from construction pollutes the air, particularly dust particles from cement/wood/stone which can cause serious health problems for humans and animals. For all the above reasons, I implore Council to consider the above issues before approving the construction of a roundabout in East Street, and in the extravagant redevelopment of the Eastern Hill Lookout and Trig point area as indicated by the master plan I have lived on Eastern Hill for many years and write with grave concerns over Council's proposed redevelopment plans (Eastern Hill Activation Master Plan). Some of the plan as presented by Yonder do have merit but there are other aspects to which I am strongly opposed, sections which I believe amount to environmental vandalism and certainly are not in keeping with Council's stated aims and objectives. Council states on its own website – under the title of Our Community have had their say – that "Protecting our natural environment with a focus on environmental sustainability" and "Creating more green spaces, utilising native vegetation and protecting existing open spaces" is what the community sees as important. Further, again on the Council's website under the title of What do we want to be (outcomes)? – it states "Albury is a recognised leader in the conversation and management of our natural assets". As a long-time resident of the Eastern Hill community, I am concerned that the local residents were not included in the meeting of 'stakeholders'. In the BRIEF from Yonder Architects Draft Eastern Hill Activation Master Plan, given to Council members for discussion, it states clearly that they (Yonder) were asked to "Consider other users, adjacent residential properties …". That has not been the case for anyone living on Eastern Hill that I have spoken to, and I consider this a massive oversight by Yonder and by Council. It would seem obvious that the people who live in close proximity to Eastern Hill and use this beautiful area for recreational walking and cycling, bird watching, bush walking, and for the peaceful solitude of the area would have valuable information to share. My husband and I live directly opposite the small park almost at the highest point on East Street. The park has been a welcome addition to

	our community. Adjacent to the park is the greenbelt area recognised by Council some years ago as a 'Significant Environmental Area' – with a sign erected stating that. Nothing has been enhanced in that area since the sign was erected. At one stage Parklands Albury Wodonga planted small trees and shrubs but these died from neglect/drought/vandalism. In addition, housing and development have lessened the size of the habitat of native animals, birds and flowers in that region. The present green-belt from the back of the Base Hospital, across Walsh Street, along the top of Heath Street and down into Devils Glen provides an important 'corridor of green' for the movement of animals and birds to and from the Murray River/Doctors Point. Any development in these areas will have a significant impact on the threatened species which live there – including the crimson spider orchid, golden moth orchid, sugar gliders, and the remaining Grassy Box Woodlands and Open Forest Vegetation – which Council states (Pg 15 - Eastern Hill Activation Master Plan – Engagement Outcomes Summary) will 'likely fall under a Threatened Ecological Communities listing under Federal and State legislation'. Whilst Council state they will revegetate this area and leave those corridors of green, this disturbance and intrusion on their present habitat will result in them seeking other areas . This is also particularly appropriate for the wallaby and kangaroo populations. While council claim they will have lots of area to live, they will be displaced simply because of the initial building and the presence of people in their area. They are not domesticated animals; they are naturally shy and move from areas with 'high traffic' and noise. They have already been driven back by housing development and any action on the Hill will simply drive them back further and may even result in them leaving Eastern Hill for areas where there is less intrusion. Please, please, do not allow this area to be destroyed. It is always such a joy to see an animal or bird in close proximity as we walk along tracks on the hill. Our children have had this thrill, and we want to protect it for the next generation. am totally against this proposal for so many reasons. It flies in the face of councils and community's stated values which are "protecting our natural environment including our flora and fauna", "creating more green spaces, utilising native vegetation and protecting existing open areas".

Glenys Atkins	I am a regular dog and solo walker from my home in East Albury, up to the seat at Eastern Hill. It is always a lovely walk, no matter the weather. It is often shared with a friend, or just a gentle good morning to others, who are there at the same time. I am not against redevelopment in terms of upgrade to the car park, amenities, or a to scale look out. I would say that it is us early-morning dog walkers, who pick up the vast amounts of rubbish, generally of the fast food variety, and place it in the one bin that is currently there. I hope that within any increased Visitation, Albury City council will take on this role completely. And please - not too much concrete to increase the heat! I am somewhat bewildered that mountain bike groups were consulted as key stakeholders for the first stage of community consultation. I can honestly say I don't think I have ever seen a mountain bike rider up there and that just makes me so very happy. Walkers, dogs and bikes, don't mix. It is always comforting to know that you're not going be taken out by a bike. I am also unclear as to why every area needs to be "activated". In so doing, you can lose the very thing that makes an area so special and loved. I'd also really like to see the walk from the trig point to the seat remain as it is, the track that we all know so well. This doesn't exclude anybody from enjoying the view at the look out, but just allows people who wish to do so to amble along in quiet reflection to the seat. No mountain bikes, please. Nail Can hill is for them. Please leave this special place untouched from the trig point to the seat and give the natural environment the win.
Glenys Salter	There are many aspects of the Eastern Hill Activation Master Plan that are commendable. This popular location provides a wonderful perspective of the natural beauty of our area and has been long neglected. The upgrades to amenities and the viewing platforms will enhance the walking trails. The redevelopment provides a great opportunity to rehabilitate the area in line with the Regional Natural Environment Strategy 2020-2032. The development of mountain bike trails is at odds with the strategy and should be removed from the plan. This is an opportunity to create a natural green space that is consistent with the previously stated strategy. This is a long term proposal for future generations and the many friends of the hill would value the opportunity to get involved. Please review the plan to align it with the environment strategy. Please remove the mountain bike trails. Please ensure that in 50 years we can look back with pride as we enjoy a healthy and flourishing nature reserve.
Grace Alexander	Off our Hume and hovel track located at the ridge of the mountain, where proposed mountain bike track would be, vegetate and plant trees. Native tree species planned around the tracks are vital and can be done under the eye line.

Grace Haynes	These changes are going to ruin the ridge and the walk experience. This is solely a walking trail and we do not need mountain bikes in this area. It's not overcrowded and the people that do use this are respectful to the area. You don't see any trash on the ridge and the environment impact is low compared to what the council plan on doing. Leave it alone and spend the money elsewhere.
Grace Kernaghan	So good to hear about this plan and give my feedback. I think it is a great idea and really well thought out. Having tracks for mountain bikers and walkers will open it up to more people to use - not just the handful of people that currently do. The trails currently are in quite bad shape and can get overgrown in summer and rutted through winter. It would be good to have more information up there on the views and landmarks etc. Having more seating and viewing platforms will beautify the area and formalise the best spots to enjoy the vista. Better tracks to walk on will open it up to people of all abilities and disabilities. Mountain bike trails separate from the walking tracks are a great idea - lets more active exercise happen away from more passive exercise. Kids will come up the hill and use the bike trails more. It will be good to have people of all ages and stages of life using the space for all uses whether you picnic, walk, watch birds or ride.
Grace Langmead	I am opposed to this plan. Eastern Hill is such a valuable piece of public land close to the centre of Albury residents. Please do not let it go to more organised and revenue making organised sport. I do not use social media and missed the original opportunity to have a say on the proposed new mountain bike trails. I support mountain biking in general and understand the local group are a conscientious and well-behaved group. I also understand and have some experience during the pandemic and previously, of homemade trails on public land. I question whether the opening of new trails will change what I experienced as 'boys will be boys' behaviour. However if new trails are to be made by council, please survey more widely and accessibly.
Graham Docksey	I fully support the proposal. This is a much visited viewing point and long overdue for an upgrade. Whilst the "seat" is both personal and significant it cannot be allied to undermine the project. This seat could still be incorporated in the project. What is best for the community is more important than the minority with the loudest voices to dictate. Some councillors fail to be bold and cow tail to the few with the loudest voices. Long overdue so please go with it.

Greg Hayes	I am opposed to the creation of mountain bike trails on Eastern Hill as proposed by Council. I have observed the intrusive nature of mountain biking in other locations and as a bush walker and nature lover I feel the activity needs to be restricted to very limited areas and trails. I was unaware of the proposal since I do not use social media and it only came to my attention when it was discussed with friends living on Eastern Hill who use the tracks almost daily. While I agree that mountain biking has a place, I don't think that it is sensible to spoil what is a wonderful area that is enjoyed by many older people. In addition to Nail Can Hill, there are many bike tracks around Yackandandah and Beechworth that are easily accessible to Albury's riders.
Greg Haysom	These plans look great, this area has been a popular lookout since i was a teenager, and the road and lookout have been in disrepair for years. Beautifying it, so more people can enjoy it safely is great. I look forward to taking photos from there once it is completed.
Greta Quinlivan	Why were no local residents/adjacent residents invited to the workshops or notified of Master Plan? What does improve entry experience mean specifically for Mount Street? This is a quiet residential street with limited parking encouraging more people to park and access the area from this point would impact on traffic flow and safety at the top of Mount Street. The maintenance of the reserve at the end of Mount Street has been lacking for many years, the drainage is particular issue. When the water tanks malfunctioned, and water came pouring through residents' yards there was no apology or contact after the event to check residents' properties were not damaged. Sediment in storm water from the reserve is an ongoing issue with residents in Mount Street having to maintains storm water drains so their properties don't flood. The management of the reserve from a vegetation perspective is also lacking the EPBC Listed vegetation community is degrading from lack of management. Weed control and a cool season burn would start to improve the habitat for the many threatened species in the reserve. If the Council has been unable to manage the reserve until now how will the Council manage the increase network of tracks, traffic and visitor assets?
Harry Nyman	I agree that there needs to be a viewing platform but there should be a centre/ cafe that can cater for functions as it provides the best views of the spectacular area of Australia that we live in. The fact that a cafe is available would attract more casual walkers bike riders etc and could be a show piece. The Council should think bigger! it may also produce a welcome income stream.
Hazel McKenzie	I want to see more animals on Eastern Hill. If we plant more trees, it will mean the animals are safe and have somewhere to live. If there are mountain bikes everywhere, where will the animals live? I'm worried they will get run over and die. If there were picnic tables at the lookout, I could take my lunch up there and watch the birds. Eastern Hill is my favourite place to take my dogs for a walk. I love to sit on the seat and see the snow.

Heather Alderman	I think Eastern Hill should have gentle walking paths...no cement. The planting of native local vegetation needs to be done...so many introduced species there at the moment. Cement paths/spaces are very hot in summer and cement production requires huge amounts of polluting materials to produce...and surely, we have enough at Nouriel!!! Mountain bike riders already have huge chunks of Nail Can Hill....are constantly making more illegal tracks and seem to care little for the impact of their sport on the environment....and you suggest more on Eastern Hill!!!!...And we really have enough tokenistic, ugly sculptures around the city. Eastern Hill could be a gentle natural space for all to enjoy without human made stuff cluttering and polluting the environment.
Heike Wilson Multiple submissions	I was late for the walk today, but I went up Eastern Hill a bit later. No matter how often I do this walk I am still in awe of the beauty and spirit of this place. I am for development but not at the cost of the soul of this magical spot. I am also absolutely devastated about the changes that Albury council has planned for this space. I am all for accessibility, but I think it could be done less intrusively with much, much less concrete. I'm sure that wheelchair users would like to enjoy nature in a more unspoilt way. I am dead set against the mountain bike trials, absolutely not necessary and it will destroy the peace of the place and upset all the dogs! Maintain / expand Nail Can hill, leave eastern hill reserve alone…

Helen Cretan	1. Unbelievable that the pop ups were Wed 7 and Sat 10 September 2022, but I received an email notifying of them on Wed 14 September. That is, after the event. https://haveyoursay.alburycity.nsw.gov.au/eastern-hill-activation-master-plan. And also, far too late for Albury Council information session. Am I working from a different calendar? September is September, the ninth month of the year, with 30 days, no matter where in the world I am, no matter what language I speak at home. I thought it best to notify people well before and not after the event. 2. I would like to see a plan of the proposed development. Where may I do this? I hope there would be a more accessible place for me than going to Eastern Hill in this wet weather. 3. I am particularly interested in the location of the proposed mountain (mt) bike trail/s and where they are in relation to the walking track. 4. I do not like the mix of mt bike track and walking track, which is one crossing over the other. My reasons why, and I feel that AlburyCity Council has a lot more to do if this ends up being the case: a. I am a seasoned bushwalker of over 40 years and alert to my surroundings. I do not walk with a phone plugged into my ear listening to music - I don't own one for a start, nor did I own a Walkman. I learnt the need to use a bell on my bike at the age of 10 when I joined the Brownies. b. I hate walking at Horseshoe Lagoon and have had a few nasty encounters with people riding bikes. Even a parent (about 40 years old) riding with 2 children under the age of 10-12 years. They had absolutely no idea of how they should approach a walker from behind. There was no endeavour to ring the bike bell. They simply did not know why a bike bell is on a bike in the first place. This family of 3 encounter was the 3rd time cyclists came far too close was the last time I walked at Horseshoe Lagoon some 16 months ago. I started to go there from the start of covid lockdown period, May 2020. 3 times in one month was enough for me to 'scrap' that destination! c. I hate walking on Nail Can Hill, the west end of Gap Road access, starting just north of Kalianna. I walk on Nail Can Hill during September to November to see the wildflowers. Once again, the young men I have encountered along here also do not know when and why they should use the bell on their bike when approaching a walker from behind. d. I found the same disregard to walkers by those on bikes from 2 other access points some 5-6 years ago. d. That's why my preferred wildflower walk is along the track on what I call the 'Reserve' on the east side of Gap Road, parking just north of Kalianna, on the west side. However, there I have encountered a man, in his 50s with a dog not on a leash and I have had to call out 'control your dog'. I hate dogs sniffing around me. They are unpredictable and I just freeze in fear. 5. So, as far as I can see, bikes and walkers, particularity those who may be slightly handicapped, both young and old, do not mix. Their tracks should be well away from each other. I fail to see how this can be achieved on Eastern Hill. Surely then, some other non-walker area can be selected. My Benalla bushwalking friend feels the same as I do about 'bikes and walkers do not mix' and she too is a seasoned bushwalker of 50 years and now with a slight handicap and would appreciate the removal of the style. She liked coming here in May. 6. AlburyCity Council has a lot to do to communicate and 'teach' those on bikes how to approach a walker and the use of bells on bikes. I have not seen any signage regarding use of bell bikes on Nail Can Hill, unless they have been erected since September 2020 when I started

	to visit the Reserve. Even at the Reserve I have not seen a sign saying, 'dogs must be on leashes'. 7. I am always worried approaching the Eastern Hill site from the north, along East Street. Cars travelling south are often travelling at what seems a high speed for a car that soon wants to turn left as I, the driver, anticipates the location of the Eastern Hill signpost. Just the name on a signpost, on the opposite side of the road, is not good enough. Not all those who travel north along this section of East Street do so on a regular basis, to know at exact past which tree or groups of trees, or other feature on the road, is the turnoff to the Eastern Hill walking track. 8. I like the idea of a viewing platform and new toilets. And look forward to improved signage and other road improvements to the Eastern Hill track that make it much safer for all going there. My return to Lavington is further south along East Street, maybe turning around at Wirraway Street, or continuing onto Doctors Point or Schubach Street. 9. What a pity I have not made the 'cut off' date for making any other contribution regarding the redevelopment of Eastern Hill. I am simply astounded at the lack of foresight shown by Albury City Council on this matter. It was as if only the views of mountain bike enthusiasts mattered.
Helen Kennedy	I love the Eastern Hill, natural environment, for walks with family & friends. Albury already has a couple of bike trails, why spoil it with concrete & lookouts. Too many councils, are ruining natural beauty, for tar & cement. We need this bush for future generations to enjoy. The money could be spent on other recreational up grades. Thank you & hope common sense prevails.
Helen Wilson	There are some great concepts in the Masterplan such as improved walking accessibility and some of the viewing destinations so that the area and views are accessible to all. I also like the concept of tank art....everywhere else is doing it (or silo art) and there are some great works and opportunities this hopefully provides for local artists. However, I has grave concerns about the proposed mountain bike trails in this sensitive landscape. The intensity of the trails proposed and the potential negative impacts on the hillside in relation to erosion and damage to native vegetation and wildlife habitat are not warranted. Has the ongoing maintenance and management of these trails been considered? Mountain bike trails need ongoing maintenance and can result in significant erosion impacts. Nail Can Hill has an extensive network of great mountain bike trails already that could do with additional upkeep and ongoing maintenance. I do not support additional mountain bike trails at Eastern Hill - I believe this will have a negative impact on this area and the potential to contribute to erosion that will impact the River Murray floodplain. I support creating well-managing walking /running trails at Eastern Hill with some improved vehicle and viewing areas but do not support the proposed mountain bike trails, it would be better to invest in the existing mountain bike trails at Nail Can and not create more - from an economic and also safety perspective.

Helena Kernaghan	This whole plan is excellent - I am especially happy to see 4 mountain bike trails being included in the plan, there is currently no available Mountain Bike trails in East Albury and there are many Albury residents (including children) that will benefit from this. I also like the new carpark area which will brighten up and beautify the existing carpark, and signage and better kept walking trails which will encourage more residents to use the hill for its many benefits including fresh air, exercise and enjoying nature. Well done Albury City.

Henri Baker Multiple submissions	I am writing with deep concern for the community and stakeholder engagement that has been conducted by AlburyCity in preparation of the Draft Eastern Hill Activation Master Plan. My specific concerns are as follows: • AlburyCity has maintained that a letterbox drop occurred, providing information regarding the survey and/or activation proposal to dwellings adjoining the reserve. I am yet to hear of a resident who has received such information and nor was it received at the dwelling I live at part time on Murray View Road. Additionally, the Engagement Summary does not reference consultation of adjacent residential properties despite this being the minutes of the 8 August tabling of the Draft Master Plan to AlburyCity council stating that this had occurred. • The online survey which represented one of two key platforms for community engagement was not widely publicised (including no physical signage on the reserve) and its results have subsequently been skewed heavily towards a demographic of mountain bike riders. Furthermore, the online survey does not appear to have been validated by any form of physical survey conducted at the location - should any of you wish to spend a day on Eastern Hill I think you will find that the 55.33% of respondents who answered that they used Eastern Hill for bike riding is not at all representative of the population of users. • Engagement with Aboriginal Place Elders is stated to have occurred however the Engagement Summary only captures general comments on the significance of the location and no feelings on the developments proposed in the Draft Eastern Hill Activation Master Plan. • Face to face and video workshops were conducted with the Rotary Club of Albury and Albury Wodonga Mountain Bikers, there was not representation from any other user group during this phase of plan development. The aforementioned points indicate to me that community and stakeholder engagement on activation of the Eastern Hill Reserve have been conducted with the intent of sourcing validation for a set of preconceived plans and ideas. I would like to request the following from AlburyCity: 1. The Stakeholder Engagement Plan that was completed for the project (DOC14/84064) 2. The details of the letterbox drop that supposedly occurred. Specifically: 1. On which date did the letterbox drop take place? 2. Who was contracted to deliver the letter box drop? 3. What were the boundaries of the letterbox drop? I.e. which streets and house numbers were in scope for the letterbox drop. 3. An explanation on how the stakeholder groups were identified for face to face and video workshops. 4. A summary of any additional consultation activities that have taken place with adjacent property owners. 5. A copy of the raw survey data.

	In closing, I appreciate that AlburyCity has taken steps to further engage with the community on this project since it was tabled in early August, I would however like to know to what extent this additional feedback will be taken on board, and should the overwhelming view of the community be that aspects of the proposal should not go ahead will AlburyCity adjust the proposal accordingly? Thank you for your response. I appreciate the effort that you have gone into in attempting to address my concerns; however, I'm still left feeling that there were significant flaws in the consultation process and that there is a lack of assurance from AlburyCity on what (if anything) will be done to the plan should the additional perspective gained in the public exhibition process present a contrast to the view of initial 'Have Your Say' survey respondents - to that end, I would suggest that your commitment to listening become a commitment to listening and acting. With regard to DOC14/84064, the reason I requested this document was that AlburyCity's Community Engagement Plan (attached for your reference) outlines a process (page 14) for developing a new council decision, project, strategy or policy and it commences with the completion of a Stakeholder Engagement Plan Template: DOC14/84064. I am well and truly across the Engagement Summary as well as the process that was undertaken and don't need to be directed to it again. This is what I have taken issue with and I'd be interested to know if the completion of an engagement plan prior to conducting community engagement identified any risks or shortcomings associated with the process that was ultimately undertaken by AlburyCity. Is the Community Engagement Plan referencing an incorrect document number or is the process not represented accurately? That you have indicated the online survey was the key platform for community engagement and workshops were secondary to this is particularly alarming and I'll again take this opportunity to point out a few aspects of why: • The 'Have Your Say' results (specific file also attached for your reference) indicate that Social Media was responsible for 64.66% of visitor acquisition despite AlburyCity not promoting the survey in Instagram posts at the time and it being the subject of just two Facebook posts - one on 25 January and one on 12 February. Whilst contributions spiked on each of these days (2nd and 3rd largest daily spikes in contributions) by far the largest spike coincided with the survey being shared in a call to arms by the page Albury Wodonga Mountain Bikers Inc. Another spike on 15 February can also be attributed to a call to arms on this page. • There is seemingly no validation that contributions to the survey were by unique visitors • There has been no physical survey conducted in the reserve to validate the online survey responses on how the area is utilised today - again, I can assure you that should you spend a day on the ridge you will not see bike riding undertaken by over 50% of users, it would be < 10%. • The survey was not widely publicised nor activated in any of the impacted areas with physical signage etc. I am also still concerned about the consultation of Aboriginal Elders. Noting that conversations on the significance of the reserve were had but did these conversations extend into what was to be proposed in terms of development - if so is there a reason why these sentiments were not reported?

	Thank you for clarifying the scope/boundaries of the letter box drop. I wasn't suggesting that letterbox dropping all of East Albury was warranted but it would seem odd to limit this activity to properties with an immediate boundary to the Ridge Precinct and not at the very least extend this to include those with a boundary to Doctor's Point Reserve and Devil's Glen given the changes proposed to these areas. I look forward to your response David and once again thanks for your correspondence. AlburyCity has a chance to rectify some significant shortcomings in initial consultation to map a future for Eastern Hill Reserve and surrounding precincts that represents the views of the entire community and is sensitive to cultural and environmental concerns - I hope the opportunity is recognised and taken. I've attached the completed Informal Access to Information Request. I have significant concerns with the steps that were undertaken in establishing this draft plan, particularly regarding community engagement. As such, I feel AlburyCity needs to abandon the Draft Eastern Hill Activation Plan and go back to the drawing board, undertaking more extensive community consultation to determine the most appropriate use of the areas. In terms of the engagement process, amongst a plethora of concerns I would like to highlight the following: 1. AlburyCity's Mountain Bike Strategy was used with significant weighting to guide the activation plan for Eastern Hill - this strategy lacked scrutiny and a broader view of the direction for the city. 2. Community engagement was restricted to the point of the views being captured in the survey having a significant skew to the Mountain Bike community. 3. Only 9 adjoining property owners were contacted regarding the activation plan, of which all were adjoining the Ridge Precinct. No contact was made with owners of property adjoining the East Street areas, Devil's Glen or Doctor's Point Reserve. The Draft Eastern Hill Activation Master Plan that was the result of a flawed engagement and design process has some elements that could have utility but for the most part is a blight on what should be considered one of Albury's greatest assets. I'll refer to the good parts firstly: 1. A cantilevered boardwalk by the roadside next to Doctor's Point Reserve is an excellent proposal that would immediately improve cyclist and pedestrian safety in the area. 2. Upgraded carpark and accessible toilet facilities. These are certainly justified and sit within the existing built environment. With regard to the remainder of the proposed activation, it should simply be abandoned. AlburyCity Council acknowledged earlier this year that we're facing a climate emergency so why develop another natural environment with monoliths made from head absorbing materials such as concrete and steel. The area is incredible as it is and would be deteriorated by

	development. Mountain bike trails exist elsewhere in Albury already and by all reports are poorly maintained and contribute to erosion issues - why create more of this? Fix what exists already on Nail Can Hill and enhance the best qualities of Eastern Hill by regenerating the area not developing it.
Henrik Sajn	Firstly, thank you Albury City Council for the opportunity to make this submission. East Albury Hill, in my opinion, should be a place for people to be able to walk and relax. It should be a place for tourists to appreciate and take photos of our beautiful wildlife and surroundings. My family and I have lived in East Albury for decades and we are acutely aware of the delicate and fragile nature of the East Albury hillside. We need to take care of and support the wildlife and environment for all, including future generations. I am not happy about having the mountain bike trail on the East Albury hillside. In my experience, riders do not stick to their tracks, walkers will feel unsafe, and they have the potential to do a lot of damage to both the environment and wildlife, as evidenced at Nail Can Hill. The presence of a mountain bike trail could quite likely turn tourists away rather than attract them to the site. Finally, it has been confirmed by council that less than ten residents of directly adjoining properties were notified of council's intention by letter. This is a very small group. If the council thought that they didn't have the resources to mail a letter to all East Albury residents, couldn't information outlining their intentions have been added to each resident's rate notice, be it hard copy or e-mail? If it was too difficult to have known the boundaries of a letter notification, then I don't understand why council thought it was unbiased to have just consulted with the Mountain Bike Community and Rotary. Moreover, a considerable amount of ratepayer's money has been spent on consultants in creating the draft Eastern Hill Activation Master Plan, something we didn't ask for!
Howard Abrahams	I am very much opposed to this development. We live in Mountford Crescent and ever since the developments behind out house there are no more kangaroos and we are getting flooded regularly! Why do you have to destroy what is one of our only public areas, what for? It's a peaceful place, leave it alone. Why does council think they have some God given right to do whatever they want to do and get away with it. Who do you people think you are? Nobody asked for the walk by the freeway to have all the bloody councillors from the past posted along it, you are not rock stars, you are meant to represent the best interests of the people who voted you in and pay rates. It's a disgrace.
Hugh McKenzie-McHarg	Congratulations on your plans to open up Eastern Hill to sustainable community use. Eastern Hill is a beautiful asset for our town which I have visited and enjoyed many times. However, I am very concerned regarding opening up Eastern Hill to mountain bike trails. I think mountain bike trails will significantly diminish the amenity of Eastern Hill for other users. I request that Council seek other options for mountain bike trails that are more remote from the heart of our community. I also wish to express my concern about the Initial Consultation process. It appears that the only people who were fully aware of the initial consultation process were the mountain biking community. I am sure had the wider community been fully engaged, Council may have obtained a different perspective regarding the level of support for the mountain bike aspect of this project.

Ian Anderson	The proposal to permit mountain biking as an integral part of the Eastern Hill proposal is not within the current activities conducted on the site and obviously therefore is new. As a result, there will be consequences that affect the amenity of the area. Currently, the wider community enjoys a somewhat passive participation in the Eastern hill area with walks and peaceful observation accessible to all age groups and all fitness levels. This is right and proper for a COMMUNITY based area. Provision of a mountain bike area is NOT for the general community. It is for a small, self-centred group of fit and enthusiastic sports people. This is the direct opposite of a community activity, rather mountain biking is a parochial activity. As a result, your proposed policy change appears to be aimed at giving privilege and preference to a small portion of the wider community by taking away from the broader community that which already exists. This is manifestly unfair and can only be seen as infringing upon the existing rights of the community who have been using Eastern hill peacefully for decades. Hence, your proposal is discriminatory and aims to placate a small group within society by confiscating from wider community. Such actions are contrary to the general principles that should govern local councils - namely, protecting and improving the wider community that it represents. Such a policy change could be arguable if that smaller group was disadvantaged or denied opportunity. This is not the case with the mountain biking fraternity. They are well catered for as it stands with other areas in the city bounds. Hence, the proposal for a mountain bike area cannot be sustained as it results in disproportionate loss to the majority of Albury's citizens. The proposal for a mountain bike area must therefore be rejected and withdrawn.
Ian Bishop	The Plan looks fantastic. I like the new viewing platforms. As for the mountain bike trails - what is the problem? I'm way too old to mountain bike but do walk. I cannot see them as a danger to a geriatric on his walk!! It's not a motorcycle trail bike route! Do it soon so we can all enjoy it - us walking and the kids on the mountain bikes!!

Ian Smith	I don’t agree that eastern hill needs mountain bike tracks. I am a walker and a mountain biker but don’t see the need to have eastern hill cut up for bikes. Given the state of Nail Can hill and the inability of council to maintain these tracks, they are in poor state. It worries me that they need to open up more that clearly, they cannot or want to maintain. How many mountain bikers are there that will do a run to the bottom are going to do a return run on the new tracks, I don’t see any form of a easy return road to the top . Having a dedicated area for walkers being so close to town with magnificent views right up to the snow is a rare find and let’s keep it that way. The current walking track could be planted up with new trees and agree with new seating but maintain the seat at the point that was put there as a memorial. Council needs to hire some mountain bike, got hit the trails on Nail Can hill, then realise if the stuck their money and resources into the tracks currently there and maintain it would be money far better spent. I have lived in east Albury 12 years and will be seriously pissed if they stuff up this reserve.
Ian Walter	I disagree with parts of the Eastern Hill Activation Master Plan as there are parts of the consultant report that don't stack up and appear to me to be misleading. The estimated potential economic impact is overstated and not a true representation for Albury. The cycling participation survey covers all types and age of cycling not just mountain bikers. Again, the average use of trails would include all types from paved city, township pathways and general cycling trails (not just mountain bike trails). The spend figures per visit for one or two days per person is related to all ages and the whole population and again this does not relate to only mountain bike riders. I would like to see Eastern Hill developed for walkers and scenic views only. The area could be revegetated to attract birds and other wildlife in significant numbers and restore the eco system. Walking trails could be constructed to allow higher fitness hikers, average walkers and easy access disability trails. If mountain bike trails are included there is a danger to all walkers with the speed mountain biker's travel. This also endangers small creatures such as lizards, etc., destroying the ecology which is important to the natural habitat for all wildlife. Unsanctioned trail building also creates danger to any walker with a bike suddenly challenging their space. I would like the Eastern Hill developed with vegetation and walks to flow down to the important declared aboriginal place of Mungabareena Reserve. I don't wish to see Eastern Hill become covered with eroded and scarred with dusty mountain bike trails. Nail Can Hill and its large area is where mountain biking should remain, and maintenance needs to be carried out to repair and restore the damage that mountain biking has already caused. In conclusion, I agree totally that Eastern Hill should be redeveloped for viewing and walking activities only. With improved parking and access this area could be made a show piece for our city.
Imogen Batten	I think it looks fantastic! Will be great for kids, walking, riding & being out in nature.

Imogen Brooks	I would like to express my concerns regarding these plans. Growing up my entire life just over the hill from here, on Butt Street, I frequently visit this area and often bring visiting friends. One of the best things about this space is how untouched it is, I don't believe in spending millions of taxpayers' money on developing this area. I support small adjustments to the area to make it more accessible for different people's needs. But the extravagant spend on another new bike trail in Albury is disrespectful while the other trails are in desperate need of maintenance. Additionally, I find it hurtful that Elke's bench is intended to be removed. I have many a time enjoyed sitting and look upon the area in this chair and feel it is a reminder of the importance of community that is often fostered through these shared areas.
Ivan Talan	I am in agreement with providing safe and effective access to the Eastern Hill car park and am not opposed to a suitable viewing platform at both the car park and Trig Point, however I strongly believe that the walking tracks both along the ridge and on the eastern side of the hill should be for walkers and runners only. Not all walkers use just the ridge, the steep gradient of the hill allows for all types of walking and tracks should be designed for this purpose. High speed bike riding will deter hill hikers and endanger wildlife. Data from MTB riders should be analysed to determine how many actually ride to their MTB destination and how many convey their bikes on their cars. If it's more of the latter, MTB riders can continue to drive to more suitable and dedicated MTB departure points e.g., Nail Can Hill. In my 12 years of walking Eastern Hill, I have not seen a single MTB rider. I can only surmise that it's not popular as an MTB preference so why create considerable expense, angst and disruption on something that may never be used?
Izabella Bizzotto	After looking over the draft I feel that while there are good intentions here, a sensitivity and understanding of what makes Eastern Hill special is lacking. The improvements to parking and facilities look good, however the overall style of the viewing platforms and metal stairways is very industrial and lacks continuity with the landscape. Similarly, the development of mountain bike trails on the Eastern face of the hill looks set to spoil the natural beauty of the windswept slopes. The most valuable feature of Eastern Hill is the feeling of stepping away from the concrete and metal of town into the grass and trees that once covered the countryside, it is like an oasis of nature in a desert of civilisation, and as such we must be careful not to over-develop the site. It is a picturesque, lonely, and romantic place, not a busy city park. I approve highly of the plans to get rid of the weeds and encourage more native vegetation, as well as the concept of beautifying the water tanks with artwork and providing information on the site's history and significance to the Wiradjuri people. I think the mountain bike trail is unnecessary, and more attention needs to be given to the aesthetic value of the site, utilising more natural materials such as stone and wood over steel and concrete so as to blend with the environment and preserve its unique feel.

Jack Baker	I am fortunate enough to have grown up at the base of Eastern Hill and, like countless others, have passed many hundreds - if not thousands - of hours walking along the ridge and down the back side of the hill into Mungabareena Reserve. The magic of this place has always been the welcome lack of man-made structures and the full emersion in nature it offers the user. Having read the Yonder draft master plan it's clear that Albury Council has decided that, like with so much these days, bigger and bolder is better. While there are aspects of the plan that make sense and I agree with - the revamping of the Eastern lookout is the notable one - the overwhelming majority seems to take away what makes this area so special, not just to the people who frequent the area but the animals and wildlife whose home it is. I would be deeply saddened if mountain bike tracks were to be carved along the eastern side of the hill as proposed and the Trig viewing platform is a gigantesque eyesore that would become a lasting indictment on the current council if they were to let it be built. The land bridge is another feature flying in the face of the simplicity and beauty of this area that seems to have no real purpose other than to showcase a fancy design. In all my time spent on the hill I have rarely seen any mountain bikers, rather walkers and their dogs who are in heaven for the brief duration of their outing. If it really is the will of the community that the hill be chiselled beyond recognition to please what must only be a small percentage of the population, then so be it. But I urge you all to think long and hard on the impacts of what it is you're considering before making a decision. Please consider scaling back the plan to keep the simple beauty of this sacred spot.
Jacob Millar	Great idea. More space for the public
Jacqueline Owens	I believe the enhancement of this location to make it more accessible for the whole community is a fantastic idea, well done Albury City.

Jacqui Sanders	I am a resident of East Albury and I walk through Eastern Hill nearly every day. Below are my thoughts on the Activation plan. - Better access for vehicles and walkers is definitely required to get to the lookout. I think the proposed road/roundabout location makes the most sense. - Formal car parks and new toilets and a shelter is a great idea for up there. - An accessible track to the lookout is a must. I think that trig point has the best view in town, and everyone has the right to be able to access it. I always love when lookouts have information signs about the surrounding landscape, so I think that is a great idea. Additionally, information about the Wiradjuri connection to area would be a great inclusion. - revegetating the area with native plants is a must. This should go beyond native “landscaping” plants. - where I walk in Eastern Hill Reserve there are a lot of illegal bike tracks, but I have never seen them used so I am unsure how necessary all the proposed tracks are. I think bikes should be allowed on the reserve on dedicated tracks, however I am unsure how necessary it is to have them as such a large feature of this plan. In conclusion I think an activation plan for Eastern Hill is long overdue and it would be a great benefit for the whole city. I always take visitors from out of town the trig point and they are blown away by the view. It is a shame that some want to see it not be accessible to everyone.
Jake Lecluse	This will be a positive location for families and people of all ages. Will be a great upgrade and attraction for the community to enjoy the views. Along with allowing a facility people to ride and exercise outdoors in a friendly and safe environment.
Jake Sanders	This area definitely needs an upgrade, so I am happy an activation plan exists. The road up to the car park definitely needs a walking path for pedestrians. The best part of this plan is there being a viewing platform around trig point. A guide to surrounding mountain peaks and significant areas there would be good.
James Brodie	I am a resident of Doctors Point. I applaud the council for the initiative on Eastern Hill. Someone who enjoys Trail running, hiking and mountain biking the opportunity of having all three on my back doorstep is most appealing. I am a regular visitor to this area, and I find it very underutilised given the adjacent and wider population in Albury. The main car park and facilities are rundown and not commensurate with the potential of this area for residents and visitors. I find many of the arguments put forward by the local Facebook group are not based on fact. The current walking trails and outlook in my mind a very distinct relative to the mountain bike trails proposed which is an area where no one currently walks. Furthermore, the area is also very adjacent To Mungabareena reserve where no development is planned that I’m aware of. This provides plenty of green space in the area along with the existing walking areas that are planned to be upgraded.
James Dyer	Hi, I'm an owner occupier in Eastern view and often walk the dogs up to the water tanks and Trig point and I occasionally ride mtb up there. The plan looks great to me looking forward to it.

James Sexton	I and a lot of people I have discussed this with are in favour of it happening. I live at the top of East St. and think it would enhance the area; it will be a lot quieter than the present road noise.
James Sloan	I am a ratepayer of Albury having lived here for the last 43 years. I am also a passionate cyclist and involved in various aspects of cycling, including mountain biking which I have mainly participated in on Nail Can as well as Black Range (where I live). I cycle to work every workday of the year and also ride into Albury most Saturdays an occasional Sundays. I try to avoid using motor vehicles is much is possible as it is my opinion that excess use of motor vehicles in an overly car dependent place like Albury is destructive of public spaces and detract from making our city a pleasant place to live and work in. Notwithstanding my passion for cycling, including mountain biking, my view is that no part of Eastern Hill is not suitable for a downhill mountain bike park. I believe that range should be retained for passive activities, such as walking and running and generally rejuvenated with native trees and plants as a nature reserve. If there is to be any cycling there, it should only be for moving through at a moderate pace people enjoying nature in the area and perhaps taking in the view. The trail should not be for high adrenaline downhill mountain biking which is inconsistent with passive enjoyment of a natural area. Further, there should be a significant limit on car parking in the area. This should be limited to a few disabled car parking places. If able-bodied residents want to enjoy Eastern Hill they should walk, run or cycle there. The only people who need motorised transport are people with disabilities and therefore the car parking should not be enlarged. To do so will just turn the area into a massive concrete car park like you have done to a substantial part of Noreuil Park. This area should be for human powered recreation only, primarily walking or running. If people want to enjoy the views, they can get a bit of puff up to get up there, which will be beneficial to them and the environment. They don't need to be driving up there in great big motor vehicle that just takes up valuable parts of the natural environment which is unnecessary (except, for people with a disability) when the distances are relatively short.
James Ventress	I believe development on eastern hill should consider acknowledging the traditional aboriginal custodians of the land and also keeping in mind that many people use the walk for mental health, as it’s a calm area that’s close to nature which a wide a demographic of people use, which could be disrupted by an increased number of mountain bike riders. Upgrading the car park and toilets would be a welcome change. The main concern I have about the redevelopment plan is that could negatively affect a place that the local community enjoys as one of the rare fully natural and peaceful public spaces in the area

Jane Carroll	I think there is too much interference in the proposed development with the present environment of Eastern Hill. I love Eastern Hill precisely because it is so relatively free of human intrusion! The more lightly we tread the less we encroach on the habitat of other creatures beside us that consider it their place. We can share but not take over. Four specific comments: - Rotary Lookout. Yes, I'm in favour of improving the existing carpark with shelter, viewing area, rubbish bins and toilets. It's already there so it would be good to make it better. Trig Point Viewing Area. Way too much structure!! We would already have a major structure at the Rotary Lookout only a few hundred metres away. At the most, build the proposed circle showing directional markers. Please keep this point very simple and low key! Elke Black Seat and Lookout. Please don't disturb this! The birds in those trees are so happy with their place and what I love about this spot is its quietness, stillness and peace. I'm sure Elke would love it. And I'm sure there are others like me who value the lightest human interference in this magnificent place. Mountain Bike Trail Network. I'm against this. I think the proposed area is too small and crowded. The tracks and their use will impact too heavily on the present environment.
Jane Dowsley Multiple submissions	This is a great master plan. Fully supportive of the plan including the MTB trails. My family are highly supportive of this entire plan including the proposed MTB trails.

Jane Harris	Submission in response to the DRAFT Eastern Hill Activation Master Plan Introduction • My family and I have lived in East Albury for over 35 years and have been walking regularly along the Eastern Hill path since we moved here. • I believe the key features of Eastern Hill are the tranquillity, peace and quiet of the area which allows people to walk and experience the beautiful views and to study some of the native flora and fauna. • While I am supportive of some elements of the proposed plan, I am concerned about the range of negative impacts I believe implementing the full plan may have. I have outlined the elements I support and those I oppose below. Elements I support 1. Revegetation of the hill and removal of invasive species. This will increase biodiversity and the ecology of the area. 2. Upgrade of the current car park. 3. Upgrade of the toilet block. 4. Resurfacing of the present road from East Street to Eastern Hill carpark. 5. The retention of the current bench seating at the end of the trail. Elements I oppose 1. I strongly oppose the proposal to develop an MTB trail network, as per the MTB Strategy. I believe the presence of mountain bikes on Eastern Hill will: • Impact on the biodiversity and ecology of the area. • Disturb the tranquillity and peace – so important for one's mental health. • Create conflict between bikers, walkers and dogs. • Remove one of the last remaining natural environments in central Albury where local residents can walk without being impacted by cars and bikes. 2. I oppose the proposed "improvement" of the Trig Point Lookout as laid out in the Council's plans. At most I believe the lookout should have a much smaller footprint to ensure it remains sympathetic with the natural surrounds. 3. I do not feel it necessary to provide extra furniture at the end of the path, nor do I see the necessity of interpretive signage here if you are also having it at the trig point. 4. I oppose the development of paved paths. The current unpaved path is more in keeping with the natural surroundings. I feel there are plenty of accessible, paved bike paths in Albury. Other concerns • I am also concerned that there has not been an Environmental Impact Statement conducted to underpin the plan which, if so, would be at odds with Albury City Council's purported focus on environmental sustainability.

	• I am also concerned about the lack of genuine engagement with the local community, including Aboriginal Elders, with regards to the proposed plan. The survey which I understand was conducted at the beginning of the year obviously did not reach very many people, and clearly wasn't promoted widely enough to reach many of the local residents who use the Hill regularly. I feel there should have been a greater effort to engage with East Albury residents and others who use the hill. This would have gone some way to properly consulting with those whom the plan will primarily affect - those who spend time on Eastern Hill regularly. I request that Albury City Council place a moratorium on the plan and undertake a fully independent community engagement process – a core component of the council's planning and decision making process.
Jane Murtagh	I welcome upgrade of viewing platforms, but the beauty of Eastern Hill is that it is relatively untouched. Please don't develop mountain bike trails. The serenity is a perfect place for walking and enjoying nature
Jane Sandral	As a resident of Sunrise Terrace (just below Eastern Hill), I cannot wait for the new upgrades! I hope they invite more of the community to come and enjoy the best views in Albury. To be able to send my kids off on walks or bikes knowing the area is maintained and safe gives me a sense of relief. And with minimal impact on the environment and surrounds, this upgrade really is a no brainer.
Jarrod Monaghan	I am in favour of the MTB trails on eastern hill. The trails will bring an excellent environment to exercise and socialise in an accessible location where youth can independently travel to.
Jason Schneider-Fuller	The current draft Activation Master Plan looks to markedly improve access and visibility of the Eastern Hill lookout. Frankly I've felt the hills around Albury/Wodonga have been an under used community asset for some time. The proposal in my opinion strikes a good balance between maintaining the access and use for local residents and creating a public space that will attract visitors. I'm not personally a downhill mountain biker, but the growth of the sport nationally and in many regional areas is difficult to dispute. The inclusion of downhill mountain bike trails for Eastern hill is in my opinion a good outcome. It's much lower environmental impact that motorised vehicles and also has a much reduced impact on amenity for nearby residents while suitably activating and opening up public land in a way that the whole community will benefit from visitors and potentially events being held. With that in mind additional parking would be good even if not located at the lookout point to cater for potential events in the future. The inclusion of a connection to Dr's Point Road at the bottom (25) is a good idea for those that don't want to ride the ascending trail back to the top. It's possible some would look to be picked up here so perhaps including a small number of carparks in the existing informal area off Dr's Point Rd this shared trail connects with would be a good idea. All in all, well done to the team at council and Yonder Landscape Architecture for the concept and driving this community project.

Jayne McKenzie	I must begin by stating my extreme disappointment in AlburyCity and how they have poorly conducted this entire process, from the Mountain Bike Strategy in May 2021, through to the current Have your Say on the Draft Eastern Hill Master Plan. I have never been an activist, but I have also never felt so angry and passionate about something. I am in constant disbelief over the information we, Friends of Eastern Hill, have uncovered which has resulted in me losing confidence and trust in AlburyCity. I have spent hours and hours over six weeks, away from my husband and two young children to be doing community engagement that AlburyCity should have done BEFORE the Mountain Bike Strategy back in May 2021. Friends of Eastern Hill have created a Facebook group to inform residents of the proposal, contacted media outlets, organised rallies, designed flyers and arranged volunteers to conduct letter drops, requesting AlburyCity display signs on Eastern Hill to let users know about the proposal and stopping people in the streets to ask them if they were aware. If AlburyCity had followed their own Community Engagement Strategy back in 2021, I believe we would be looking at a completely different plan and rate payer's money would not have been wasted on the current plans, meetings, and reports to date. It is backwards to ask the community to have their say on a plan that only exists because of the obvious bias in the survey data and the fact that the Mountain Bike Strategy was used as a basis for the plans. We should not be voting against Mountain Bikes; we should be having our say on what we would like to see on Eastern Hill without any predetermined outcomes. As a woman, I feel like one of the only places I feel safe to walk by myself is going to be taken over by a small minority group, mainly made up of middle-aged men (as stated on your MTB strategy), and I will no longer feel safe walking on the hill alone. Places like Eastern Hill need to be protected for future generations. I am not anti-mountain bikes, but I strongly believe Eastern Hill is not an appropriate location. A mountain Bike Trail Network would be better off being built on the outskirts of Albury. Thurgoona and Ettamogah are the growth areas with lots of young families residing in these areas. Most professional MTB trails are built in areas that our out of sight from the townships. The eastern face of Eastern Hill is in full view from Eastern View Estate, Thurgoona and along the Riverina Highway all the way out to Hume Village. To cover this side of the hill in up to 20km of Mountain Bike Trails would be an eyesore and an embarrassment. The Native wildlife also have no connecting hills or reserves to seek refuge if their natural habitat were to be taken over. I quite often watch the kangaroos residing on the eastern face of the hill in the mornings to catch the warmth of the sun. With this proposal, wildlife have nowhere to reside resulting in possible collisions with riders or them being moved into residential areas which would be injurious. Eastern Hill is the heart of Albury. Where else has a large natural space for residents to walk along a ridge in the heart of the city and have 360-degree views of the surrounding area and beyond. What a great tourist attraction it already is! But the lack of maintenance is neglectful. The entrance to the Rotary lookout is unsafe for cars and pedestrians. When walking up to the lookout I find myself standing right off the road next to a tree when a car approaches as I know the road is narrow and visibility around trees is poor. The upgrades proposed for the lookout entrance and facilities look great and I believe should be the number one priority. It is currently extremely unsafe and should be fixed before more users are encouraged to use the area. I also believe upgrading access for disabled access to the trig point is very important. Understanding that only a few years ago this area was used for grazing, nature has already been doing its thing and we can see many species returning to the area. Once the weeds have been eradicated, we can assist this process with

	additional planting of native species. I would like to propose extensions to the current walking tracks. A loop that flows from the ridge track, down to the lagoon and back up along the eastern face to the lookout would reduce congestion and wear and tear of the track along the ridge. Simple signage stating the lengths of the trails is all that would be required. QR codes could be added to the signs if users require additional information about the tracks or heritage of the area. Along the tracks there could be a scavenger hunt, like the mosaic walk in Myrtleford. Something aimed for children to get them out and into nature. This could be a tourist attraction and would also be convenient for families visiting the hospital. I believe the outcome of this proposal could make or break the elected Council. Friends of Eastern Hill have exposed the bias and lack of community engagement and if this was to be ignored, trust in council would be lost for so many residents. In my option there is simply too much at stake if this plan were to be endorsed. I believe a moratorium on the plan would be the fairest outcome for all. I have faith that the newly elected council will consider the impact on all residents, current and future, and most importantly the environment when they make their final decision.
Jean Brown	I really don't like the accessible paths, and the non-natural boardwalks. I like Eastern Hill because I can feel nature under my feet. It would be nice to paint the water towers. I am concerned about the damage that will be caused to the interactive signage; we have all seen the graffiti on the signs along the river. I like the face there are all accessible paths along the river. Maybe one of those squares you can scan on a mobile phone can give visitors an idea at what they are looking at.
Jean Brown	I like doing up the access road and the car park area. I like having a bit of a boardwalk up in that area.However I like the natural aspect of the hill. Maybe some track maintenance there to prevent erosion.It would be good to re-forest the sides of the hill and allow nature to go back to the way it was.We use this area as scouts to do our introduction for bushwalking with our young kids it is a great, safe, bush location close to town
Jean Teek	I am a concerned rate payer who is lodging a complaint about the Council decision to interfere with our beautiful natural bush in East Albury. I am a 73 year old resident in East Albury and walk daily along the natural track which leads up to the lookout. This natural environment enables me to maintain all my senses such as balance, orientation, concentration and freedom. I enjoy seeing young families introducing their young offspring to nature. Please do not interfere with this natural bush. You have already given the community paved walkways and cycle paths. This natural area must be left alone, I feel it is a great asset which can’t be found in many cities.

Jen Drummond	I am a local East Albury resident who walks up Eastern Hill 3-4 times weekly with my Groodle. Eastern Hill is a paradise - it is 5 minutes from my home, but you feel like you are a million miles away! I love its natural beauty - not everything needs to be developed. In regard to the bike tracks, I feel there is ample other locations in Albury Wodonga for bikes. Perhaps some of the money is better spent upgrading current bike tracks elsewhere. Please leave Eastern Hill alone!
Jen Fankhauser	As a former east Albury resident (currently Table Top resident) I do not agree with the proposed eastern hill activation plan. Not everything has to be modernised and concreted, the area is fine as it is. Albury and the surrounding areas have more than enough mountain bike trails - and I say so as an active mountain biker myself. There are so many other areas in Albury this money could be better spent. Please listen to the residents of Albury city and particularly those who reside in East Albury who are vocal in their opposition for this plan.
Jenief Cornish	Absolutely against any mountain bike trails on eastern hill. Agree need to develop the lookout in top car park. No to trig point development. A simple seat us enough. No to concrete road. Maintain the simple integrity of this beautiful ridge for locals. NO to Mount bike trails Absolutely No to mountain bike trails - definitely meaning to make my point here.
Jenny Brown	I am a resident of Eastern view estate. I regularly use the Eastern Hill walking track to walk my dog and have done so for many years. In relation to the current proposal, I believe some upgrading and improvements of the lookout area itself would be beneficial and appropriate. As far as interfering with the land area to build/ create mountain bike trails I do not think this should go ahead. Whilst I appreciate the need to support healthy active lifestyles and provide a variety of avenues for people to participate, I believe the council would be better to develop and improve the Nail Can bill mountain bike area. Possibly a more financially viable option which would leave the Eastern Hill for other active lifestyle activities such as walking and picnicking. Thank you for taking the time to consider the view of a local residents and current user.

Jenny Moyle	I have been residing at Doctors Point for over 25 years and am a regular user of the walking tracks around Mungabareena and Eastern Hill. There is a tranquillity and beauty which I believe will be destroyed with some of the proposed developments shown in the masterplan. Eastern Hill is home to grey kangaroos, echidnas, reptiles, and a wide range of native birds. The wetlands around Mungabareena and Doctors Point provide an important habitat for both flora and fauna native to the area. I have seen Eastern long necked turtles and native frogs abound in the lagoons around east Albury. It has significant cultural meaning to the Wiradjuri people as a meeting place. I OPPOSE the development of new MTB trails for the following reasons: 1. There will be destruction of native flora and animal habitats. Kangaroos will be forced to move towards Eastern view estate and Thurgoona thus increasing numbers crossing roads in East Albury. 2. There will be worsening erosion to that which currently exists. I have seen firsthand the Albury council's inability to address erosion at Mungabareena and Eastern hill trails. How can they possibly maintain many kilometres of Mountain bike trails? The vehicular access track from East Street to Murray view drive is an example of ongoing erosion on a relatively flat section that the council has been unable to control despite multiple attempts. A steep section like Eastern Hill would be much worse. The access tracks from Murray view Drive and Gunbower close to the top of Eastern Hill are another example of tracks severely eroded and not maintained by the council. 3. It will cause damage to a culturally sensitive area which is significant to the Wiradjuri people. 4. There may be alterations to the natural drainage of the hill into the lagoons at Mungabareena and Doctors Point resulting in silt deposits and impacting on aquatic life. 5. The increase in humans visiting Eastern Hill and Mungabareena will result in increased rubbish dumping, introduction of weeds and increased roadkill of animals that regularly cross the road at Doctors Point and Mungabareena (swamp hens, kangaroos, turtles, frogs). I also oppose the creation of a car park at Devils Glen for similar reasons. On a positive note, I support some aspects of the master plan - The improvement of existing walking tracks - The improvement of the Eastern Hill lookout and trig station - Improvement to tracks behind the Albury Hospital I would hate Eastern Hill to turn out like Nail Can Hill (with severe erosion, weeds, and poorly maintained walking tracks) and likely impact on the cultural and ecological significance of the area.
Jess Edwards	We need more mountain bike trails; this would be perfect and if build well will attract a lot of people which would help the city make more money and all the mountain bikers enjoy it more.

Jessica Biles	I am writing to express my concerns regarding the Draft eastern Hill master plan. I am deeply concerned related to the engagement with Aboriginal peoples. In my view, the consultation did not occur to the extent required. It also did not occur in a way that was inclusive to Aboriginal peoples living in the area. Therefore, I strongly express my lack of support to the proposed plans.
Jessica Morgan	I don’t want to see concrete platforms on eastern hill lookout, I enjoy walking or running there with my family or on my own. I don’t want it to be overrun by mountain bikes and I don’t want the wildlife’s home to be ruined. Money would be well spent elsewhere.
Jill O’Connell	Having been a resident of East Albury for close to 15 years and me and my family using the hill almost every day to walk with our children and dog. We are very much opposed to this development. There is no way enough planning for additional parking, 15 spaces? Where will everyone park? In old East Albury? The roundabout on East hill doesn't make sense, two roundabouts within 500 metres of each other. Access to the hospital, where I work, and staff have enough difficulty finding a park now?! What about the new developments above Mountford Crescent that have already displaced the kangaroo population and decimated the wildlife there? You want to develop more? Wildlife corridors sound wonderful on paper, they simply don't work. This whole process has been underhanded and deceitful, and you are only now, due to public outrage, starting to take the public, who will pay for this, aware of what’s going on. Your budget figures for this are laughable. It'll cost closer to $10 million in today’s economy. Dishonest with no consideration to the residents of the community.
Jim Lolback	As an active community member with a young family, I think this is one of the most exciting initiatives I have seen from the council. As an east Albury resident, I am looking forward to an upgrade of eastern hill lookout and more importantly giving the local youth access to healthy lifestyle activities.

Jirina Boehm	I have lived in Albury my entire life. For the last 38 years, my husband and I have raised our family in East Albury. Eastern Hill has been, and still is, a significant part of our family's everyday life. Seldom does a day go by when we don't take the opportunity to walk along the ridge to unwind and experience what the hill provides for so many people. It is a place to relax, to unwind from the ever-increasing stresses of everyday life, to experience the beauty of nature or just to reflect. It is home to precious flora and fauna that we should never take for granted. As a community we are obligated to do everything in our power to preserve what little unspoiled environment we have left and to help regenerate and revegetate where we can. Councils proposed Eastern Hill Activation Master Plan fails to do this on so many fronts and merely disguises a push to implement its DRAFT Mountain Bike Strategy amongst clever salesmanship and lots of smoke and mirrors. What's good: The plan proposes to upgrade the existing lookout area with new toilet facilities and upgraded parking facilities which would be welcomed. Improved accessibility and upgrading and maintaining existing walking trails is also something that is needed. What's not good: There is no place on Eastern Hill for mountain bike tracks. The proposed boardwalk out to the trig point and associated viewing platform is also not something that I consider is warranted. The hill needs to be restored and kept as close to its natural state as possible. Concerns: One of the main concerns is that right from the beginning there was no consultation with the actual users of Eastern Hill. Who are the key stakeholders? Surely East Albury residents (particularly those that use the hill) are at the top of the list, together with council and Rotary. How and why were the mountain bikers invited to have such a critical input right from the start when they don't even use Eastern Hill? In all the years my family has walked the hill I can honestly say I have rarely seen a mountain bike. It seems the draft proposal was then "buried" on the council website where no-one would think to search unless they actually knew what they were looking for. I could quote the poll data that was given to us at the meetings but I'm sure you are well aware of the figures. Even this data is fraudulently incorrect as once again the Eastern Hill users were NOT consulted. The plans to create a network of mountain bike tracks covering the eastern side of the hill is of great concern. The plan shows the tracks winding through the revegetation area. Revegetation for conservation is incompatible with mountain bike trails / trail establishment and high impact activities. But it is a great idea to envisage the Eastern Hill precinct as an area to re-establish woodlands with healthy understory vegetation which foot traffic can explore, or which might be excluded from traffic altogether to provide habitat for cryptic species and species requiring low disturbance. Currently, as I understand it, council is struggling to maintain the existing mountain bike facility on Nail Can hill. The walking track though Devils Glen (between East St and Doctors Point) was recently reconstructed due to the old track being washed away. The process to get the track reconstructed was a frustratingly difficult one but after the very first significant downpour the new track was severely eroded and needed extensive remedial work. To this day I believe it is an ongoing concern. So, my point here is there is little evidence that a network of

	tracks up and down the steep slope of the east side of the hill will be any different. In spite of any reassurances from council representatives at the meetings there is no way that this won't be (at the very least) an ongoing erosion problem. With reference to the above point, it was revealed at the meetings by council representatives, that the intention was to stage the project over an extended period of time (15-25 years) with the mountain bike tracks the priority. These would be constructed as part of stage 1. As for any other work (like revegetation planting) there was no indication so read into this what you will, but the concern is that we will get the scars of a mountain bike tracks all over the eastern side of the hill and the rest will go on hold. It's difficult to not be cynical. With all the machinery and disruption that a project like this will entail, whether staged over twenty years or not, there is one thing that is certain and that is some species of fauna and flora will be impacted severely. It was revealed that to this point there has not even been any environmental impact assessment or consultation with Aboriginal representatives. Eastern Hill is a place to be cherished and nurtured. It provides so many things to so many people, but the common denominator is mental health. Improve the facilities at the lookout and make this peaceful place more accessible to those with disability, control the weeds and revegetate the areas that require it and that is all.

Jo Gibbs	Despite destruction to vegetation on the hill, despite destruction of native habitat for many Australian species, despite the council's intent to deceive Albury ratepayers, and despite the nearby residents' lack of notification, I have spoken to friends being residents of west Albury, north Albury, Lavington, Thurgoona, and Ettamogah who ALL pay rates, none, I repeat, none of these people know of this plan, yet they are helping to fund it. This is not right. Scooter riders and skateboarders got an amazing facility at JC king park which is fabulous for them, even though I have no young children using this facility, I am happy to see this being so well utilised. I agree there was a need for this space. But why would council spend north of 5 million dollars on destruction of a magnificent hill? For whom? Couple of hundred people. Attract visitors from out of town? They don't scrimp and save to pay annual rates in Albury. A real survey would request opinion from every resident, not just those who may be connected with Facebook. I answered the survey initially. In the negative. 517 people responded to survey, 379 people say yes. Albury population 51076. So, council has made a decision on the view of 1% of the population. Are you kidding? East St does not need a pedestrian crossing, 38 years of driving east st I have NEVER had to give way to a pedestrian. I have done a rough count of the trees which will need to be removed to build a road according to the plan and I lost count at 200. Are we not trying to reverse climate change with adding more, not removing those which are already there. Why is a viewing platform needed? The view is a constant the entire length of the hill. Eastern hill has stood proudly for a squillion generations, but someone, for some stupid reason has decided our generation will shoulder the blame for blatant destruction that will never be reversed. Stupid spending. Deliberate destruction. Hidden decision making. NO CONSULTATION. This council should be charged, tried, convicted and imprisoned for this decision. Put the plan in the bin and concentrate on spending our money on facilities that 51076 people can enjoy instead. I know you don't care about little old me, but I'm moving from Albury if you spend my rates on this rubbish. I love the river which is why I choose to live in east Albury. It breaks my heart to see and hear the 4wd at night at mungab. This plan is a million times worse. It is criminal. Heartbreaking. Disappointing. Unnecessary. Unwanted by the remaining 99% of residents. That means those of us with a conscience.

Joan Gooding	I would like to express my disappointment with the process being used in the development of the Eastern Hill Draft Master Plan in that groups consulted were restricted and did not represent the wide range of stakeholders and only included a small number (9) of adjoining residents. I am supportive of some of the initiatives particularly in relation to the Rotary Lookout and Trig Point. I am against the provision of any MTD tracks on Eastern Hill as they will be detrimental to the environment and drive away our native animals and birds. In relation to the proposals for Devil's Glen and Doctors Point reserve I feel these areas should be maintained in their current state as they are the most fragile areas in relation environment, native birds and wildlife. These areas also act as a corridor for the native animals between Eastern Hill and Doctors Point Reserve. The top priority in these areas should be provision of a suitable access road for residents of Doctors Point. The current road is in a state of disrepair and regularly floods preventing residents from accessing their residences for extended periods of time.
Joanna McCarron	I am very disappointed by the current plans, specifically the biking trails. I live on Eastern Hill and frequently enjoy walks on the hill with my daughters. They love to look at birds as we walk. I think the bike paths will disrupt wildlife and spoil the natural landscape, and personally I don't like that they're in the plan. I wouldn't mind the idea if the majority of the community wanted them but there doesn't seem to have been any consultation with a representative community group to understand that. It is very sad to see so much of the community seems upset by plans that appear to have been heavily biased by consultation with one small group of people, being mountain bike riders.
Joanne Diver	I'm unwell and in case I'm unable to submit a more detailed response before the closure later today, please consider the following points. I fully support the reasoning of the Eastern Hill Community group, their suggestions and alarm at the consultation process of not only the Eastern Hill Plan, but appropriate and comprehensive consultation that was absent with the Mountain Biking Strategy. I suggest that the evidence outlines a wholesale failure of the consultation process, and this strategy should be dismissed and started again, to include wide consultation and engagement of all users and stakeholders. I submitted a lengthy submission on the Mountain Bike Strategy and council's response, found in the agenda of the meeting when Councillors voted, was inadequate and inaccurate. I presented at this meeting and promises of action hasn't been forthcoming. Albury City citizens need an independent auditor to study each plan proposed by council as i have absolutely no faith or trust in the information being provided, or not, to residents.

Jock McCormack	Short, not sweet. ACC has been manipulated by the mountain bike riders and failed to ensure adequate spread of the proposal. Lately displayed" Have your say" signs " do not cut the mustard There is no place for mountain bike riders on Eastern Hill Look at the damage they have caused on Nail Can Hill with legal and illegal tracks Eastern Hill for foot traffic; not to be taken to exclude prams and the like Come on ACC; stand up to them
Jodie Farrugia	I think it is important to work towards preserving and improving the ecological elements of this area. I strongly object to the development of the area in terms of infrastructure. I think we should leave it as natural and undeveloped as possible. I also object to the development of Mountain Bike tracks, there already is that option at Nail Can and feel this area should remain in its simple and natural form. I think this area is beautiful the way it is and object to this kind of over development.

John Cremer	Surely the current uncertainty of the global situation should be cause for caution and restraint. In your anticipated order of costs, the preliminary 7 stages of this development are stated at $4.7+ million dollars and “may increase anywhere from 30 to 50 percent” which is plus $1.4m to $2.4m making it a more than $7 million dollar project. The council does not have a “money tree” out the back, predominately funding comes from the Albury ratepayers and I believe it is inappropriate to impose this additional burden on them. I know if we adopt this sort of attitude all the time nothing would eventuate however why can’t any improvements be limited to those of us who are currently taking advantage of these walking trails and council promotions when appropriate so more Albury residents can appreciate this wonderful area. “Managing the expectations of the general community and mountain bike community will be critical”. Well, the Master Plan has generated significant levels of public interest, since the public found out about it, which appears to have been lacking in broad terms. Most of the ratepayer’s input, correspondence and in the public forums conducted suggests this wonderful area should not include a mountain bike development in this location. Council can talk about funding strategies, budget deliberations, grant applications and stakeholder contributions in an endeavour to get ratepayer approval however in a nutshell we do not want this project to go ahead if it includes a mountain bike trail. The proposed roundabout and new access road on East Street will I believe be a genuine traffic hazard on this already extremely busy and fast flowing road. Nail Can Hill has been a regular mountain bike trail for many years and should be maintained and promoted as the prime area for these activities. Has the opportunity to liaise with CSU and their trail been ignored, discarded or denied?
John Moore	- management plan to maintain trails would add to this great idea to enhance longevity of trails and minimise any negative environmental degradation - wider trail network will attract more tourism and enhance community engagement with outdoors
John Pennay	My family enjoys walking from Eastern Hill to Mungabareena and are worried the area will be ruined by mountain bike tracks and riders. Please allow space for bush walks and preserve the natural environment.

John Pratt Multiple submissions	My impressions are entirely negative after seeing the scale of this plan. To give over the entire eastern side of the hill south of the trig to mountain bike trails is appalling. Zero consideration has been given to the many animals that inhabit this part of the hill. Has any form of wildlife audit been undertaken for the area that is to be given over as mountain bike trails? Is Council aware, for example of the number and distribution of quail which inhabit the long grass on the eastern side of the hill? Any trail and road development should be confined to north and east of the trig point only. Zero consideration has been given to those who silently or socially walk for exercise on the ridge trail south of the trig. To replace the walking trail with a 3 metre wide road is absolutely delinquent. I and several others walk south from the car park every morning of the year yet we're not considered as "stakeholders" with valid opinions as to the future of Eastern Hill. Signage should be no further south than the car park or trig. There is no need to obscure the stunning views from the seat at the end of the trail with signage that history shows will be damaged or graffitied in a very short time. No further development except for the existing memorial seat is required at the end of the ridge trail. With the vast number of kangaroos on the eastern side of the hill, my question is where are they supposed to go? What happens when collisions occur between kangaroos and mountain bikers? Will Council be forced to cull kangaroos if they become a perceived safety issue for mountain bikers. It is the current raw, untouched rustic character of Eastern Hill, south of the car park that makes it so attractive to the many regular users, mostly walkers but some riders as well. It is an outstanding vista encompassing river valleys, lake and mountains. It is a place where a person can literally turn their back and forget the unpleasant realities of urban living. This plan with its over-engineered structures and its replacement of a walking trail with a 3m wide road removes this possibility. It removes the uniqueness and the attraction of what we have. It is the rustic beauty of the area south of the trig that we share with visitors from across Australia and the world. These visitors feel a part of the bush they are walking in. This activation plan removes all uniqueness and character from the ridge trail experience. It appears the Easter Hill Activation Plan was approached with extreme prejudice. The only invited stakeholders were those who sought to gain from this capital expenditure on the hill. Walkers were excluded. Nature and the environment was excluded. It is only those who stood to gain significant benefit from the plan who have, until this very late stage, had the right to be heard. As such the outcome of consultation was always going to be virtually predetermined. To grant this parcel of land to these mountain bikers, as is planned, with complete disregard for its present users and its native wildlife which inhabits this hill in abundance is as if the notion of Terra Nullius is reborn in Albury in the year 2022. The survey results should also be dismissed as participants had to choose from pre-loaded answers. One could not submit the survey without giving 3 pre-loaded possibilities on how Eastern Hill could be improved. There was no option to choose less than three things and

	no option to say “None of the above”. The percentages quoted by the consultants in the draft should therefore be seen as statistically invalid. It is a tragedy that residents of Albury in general and East Albury in particular are going to lose their place of reflection and connection to Nature. It is a place where many people go to cleanse their spirit, to connect with those who for 40,000 to 60,000 years have gone before, to walk in and with Nature. Without “the hill” to start my day each day as I have done for many many years, I can’t see myself staying in Albury much longer. This proposal has proceeded in a cynical and collusive fashion. The finished product will be a scar upon the landscape and will stand as a shameful reflection into the future on the Council of the City of Albury and, sadly, on an entire generation of its citizens who thought they were entitled to an adventure park at the expense of Nature. Do what you want to improve the car park and get rid of the hoons and vandals but leave the hill, from the trig point south, exactly as it is. My concerns for the Eastern Hill Activation Plan stem from what will be lost if all aspects of it, especially the downhill mountain bike trails on the eastern face of Eastern Hill, proceed as depicted in the Draft Plan. The place of serenity, rustic beauty and connection to Nature that exists now and is sought by so many will be forever lost if the Eastern Face is handed over to mountain bike trails. Lost, also, will be the potential to develop this hillside, via re vegetation, to a place of sanctuary for both wildlife and humans. Revegetation should be in the very first phase of any improvement plan and not tied to the construction of mountain bike trails. Mountain Biking as an activity in Australia is undertaken by approximately 80% men. (GSD Report for AusCycling - Mountain Biking in Australia: An Economic and Participation Analysis. P.15., 2021) . The same report indicates that some 60% of those men are aged 30-59years. P 16. The overwhelming majority of walkers on the hill are female. As a male, when walking the hill, I am often outnumbered 10-1 or more by women walking alone or in small groups. I have asked recently why walking the hill is so popular amongst women and they have responded that it is quiet, that they feel safe and it is close to where they live so that they can get away for a walk in this bush setting easily and quickly and return home just as quickly and easily before resuming their home duties. Women, statistically, in Australia, perform the vast bulk of child-rearing and domestic duties. Eastern Hill is a wonderful, safe, easily accessible place for women to take some essential time-out for themselves or with their children. This draft plan is effectively taking this place, seen by women as both a safe sanctuary and a place for recreation and handing it over to an already privileged group of males. Throughout Australia governments of all levels are seeking to increase the participation of women of all ages in active recreation. Resources are being directed specifically towards this. If Albury City Council proceeds with the Eastern Hill Activation Plan they will be

	effectively stripping Albury women of a much loved and utilised recreation asset to benefit a sport dominated by approximately 80% men. Albury City will be the only government administration in Australia to be showing such reactionary defiance of contemporary objectives and values. Could I support any of the Eastern Hill Activation Plan? Clearly revegetation and weed control are beneficial and I fully support this. It should be the very first action component of the implementation of the plan and not tied to construction of mountain bike trails. If only one aspect of the Eastern Hill Activation Plan was to ever come to be, it should be the weed control and revegetation on the open grazed areas. An accessible track as far as the trig station is fair but no track improvements are required beyond that point. Better toilet facilities at the lookout are a positive. If security cameras can prevent the vandalism and littering that occurs now at the car park that is a positive. If unobtrusive signage can assist peoples use of trails and increase their knowledge of the natural and human history of the hill that is a positive but the signage indicated in the draft plan is unnecessarily large and intrusive and will be a platform for graffiti and tags. Two more chairs similar and adjacent to the existing one at the southern edge of the ridge may be useful but the view from this furniture should not be obscured in any way by the sort of interpretive signage shown on the draft plan. Large signage, of the sort depicted in the draft plan, will attract graffiti, tags and vandalism. It will be demoralising for any person to be seeking to enjoy Nature to instead have their experience destroyed by the industrial sized vandalism, graffiti and tags that the suggested signs will provide a medium for. Picnic furniture will also encourage litter and currently there is no need for garbage bins or collection on the hill. Bins should not be any further south than the car park. The improvements to the lookout at the car park are interesting and I could support them if it doesn't mean that the existing large box eucalypts immediately to the east of the lookout are removed. They provide habitat for any number of birds and other fauna throughout the year. The construction depicted at the trig station in the draft plan is overkill and unnecessary. It smacks of humans asserting their influence and dominance over the environment. Tone that down to a minimalist structure that is part of the existing environment or blends with it instead of the dominant drop-in structure completely out of context with its natural surrounds depicted in the draft plan. The hill is a place for Nature, not a place where humans can display their capacity to impact upon it. This same ideal should apply when considering the construction of mountain bike trails. Eastern Hill should not be used to solve the problem of continuing damage being done to Nail Can Hill by mountain bikes. The same problems will simply be exported to Eastern Hill where currently no problem exists. So, if not Eastern Hill, where?

	If Albury City attracted appropriate investment and worked hand in hand with the local and indigenous community as well as the mountain biking and hospitality industries, Red Light Hill at Lavington could be developed into the premier regional tourist attraction as well as an international standard mountain biking venue. The attraction with Red Light Hill is its vertical height above its surrounds and its extensive views. It is potentially accessible from below via a chairlift or gondola that carries bikes as well as people. It already has vehicle access to its summit. Not only could it serve downhill activities such as luge, zip lining and mountain bikes, it could be a magnificent air conditioned hilltop restaurant, kiosk or function venue. There is no reason that Red Light Hill, if appropriately and sensitively developed, could not develop as a tourist attraction in similar form to that of The Gondola in Queenstown, New Zealand. My impressions are entirely negative after seeing the scale of this plan. To give over the entire eastern side of the hill south of the trig to mountain bike trails is appalling. Zero consideration has been given to the many animals that inhabit this part of the hill. Has any form of wildlife audit been undertaken for the area that is to be given over as mountain bike trails? Is Council aware, for example of the number and distribution of quail which inhabit the long grass on the eastern side of the hill? Any trail and road development should be confined to north and east of the trig point only. Zero consideration has been given to those who silently or socially walk for exercise on the ridge trail south of the trig. To replace the walking trail with a 3 metre wide road is absolutely delinquent. I and several others walk south from the car park every morning of the year yet we're not considered as "stakeholders" with valid opinions as to the future of Eastern Hill. Signage should be no further south than the car park or trig. There is no need to obscure the stunning views from the seat at the end of the trail with signage that history shows will be damaged or graffitied in a very short time. No further development except for the existing memorial seat is required at the end of the ridge trail. With the vast number of kangaroos on the eastern side of the hill, my question is where are they supposed to go? What happens when collisions occur between kangaroos and mountain bikers? Will Council be forced to cull kangaroos if they become a perceived safety issue for mountain bikers. It is the current raw, untouched rustic character of Eastern Hill, south of the car park that makes it so attractive to the many regular users, mostly walkers but some riders as well. It is an outstanding vista encompassing river valleys, lake and mountains. It is a place where a person can literally turn their back and forget the unpleasant realities of urban living. This plan with its over-engineered structures and its replacement of a walking trail with a 3m wide road removes this possibility. It removes the uniqueness and the attraction of what we have. It is the rustic beauty of the area south of the trig that we share with visitors from across Australia and the world. These visitors feel a part of the bush they are walking in. This activation plan removes all uniqueness and character from the ridge trail experience. It appears the Easter Hill Activation Plan was approached with extreme prejudice. The only invited stakeholders were those who sought to gain from this capital expenditure on the hill.

	Walkers were excluded. Nature and the environment was excluded. It is only those who stood to gain significant benefit from the plan who have, until this very late stage, had the right to be heard. As such the outcome of consultation was always going to be virtually predetermined. To grant this parcel of land to these mountain bikers, as is planned, with complete disregard for its present users and its native wildlife which inhabits this hill in abundance is as if the notion of Terra Nullius is reborn in Albury in the year 2022. The survey results should also be dismissed as participants had to choose from pre-loaded answers. One could not submit the survey without giving 3 pre-loaded possibilities on how Eastern Hill could be improved. There was no option to choose less than three things and no option to say “None of the above”. The percentages quoted by the consultants in the draft should therefore be seen as statistically invalid. It is a tragedy that residents of Albury in general and East Albury in particular are going to lose their place of reflection and connection to Nature. It is a place where many people go to cleanse their spirit, to connect with those who for 40,000 to 60,000 years have gone before, to walk in and with Nature. Without “the hill” to start my day each day as I have done for many,, many years, I can’t see myself staying in Albury much longer. This proposal has proceeded in a cynical and collusive fashion. The finished product will be a scar upon the landscape and will stand as a shameful reflection into the future on the Council of the City of Albury and, sadly, on an entire generation of its citizens who thought they were entitled to an adventure park at the expense of Nature. Do what you want to improve the car park and get rid of the hoons and vandals but leave the hill, from the trig point south, exactly as it is.
John Streller	As for the overall proposal I tend to think it is a step in the right direction and looks great in its concept drawings. Change is something that cannot be stopped because change and time are the same, one helping to describe the other. The one submission I would like to make is number 21 the removal of the existing chair (Elke's Chair) if this could be relocated along the path between Trig point and its existing position. This place has been special to our family for 4 generations starting with my father a Bonegilla immigrant who would take us up there as children to watch over Mungabareena Reserve and the airport to watch the planes to my children and now their children Elke being one of my father’s kids enjoyed her walk every day along the area so even though change is inevitable which I have witnessed over 60 years myself. Something's to explain the past such as hume and Hovell or from a more recent era such as Elke's chair would be nice to maintain and would give my sisters and my children’s children to bring their children to see were nature and there past combine
John Watson	Just a general comment: I have looked out most of my life to Eastern Hill from Huon Hill and thought it’s an untapped market for community to make it assessable to all disability people, walkers and bike riders it will be an asset to Albury Wodonga. The thought of having three peaks run over a weekend could bring lots of visitors. E.g., walk run cycle to Huon’s Hill, Eastern Hill and Monument Hill

Johnny Murray	Hello, given the locality of this project I feel it's a good opportunity to engage local Wiradjuri Elders and leaders with the vision of capturing the Aboriginal Cultural significance of that area. Mungabareena is a Registered Aboriginal Place due to it being a traditional gathering place with direct links to the Bogong Moths migration through this area. It would be an advantageous opportunity to highlight the cultural heritage of this area in the spirit of reconciliation that tells the significant history of this great place we get to call home. Ignoring this opportunity would be sad. Happy to help drive these conversations and put you into contact with key Elders and Leaders plus there is a report that was passed that has all the research and evidence of the significance of the area which was signed off for Mungabareena to be registered as an Aboriginal Place that could drive the conversations. Even a Bogong moth themed or shaped landscape or platform/deck would be a great addition for the lookout and it would cost much to put in a yarning circle up there. Just incorporate it into the natural landscape. Some native bush tucker and medicinal plants would be great. An acknowledgment of country in Wiradjuri language would be great up there. Check out the yarning circle and acknowledgement of country they have at the new park they built in Wagga where the beach caravan park used to be.
Josh Cann	Looks like a great upgrade. Great inspiration for people to get out and about.

Josh Giblin	I think this is an excellent and exciting plan by Albury City to showcase and preserve a beautiful natural area that is uniquely 'Albury'. All those in council who have worked in developing this plan should be commended on a very well-considered draft that is inclusive for all ages and mobility levels across our community. I would love to see this draft approved and carried out exactly as it is shown on the plans. I believe this area will fast become a huge attraction to Albury for bushwalkers, MTB users and sightseers alike, and will allow council to manage and maintain the area so all can enjoy this amazing natural feature we are lucky enough to have. I am a parent of three young kids that I regularly take both bushwalking and mountain bike riding on trails locally and interstate, I see this area as a huge benefit to them and all other young people in our community. In a time where screens and technology tend to rule, the challenges of getting our kids outdoors and active are sometimes hard to overcome. I think this proposal offers all young people an easy, safe and accessible area that will get them out and active in nature which to me is one of the most important things to consider. I attended one of the councils information sessions regarding this plan and it is interesting to me that the largest and loudest opposition to this plan is coming from a mostly elderly demographic who don't need to consider young people's needs at all. The overwhelming comments seem to be mostly along the lines of ' I've been here for a long time, and I want it to stay exactly as it is'. I think like it or not this area has found itself in the centre of a fast growing and vibrant city whose needs have changed over the last few decades. Eastern Hill needs to be properly planned, well managed and maintained for all users and I believe this plan achieves all of that. Council have done a great job in planning the areas for bushwalking and mountain bike riding and have considered the needs of all groups by keeping them mostly separate so those looking for quiet walks can still achieve that while those looking for a faster paced activity can also enjoy the area. Well done.
Josh Gibs	I am in huge favour of this plan as both a walker and bike rider with kids. The plan looks fantastic and is something that area has needed for a long time. We'll done on including all users of the area so our whole community can enjoy the new space. Well done Albury Council I hope this plan is approved in its full form
Josh McLinden	I agree with all the works to make the space more accessible and usable to those with physical restrictions, i.e., the path grading widening and viewing platforms. I think the mountain bike riding may be a conflict with the other more predominant users of the space and the funding for the MTB tracks on eastern hill may be best utilised in the Nail Can hill area instead, however noting that informal tracks already exist at this site so making them formalised may help in negotiating the conflict between different users of the space

Judith Richardson	I have studied the draft Eastern Hill Activation Master Plan have the following comments: Having lived in the area for the past 47 I have found that, due to its proximity to the CBD, the Eastern Hill area is widely used for walking, quite connection with the environment whether alone or with friends and pets. In times when mental health is a high priority, having a natural area like this so close is only going to grow in importance. The draft Master Plan seems to contradict these pursuits and appears to favour the activity of mountain biking with the mountain bike trails appearing to dominate Eastern Hill. I understand that the bike trail on Nail Can Hill is poorly maintained and I'm wondering what guarantee is there that an Eastern Hill would be any better and, if so, what would the annual cost be to the ratepayers? Why not just upgrade Nail Can Hill track where I understand the topography is more suitable. I am in favour of the Eastern Hill Lookout and surrounding area being upgraded with the emphasis on minimising any anti-social behaviour that currently detracts from this area with things like CCTV/bollards/gates/appropriate lighting. Lastly, the benefits of having the native animals and plants so close cannot be underestimated. Please consider just enhancing the trail and lookout.
Judith Watta	I have recently moved to Albury, and I walk on Eastern Hill at least 4 times a week with my dog. I love the natural beauty and peaceful walkers I meet there. Please don't spoil this tranquil place with rude mountain bikers rushing and pushing walkers off paths. Eastern hill is totally accessible as it is. It's my experience that once mountain bikers are encouraged to an area they make new paths, create land subsidence and erosion and degrade the land. Leave the natural landscape for us to enjoy. We have already messed with too many things.
Judy Kenny Multiple submissions	I live adjacent to Devils Glen and therefore I will be severely impacted by the proposed trails and car park. Devils Glen is a gully, and it is not suited to any sort of development. It is very obvious to me that, no one, who developed this plan, walked down the gully. If they had, they would have found out how wet it is and unsuitable for any sort of earth moving. The proposed car park is in a flood zone. My family lives where we do because of the tranquillity and natural space. Our privacy and security will disappear if we have a mountain bike track at our boundary fence. Leave Eastern Hill alone. I am an east Albury resident who will be impacted by the changes to eastern hill. At present, the area provides a natural environment for people to enjoy. It does not need to be changed or developed. I received no correspondence from council regarding their proposed plans. Please listen to the people who use the area.

Julia Brown	As a resident on Rivergum Drive and a regular walker on Eastern Hill I have the following comments. I would like to ensure the track is fully accessible for all residents in wheelchairs and prams. My brother also resides in Eastern View Estate and is in a wheelchair. I have taken him along the current track, and it is near impossible currently. There are a number of elderly residents in the estate, and it would be good to ensure the trail is suitable for all residents to share. In order to share with all residents and maintain the peaceful reflective nature of location I don't believe that the track should be used as a mountain bike track. In terms of information presented to the public on signage. I would like to see the following inclusions to use the walk as an opportunity to educate and develop a sense of place. -local Aboriginal people consulted, with their history included in any information. - Birds and wildlife to look out for - localised flora to look out for on the walk. Many thanks for the opportunity to comment.
Julie Davie	I think there are some very good things about the plan, especially upgrading the car park and toilet facilities. Having a lookout on the trig station is great and making this accessible for all is a good representation of council values. However I am totally opposed to having mountain bikes on the hill. There is a plethora of mountain bike tracks in the area, and the track record of preserving the environment, and mountain bikers coexisting with people who want to quietly enjoy nature is suggestive that the plans for eastern hill will not work. Please no mountain bike trails. I also have real concern as to how this plan got developed to this point without broad community engagement. The planning and engagement were heavily biased to hearing the voices of mountain bikers to the exclusion of the hill users (currently you would rarely see a mountain biker on the hill, despite what the survey results suggested). Whilst I think there are some good points to the plan, as noted above, I firmly believe that the plan needs to go back to square one with independent broad community engagement Please stop the plan and start again properly following the councils' endorsed processes.

Julie Hammond	I have been a resident in east Albury for over 36 years and walking the hill for that time. I'm amazed at the lack of community engagement, and that bike tracks are being discussed as a possible option for this beautiful space. Other councils are putting in board walks to protect habitats, and your proposal is to dig it up. The car park and entrance does need an upgrade. To hear your proposal that there wouldn't be any extra car spaces is ludicrous. You are spending a huge amount of money, trying to increase the traffic and we won't end up with more spaces. Keep the bikes off eastern hill, there is Nail Can for that Upgrade the car park to accommodate more cars Leave the walk as natural as possible Upgrade doctors point Rd, it's extremely dangerous Clean up Mungabareena, and every year it gets worse. The cows across the river have better kept banks than Albury city. Thank you
Julie Kruger	I think it is a great idea and long overdue. If there are any memorial seats, I would encourage you to keep them.
Justin Newman	Looks like the plans will enhance the experience of existing users (walkers/people admiring the lookout/bird watchers) of the reserve, while also attracting mountain bikers to the area. All without negatively affecting land/homeowners around the area. I look forward to this project going forward, it will be a great asset to the eastern area.

Justine Parer	Do make the lookout disability friendly. Please... Don't add car spaces. Don't add more parking area. Make it "not great" for cars. The parking that is there should be mostly reserved for disabled people with appropriate sticker on car. Everybody else can park on street not far away and WALK. Do retain the quiet. Do keep Elke's bench. Do keep the trees around Elke's bench. Do reveg and nature preservation. Please... Do not ruin my hill with tracks, vehicles, parties, and all that. We NEED quiet. We NEED old trees. We NEED to be able to escape our neighbours and jobs. We ARE active already. The hill IS used by people like me who walk there, marvel at the view from under the tree, shed a tear for lost family, and have a quiet peaceful moment. It's so perfect... how do you not see that already?
Karen McLean Multiple submissions	I have earlier written support for this plan where I considered the benefits for the community to have better access to Eastern hill for recreation. I'm concerned now about the local community where I live as many residents are unhappy with the proposal. I'd like to see redevelopment however further community engagement to ensure local residents have more input into the project. I hope this project goes ahead. So many local residents don't know about the community access to this site with such great vistas and natural beauty. I hope we can make it accessible to a lot more people. Mountain biking draws in tourism for our town and creates opportunity for kids to get active and outdoors. Wonderful initiative particularly so close to hospital. A nice place for those struggling through illness and wheelchair accessible too. Fabulous, let's do this! I am a friend of Eastern hill, run on it several times a week and I say we should make it more accessible and share it with the broader community for more active kids, promote positive mental health, improve the landscaping, drainage, restore vegetation. It is positive to see more interest in Eastern hill.

Karen Webb	I have concerns over mountain bike tracks on Eastern Hill. There are already multiple sites around both Albury and Wodonga and surrounding towns which have mountain bike tracks. I have been walking along Eastern Hill for years and one of the reasons I love going up there with my kids and dog is there is no need to contend with bikes along the paths. I understand that the tracks are to be separate to the walking paths, but I believe everyone is aware of the reality is both pedestrians and bikes will end up sharing paths. The erosion and damage to areas that are frequented by bikes is unnecessary on a hill that doesn't already have them.
Karyn Roe	Really excited about this master plan, it will add levels of safety to those who access Eastern Hill and maximize usage of this magnificent outdoor attraction. The roundabout, separate walking path, mesh stairs, viewing platforms, it's all an incredibly well thought and detailed plan. I know it would make it so much easier for my family to use, and we can't be the only ones. Also, very thrilled to see how much thought has gone into preserving local flora and fauna and encouraging future growth and habitat for native wildlife.
Kasey Medway	Make car park drive-through, as vehicles will be required to drive in to find park, and either reverse or attempt 3 point turn to get out if full, possible crash or pedestrian collision risk. Reduce speed limit along east street near round about, and speed reduction devices, e.g. speed humps along road. Gate and access points that will only allow access for pedestrians and bikes, to help keep motor bikes out, similar to hunchback.
Kate de Hennin	We are so fortunate to have a diverse community of different ages, needs and aspirations. I fully support the draft masterplan seeking a compromise between the variety of uses identified for this beautiful space. The beauty will not be spoiled, but rather, enhanced. The ability for ALL of our community to access this space is also enhanced. Eastern Hill is here for the residents of Albury, our region, and for our visitors. Let's not prohibit access to all by making it inaccessible to all. Importantly, there must be a separation of vehicles and pedestrians (as depicted in the concept) for those choosing to walk to the Hill. Crossing East St is currently unsafe, as is the walk up to the lookout where pedestrians must walk on the road. The concept presented allows inclusivity and encourages us all to get outside and experience this place safely and as a whole community.

Kate Harris	Submission in response to the DRAFT Eastern Hill Activation Master Plan I am writing to express my concerns with the above proposed plan, and the community engagement process (or lack thereof) which has underpinned the development of this plan. I understand that – aside from targeted stakeholder workshops with an insufficiently small number of groups – the only community consultation undertaken by Albury City Council prior to the draft plan being developed was an online survey conducted over three weeks in January and February 2022. I also understand that a disproportionate number of the respondents to the above survey were mountain bikers. While this stakeholder group certainly deserves to have their say, what is concerning is the lack of proactive engagement with the rest of the local community who regularly use Eastern Hill for other purposes - for walking, quiet reflection, to exercise their dogs, or to simply connect with nature. If Albury City Council truly cared about hearing what the local community's views are on any proposed changes to Eastern Hill, it is not unreasonable to expect that they would take steps to solicit these views properly, rather than just conducting a survey which many interested community members would arguably be unlikely to encounter. This lack of proactive engagement is in direct conflict with the Council's own Community Engagement vision which ostensibly is to 'proactively and consistently engage with the community during the development of plans, policies and projects that have the potential to affect the Albury community'. Reading the Eastern Hill Activation Master Plan Engagement Outcomes Summary by Yonder, it is difficult to find any evidence that the Council has followed its own community engagement vision throughout the process of developing the draft plan. Indeed, based on the reaction that has occurred since a wider cross-section of the community became aware of the draft plan, it would appear that: 1. The process has not operated as any kind of "partnership" between the Council and the community - indeed the views of many of the interested parties have been treated as unimportant. 2. Many local residents have not been effectively kept informed by the major changes proposed in the plan. I understand that a recent FOI request revealed that only nine local properties were advised of the proposed changes via a letter drop when it is clear the changes, if enacted, would impact a far greater number of local residents. 3. Stakeholder groups have not been engaged with in a consistent manner. It would appear that the mountain biking community have been prioritised significantly over almost every other stakeholder group with an interest in Eastern Hill. Indeed, it is clear that the community engagement process has been skewed from the start, with the creation of MTB trails on Eastern Hill having been treated as a foregone conclusion, rather than one of a number of possible options that would be decided on only after thorough community engagement. Albury City Council itself states that "...research into methods of engagement has found that community groups, individuals and organisations operate differently and the methods we use to engage should reflect this research". If this is truly what the Council believes, why have they considered an online survey with a relatively small reach sufficient community engagement to form the basis of a plan that proposes major changes to Eastern Hill? Why were letter drops and information sessions not offered to all interested local residents prior

	to the plan being drafted? The disregard the Council has shown for their own community engagement principles has not only resulted in widespread dissatisfaction among many community members who feel blindsided by the proposed plan, but also doesn't inspire any confidence that Council are professional and robust enough to be making major decision that affect a large number of Albury residents. In short, the local community has not been sufficiently included in the planning and decision making around the draft plan. I know I join with many others in requesting that Council conduct a proper community engagement process underpinned by its own community engagement principles, before putting any resulting draft plan to Council for possible endorsement. Thank you for your consideration of my submission.
Kathryn Belford	Eastern Hill is one of the last untouched areas for humans, flora and fauna to enjoy in its natural state near Albury. Please, please do not ruin it by 'developing' it. There is no need to do that to absolutely every natural bush area, please please, please leave it as it is and recognise the value in NOT overcrowding and ruining it. Thank you.
Kathryn Kernaghan	Brilliant plan. So important to open up this area to all Albury residents who currently are not using the hill for recreation or exercise by reason of inaccessibility. The mountain bike trails are perfectly positioned and will open this space up to more young people living nearby - and hopefully all across Albury as well. Great to see the plan include walking trails and riding trails to cater for everyone. Brilliant plan.

Kathryn Larkin	Apologies if I have already sent this email. I did send to Councillors and not sure if I sent through this process. Eastern Hill Redevelopment Plan THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU! Thank you so much for the opportunity to share my thoughts and concerns regarding the proposed Eastern Hill redevelopment plan. As a daily morning walker on Eastern Hill I have had the absolute privilege to feel safe as I walk the ridge through the various seasons we experience here in beautiful Albury. In fact, in my experience there is no other place in Albury where women can walk alone and feel safe while giving their nervous system a chance to truly relax and renew itself. This spectacular environment is so unique to our community and provides a sanctuary away from the everyday busyness of life. The peacefulness and tranquillity provide a time for reflection and a huge dose of well-being for the body, mind and soul. From walking on the earth, breathing in the delicious clean air, watching the wildlife enjoy their home and personally enjoying the silence that this space provides is exactly what I recommend every day to my family, friends and clients. To have this amazing natural space to just BE is incredible. Let's PROTECT it! While I understand there are safety issues accessing the car park and the amenities are in need of improvements, I believe the bush walk in its natural setting is a unique gift to keep as natural as possible, especially from the trig point to the end of the ridge towards Doctors Point. While contemplating some qualities I deeply admire and greatly appreciate about decision makers I came up with a couple of words which I explored. Trailblazer: a person who is the first to do something; an innovator. Pathfinder: a person who goes ahead and discovers or shows others a path or way. I would love to see this approach when making decisions on behalf of our community. If Albury City Councillors voted to keep this space as nature intended I believe this forward thinking would exhibit the true meaning of trailblazers and pathfinders, doing what no one else has done. I cannot think of another city that provides such a unique and therapeutic environment in the middle of their city. Many people travel long distances to immerse themselves in the restorative elements of these natural settings and we are so privileged to have this extraordinary bushland at our doorstep. While I understand it is part of Councils' role to continually develop this beautiful city, I also believe in forward thinking and for our Council to be consciously aware of what is best for the community both now and well into the future. So, imagine in 10, 20 or 30 years how proud we would be as Councillors and residents of Albury to have retained this incredible gift of nature for generations to come. I am so proud to be a local and believe this is an opportunity for our forward thinking Councillors to rethink developing this unique space and consider the long term benefits of keeping this incredible space as nature designed it. I often hear it said that Uluru in Northern Territory is the heart of Australia and I truly believe Eastern Hill is indeed the heart of Albury. PLEASE protect the heart of our city!

	As Joni Mitchell said in the famous song, “That you don’t know what you got ‘til it’s gone ……. They paved Paradise……” People dig for gold all over our country and I believe what we have here in the heart of Albury is absolute GOLD – so please let’s treasure our GOLD and PROTECT it at all costs! I would like to think I have INSPIRED you to strongly consider retaining this natural healing environment as nature intended it. Nature is one of our greatest teachers and healers! Thank you so much for giving your very precious time to read and consider my thoughts and vision for our beautiful Eastern Hill – our PARADISE. Much gratitude for the gift of your time,
Kathryn McAllister	I reside in Eastern View estates and often walk there using the 'track' between the houses and East St which is poorly maintained and a true fire hazard to the homes backing on to it. Once I reached Eastern Hill Lookout, there's only 1 bin and the rubbish is scattered everywhere, which reflects the poor maintenance by council on yet another tourist attraction. There is not even a bin next to the archaic toilet block. There are no bins at Mungab reserve either. The Hume and Hovell track on top of Eastern hill is mown every now and then. I've walked it when the wild oats are almost over my head and I'm 5'7". The Hume and Hovell track are not maintained at all on the descent leading into Mungab Reserve. The wild blackberry bushes are growing at an alarming and unchecked rate - these I thought were considered noxious weeds. The vegetation reaches over the track as never maintained. I'd be truly disappointed travelling to Albury to walk the famed Hume and Hovell track only to realise I should have bought a line trimmer with me and that it truly is a track. I strongly suggest Council looks at the Canberra Arboretum for ideas of what could really be done on Eastern Hill or placed on the hill between Springdale Heights and Ettamogah Rise. Do not even get me started on the idea of a round-about at intersection of East and Walsh Sts. The approaches on East St are a decline and would only result in accidents, 40 k speed limit or not. Wherever Albury City has redesigned road intersections, I find the flow of traffic has only been made worse especially with the overuse of right turn red arrows that do not turn off after a short period. I'm seriously concerned that if the current Lookout can't be maintained, how and earth will putting a new precinct, bike and walking tracks, which will hopefully attract more visitors, improve maintenance.
Katie Smith	I am an East Albury resident and homeowner and have been for 22 years. The congestion at that section is already dangerous with the access road in a poor position. I do not agree with biking being a priority as parking will be taken up with that and leave no room for viewing. I think the access road will need assessing of the location or there will be carnage. With that being said it’s a great idea, but there is no infrastructure up on East St to support increased traffic.

Katrina Warnock	I really like the plan. As someone who walks from my home to the lookout several days a week, with dogs and primary school aged children, I feel there is a missed opportunity to increase the safety and opportunity for locals to head up there without getting in a car. Borella road is difficult to cross safely, especially with young children, but driving to a location in order to take a walk is not ideal either. I would like to see traffic lights or similar crossing options on Borella road so that all east Albury residents can confidently walk to the lookout from their home
Kay Polsen	Looking at Nail Can Hill from the bike riders, I would be devastated to see this happen on Eastern Hill. This is where I have walked collected mushrooms and just enjoyed the serenity of the surrounding hill. There are other places around that could be used. The council say they will look after it when completed but you only have to look at Mungabareena which is so neglected.
Kaye Ellis	I live in Doctors Point and regularly enjoy the peace and beauty of the Hume and Hovell walking track. The privilege of having this natural wonderland on our doorstep is one that I give thanks for regularly. First Nation's people, who occupied this beautiful place uninterrupted by "progress “had been enjoying this part of the world long before we were here striving to improve the perfection that nature has to offer. It is rare to find such untamed natural bushland so close to a city. We bought our property here 28 years ago and since then have regularly enjoyed walks along the ridge. Sometimes I meet others. Sometimes it is quite secluded. I can see no reason for a viewing platform at the Trig Point. There is no danger of falling over the edge. Certainly, a path wide enough to provide access for wheelchairs is warranted, however, to construct a concrete or paved viewing platform would serve only to destroy the beauty that nature provides. There is no place for manmade structures of concrete and pavers in an area zoned environmental. For many years stock was permitted to graze on Eastern Hill and unfortunately this resulted in quite severe degradation of the soil and hence erosion in some places. Since the introduced animals have been relocated, nature has done its magic and restored vegetation to make the place better again. More time is required to undo the damage done but to add mountain bike trails to this fragile landscape would be a disaster far worse than we've seen before. Perhaps serious mountain bikers would go elsewhere, but children can do plenty of damage too. It's unlikely that they would only stay on the prepared trails. Parents have to take their children to other recreational activities, so why not take the children to other areas already designated for mountain bikes? Albury is not a big place and there are many trails on Nail Can, many of which are in need of serious attention from the Albury City Council. As a resident of East Albury, I strongly object to mountain bike trails on Eastern Hill and urge the council to preserve the beauty that is already here
Kaye Ellis	I would be sad to see the natural beauty of the Eastern Hill walking track marred by unnecessary and expensive construction rather than maintenance of a perfectly adequate track and viewing area. Mountain bikes on the hill would deface an area which is fragile as it recovers from years of stock grazing. I am in favour of doing what is required to make access to this area of natural beauty safe for all walkers to enjoy.

Kaye Kennedy	Excellent news I love this place, but it often looks untidy and unsavoury characters hanging about. Some nice sitting seats would be nice. I would like to see the trail down to Mungabareena signposted along the route and kept maintained please.
Keaton Johnson	I think the draft Master Plan looks wonderful. I think Eastern Hill is underutilised by the wider Albury community and the proposed improvements will benefit a wide range of community groups including young families (in particular parents with prams), people with disability and mountain bike riders. On speaking with several wheelchair users, all remarked that they have not been to Eastern Hill which indicated the urgent need for accessibility upgrades such as those proposed. The proposed track upgrades appear to be respectful to the natural beauty of the area.
Kellie Hutchinson	On days where I need a quiet escape from busy working mum life, my first stop is Eastern Hill. I live in Glenroy but I'm always more than happy to make the effort to travel across town as I enjoy the views, the friendly people and the serenity that Eastern Hill offers. I would be devastated to see this place turned into a bustling adventure park. It goes against everything Eastern Hill has going for it. Minor safety upgrades to the entrance, cosmetic upgrades to the Rotary Lookout and all abilities access to the trig station are great ideas that are much needed. From the trig point onwards, it only requires maintenance to some sections of the track and even some additional resting seats and walking tracks. Revegetation after the years of grazing would also encourage more native animals to the area.
Kerrie Horner	It has just been brought to my attention that this site is available for comment. I am a retiree and feel that the East Hill Plan is a faulty one. We do not want East Hill to be another Nail Can Hill, eroded, and unusable. I do not want to be checking my back for mountain bike riders using the same path as my walk on the East Hill pathways. I feel the council have not consulted the community enough before proceeding with this plan. Fix up the mess which has been created on Nail Can Hill and let the riders use that, not create another in a pristine area like East Hill. I feel the council needs to look at their method of consulting the community a bit more and not rely on social media. Not all people in the community use the internet to find things out. Please re-consider.

Kerrin Ritchie	I am not in favour of the plan Council has put up for public comment for the following reasons I have never seen a mountain bike whilst walking Eastern Hill/Doctor's Point. It is a quiet reflective place which needs weeds removed and basic maintenance which used to be done but has been neglected lately! As a walker I can say that we do not need bitumen or like surfaces to walk on and far prefer to feel the earth beneath our feet as nature intended – it is far easier and softer on the feet and legs. This area is well used by walkers and contributes greatly to the mental wellbeing of many people – including mums pushing prams who obviously appreciate the naturalness or else they would push their prams down Dean Street? Not every piece of our environment needs to be "gardened and improved". Natural environments are also needed for that sense of exploration and serenity which recharges our mental batteries. Weed removal and basic maintenance is all that is required – not expensive "beautifying" Mountain bikes – Whilst not wholly against a section of this area being used (but NOT as detailed in your plans!) I would like to point out a few truths and concerns. There are already mountain bike areas in Wodonga and Albury. Just how many areas does this sport need to desecrate? I have ridden horses and walked Nail Can and surrounding hills for maybe 40 years – I remember the H.J.R. Steer Trails being created for walkers – now this area is unsafe for walkers because of mountain bike users whose only aim appears to be getting from point A to point B as fast as possible. If there isn't a track where they want to go, they just carve one out. The destruction that has occurred in recent years with erosion is a disgrace to Albury City Council. It appears management of the current mountain bike area is sadly lacking so I find it hard they are actually planning to create another on Beautiful quiet bushland which used to have amazing wildflowers and natural fauna and flora has been allowed to become an eroded mass of bike tracks. Also, it would appear that council does not have the knowledge to prevent this erosion. I enclose photos recently taken of a very ugly "bridge" – completely out of context with the natural environment. The only conclusion I could come to was this was constructed to allow the bikes a safe passage over an eroded gully which they initially caused, because certainly the erosion beneath the bridge is not addressed!! This expense could soon be the norm on Nail Can as this is only one of many erosion areas. Access points to Nail Can are now nothing but eroded gullies washing what bit of precious subsoils there were onto our roads. The top of Daniel Street is a prime example – it is practically inaccessible now, where the subsoils continually wash down blocking the drain at the lowest point. I have given this point some time as surely everyone knows water runs downhill. Nobody can predict when a damaging deluge of rain will occur - obviously more frequently with global warming. When mountain bike areas are not properly maintained and overseen this can lead to destruction of valuable natural beauty areas which Albury has in its surrounding hills. This results in dangerous outcomes and maybe even the suing of council by walkers breaking an ankle or being run over by a speeding mountain bike or even the mountain bike riders injuring themselves. All serious considerations I would have thought. As a ratepayer I would not like to have to fork out for this expense. My thoughts – close Nail Can and surrounding wooded hills to mountain bikes. Toilets already exist at Eastern Hill - why the expense of new fancy facilities? There are NO toilets on Nail Can! Maybe consider creating an adventurous separate area for mountain bikes on the cleared area of Eastern Hill in direction of Bunnings and leave the existing entrance for walkers at the Telecom towers and tracks to

	Mungabareena and Doctor's Point as is for the many walkers who have enjoyed this area for many years and continue to introduce others to its beauty. Leave Devils Glen as is – I thought our city had a vision for 2050 to retain our natural environments, both for the community, as well as our declining birds and wildlife. Cost to Ratepayers. This really strikes a bad chord. As I understand it this plan was drawn up based on a very select response to a survey the Council originally ran. If what I read is correct Council were willing to spend all this money based on 300+ replies????? The plan should be revised. The idea and cost of the proposed round-about is absurd. Just take a drive out Bowna Road, or for that matter practically any of our local roads to see the state of disrepair they are in. As ratepayers I am sure we would far prefer to see this money spent on improving the safety of these roads which are used by all of us instead of a round-about constructed to service a particular sporting sector.
Kerry Banks	I am vehemently opposed to the proposal regarding Eastern Hill. Unnecessary tampering with the natural environment, in light of what we now know, in my opinion, is regressive and frightening. We cannot continue to encroach on our flora and fauna in the name of "recreation". I love Eastern Hill just the way it is; charming, delightful and wondrous.
Kevin Mack	I fully support the regeneration of this major asset as it provides alternate lifestyle opportunities for our people. The current asset is old and disgusting and the walking trail not well formed or marked. There is an expectation that a modern regional city should make the most of its natural assets and this one is long overdue for planning consideration. Having said that I do believe existing assets are in dire need of repair and upgrade and should not be Ignored and left to attract dust.
Kevin Poulton	First and foremost, I commend the councillor group for enabling the council staff to plan a better future for Albury and surrounds. Whilst I am not a mountain bike rider, and neither are our children (they play facilitated sports - swimming, hockey, basketball and athletics), I can see the positive outcomes this will bring to others in the community. The entire city will benefit from investment into this draft plan. I'm excited by the considerations of those living with a disability, enabling visitation to an outlook that previously has often gone unappreciated by those with limited access. This can't be emphasised enough. I did wonder if that parking space was adequate enough, however also understand those utilising the development will likely walk or ride to the destination. The improvement to traffic flow over East Street will be a welcome gain, with the new entry slowing traffic that often exceeds the limit of 60km/h. The considerations given to vegetation and environmental impacts in the draft plan, in my view are sufficient. I hope the investment being made into such a plan is in the near future. To be clear, I would have no objection to revenue from my rates being utilised toward such a project. It compliments recent investment at Hovell Tree Park perfectly, making Albury not just a more liveable city, but a thriving economy through tourism/visitation. Well done on documenting and chasing such a vision.

Kim Rhodes	I am concerned about the development of mountain bike trails on Eastern Hill after reading and hearing about the existing trails already in Albury. Nail Can Hill trails demonstrate the problems involved in the maintenance and regular upkeep and show that they can cause significant environmental and cultural damage to the area if not used properly. 10 km of trails would certainly carve up Eastern Hill, despite reassurances from council that the area is going to be revegetated. The plan also does not detail how much the Hume and Hovell track is going to be realigned. It would be great to see a larger involvement of interested community members involved in the revegetation process of this plan as people are passionate about this part of East Albury and its flora and fauna.
Kodie Keighran	This hill does not need to have bike riders through it, the walking tracks are great the way they are, and so many East Albury residents do not want this
Korinne Arblaster	This would be amazing. I'm a mountain biker and a runner and beloved more activations like this will help the overall well-being and mental health of our population- young and old.
Kristian Shipard	My submission is against the Eastern Hill Activation Plan with particular objection to the development in Doctors Point, Devils Glen and the mountain bike trails. As a resident and avid user of Eastern Hill I am alarmed at the way Council has gone about this development in what appears to be a deliberate attempt to put the interests of a minority group in the mountain bike community above residents and current users. This is evident by Council having sought out the mountain bike group in developing this plan without any similar opportunity given to other people. In my current studies in Environmental Science, I am learning about sustainability and environmental management and am appalled that Council would consider this kind of development in a high conversation area as appropriate. There is a range of land based native animals whose survival depends on some ability to migrate and the only available habitat corridor to them is from Doctors Point Reserve over to Mungabareena reserve. This development will wipe them out. Council may say that an environmental impact study will be undertaken however that won't occur until after the approval of this plan at which point it will be too late. This plan should not proceed, and the Devil's Glen/Doctors area should not be put under further development than what has already been done, it should be maintained as the important wildlife shelter that it currently is. The mountain bike park is totally out of keeping with what users want for this space. Not only will it contribute to the destruction of local wildlife, but it will also encourage degradation and erosion down on to the lagoons below. Existing users will be pushed off the hill and Councils claims that there will not be conflict between walkers and riders is nonsense. Apart from at least 6 intersecting points, there is nothing preventing mountain bikers from using the alleged walking only tracks. Mountain bikers are well served with Nail Can hill and Hunchback in Wodonga. Walkers have limited access to unformed trails in natural settings outside of Eastern Hill and there are many more walkers than mountain bike riders so it is difficult to understand how Council can argue at any level that this is appropriate.

Kristie Fayle	Please leave this area alone. It's perfectly fine the way it is peaceful and natural. You can no longer get a peaceful walk up Nail Can with all the bikes why not let the walkers have a peaceful place. Go spend some money on updating local parks. They are a joke compared to what other towns have on offer.
Kristie-Lee Gurney	I walk the Eastern Hill track regularly with my children, elderly parents and dogs. The track at present is fantastic as it blends in with the environment. I would be devastated to see it turned into a mountain bike track. Albury already has extensive bike paths and multiple mountain bike paths on Nail Can Hill. I have had many near misses with bikes on the Sculpture walk path and at Nouriel Park, it would be great to keep Eastern Hill free from bikes. We need beautiful places to walk in safety, where we are not confronted and run into by bikes.
Kylie Edwards	Completely against this development especially the bike riding on the hill. Bike riders already have a place for this. There are a lot of runners, elderly people, people with dogs, elderly people with dogs, families up on the hill. We go there for the peace and tranquillity, why do you have to make it a destination?
Lachlan McIntyre	1) It is good that Council wishes to improve accessibility to the hill for people with mobility issues and improve the access road. 2) I am against the 'carving up' of the hill by mountain bike tracks- not only because of the environmental and aesthetic impact, but the safety and enjoyment of other users- particularly those who like walking through this area in peace. There should be another more suitable venue for mountain bike riders away from pedestrians, enhancing the safety of both user groups.

Lauren Black	It has taken me some time to get to the core of how I feel about the Draft Master Plan for Eastern Hill as there are many considerations to take in. I put my initial thoughts in during the first consultation period and they were simply to respect and maintain the native flora and fauna that call Eastern Hill home. Having reflected on that further, I realise that my reasoning was not purely selfless. Eastern Hill ridge walk has been an incredibly important part of my healing journey since my mother, Elke Black, passed away in a tragic accident. Our family have been walking the track from our family home on Cadell Street, past the water tanks (before the hospital existed), up to the Lookout, along the ridge line, down to the Murray River (before Eastern View Estate existed), through Mungabareena Reserve to the Waterworks, along Borella Road (before the Business Park existed) and back home. My mother took our family dogs walking there every morning and saw thousands of sunrises, made significant connections with like-minded people and kept both physically and mentally healthy into her sixties. Following her example and wearing her trusty walking shoes, I continued to walk both my own and her dogs each day along the ridgeline. The serenity, freedom, rugged path, faithful trees, native wildlife, friendly passers-by and visceral experience of the changing of the seasons helped me to come to terms with her loss and accept that life goes on. Our family's approved proposal to replace the broken seat at the Kiewa Valley Lookout was a pleasant conclusion to this process and it has been such a joy to meet so many people recently who have appreciated this donation and relate to the words on the plaque which read: This seat was donated by the Black family in loving memory of Elke Black, who loved nothing more than to walk her dogs over Eastern Hill and by the Murray River each day. If AlburyCity wants to truly represent and serve the Albury community then it is important to consider that not all places need to be developed, activated and reported on for tangible financial outcomes. For many people, places like Eastern Hill are the very connection and sense of belonging we have to this beautiful part of the world. Surely a plan focused on maintaining safe access and preserving the natural beauty of a place like this would be much better received by those who genuinely and regularly use it, not to mention appreciated by future generations to come. For these reasons, I am opposed to the Eastern Hill Masterplan prioritizing and developing the reserve for a Mountain Bike Trail. I am in favour of all General Recommendations except for installing interpretative signage across the reserve as I believe minimal signage would be ideal, such as simple direction posts on well-maintained tracks. I am also in favour of prioritizing funds available for the upgrade to the Rotary Carpark, entry road and equal access to Trig Point Lookout as I believe this would be a positive improvement. However, I don't believe Trig Point necessarily requires the level of development that is currently proposed. A full viewing platform, paving, seating and interpretive signage would alter the peaceful interaction with the natural environment at such a stunning location and is potentially unnecessary where funds could be prioritised elsewhere.
Lauren Preston	I fully support the draft Eastern Hill Activation Master Plan. As a long-time user and soon to be resident I look forward to the potential upgrades and additional infrastructure that will only help maintain & preserve but also create a safer area now and into the future.

Leah Wiseman	I am an East Albury resident, mother of 4, health professional and daily visitor to Eastern Hill. I strongly oppose the Eastern Hill Activation plan for many reasons including but not limited to; lack of genuine community consultation, environmental impact on the beautiful Eastern Hill and a disproportionate focus on meeting the "needs" of a small number of the mountain bike community who already have access to high quality well-resourced tracks in Albury/Wodonga and surrounds. I do wonder if anyone involved in this proposal has ever walked or run the hill at sunrise or dusk, or watched the clouds roll in, or caught sight of the snow in distance or the uninterrupted view of the Murray River. Technically these views may still be possible but the peace, calm and therapeutic power of the ridge and look-out will become a distant memory replaced with mountain bikers whizzing by, viewing decks and man-made steps and pathways. How ironic to refer to activation of a hill that already couldn't be more alive with nature, history and connection.

Leanne Bailey Multiple submissions	I am a daily user of the Eastern Hill Lookout walk, and it is an incredibly important part of my day. It is time for rejuvenation and reflection. It is a quiet place away from technology. The views from central Albury out to Wodonga to the left and up past Lavington to red light hill to the right and across to Nail Can and the monument can leave you staring at the labyrinth for ages. Then you can turn around and look out to Thurgoona, sit and watch the planes land and take off, check in on the weir, meander around the Murray and gaze out to the snow-capped mountains. And I haven't even started on the sunrises and sunsets. I never get bored of the view; I find something new every day. It is perfect for daydreaming and allowing your mind to have a well needed relax and wander. Being surrounded by nature and the colour green is proven to have great psychological benefits, and I feel that benefit every day on my walks before I begin a busy day indoors in which I often have no idea what the weather has been like throughout the day. Walking over undulating terrain with small rises that increase my heart rate and slopes that challenge my balance is a wonderful way to achieve some incidental exercise in a peaceful and relaxing way. During my walks I see other walkers and joggers. I occasionally see bike riders; however, this is only on the weekend, and even then, only rarely. I would see less that one bike rider per week, and I walk the hill at least once a day, rain, hail or shine. The proposal to develop this site will remove many of the attractions of this location. The natural beauty is what is most appealing, and while some development to allow greater accessibility to the key lookout points would be a wonderful investment, I cannot see any value in creating a bike riding cascade down the Eastern side of the hill. I believe that efforts to return the reclaimed farmland to its natural state would be if greater environmental benefit. I have friends from all around the country and all around the world and the hill walk is always part of the stay that can't be missed. The international guests are always impressed that we have something so wonderful and available right in the middle of town. Eastern Hill Reserve is a special and important part of Albury's landscape that needs to be promoted and protected, not developed and destroyed. Thank you for considering my submission. I am very disappointed to see that the natural walk from the car park to “the seat” will be significantly impacted with paving. Bringing mountain bikes to this part of the hill will be exceptionally disruptive to the quiet ability to enjoy nature, done by many people and their dogs throughout the week and especially on weekends. Since COVID, the popularity of this walk has grown immensely and it is a very safe place to allow dogs to interact without tight boundary fencing, and without the risk of cars or bikes. This is a unique and special situation that is greatly appreciated by many in our community. I did complete the survey, but the questions were very biased and were designed to give you an outcome in favour of bikes. Nail Can Hill is already overrun by bikes and dog walking is very unpleasant there. Please do not do the same to this lovely piece of paradise that so many of us enjoy. Take a walk up the hill on the weekend and see all of the families enjoying the natural beauty and enjoying nature.

	Photographers use the location as a gorgeous backdrop. Bird watchers sit for hours since the vantage point allows you to watch raptors as they hover at eye level spotting their prey down in the valleys either side. Paving this road to allow emergency vehicle access will destroy all of these experiences. Improving the facilities at the car park and a paved road to a lookout point at the trig station would be wonderful, but please leave the rest as untouched as possible.
Leanne Evans	Raised in East Albury, but that does not mean I have exclusive right to claim the area as mine. The mental health card gets pulled out when it suits, but I believe better access to this beautiful area will benefit so many more people, both mentally and physically, who have not been able to access it for various reasons. Plans look great. It will be wonderful for ALL members of our community, regardless of age or ability, to enjoy this beautiful area. It's a shame that a lot of people think they own this area and are entitled to use it as an off-leash area for their dogs.
Lee Rohrich	After Looking over the Draft Master Plan for the Eastern Hill Lookout and Mountain Bike Strategy, I find it to an excellent, thoughtful, well Researched, and something I believe the Community of not only East Albury Residents but all of Albury Wodonga and Interstate People would Thoroughly Enjoy and Use. Having Lived in Eastern View for 20 plus years I always believed the lookout was underutilised with its views overlooking Albury and towards Lake Hume our Biggest Drawcard! The Mountain Bike / Walking Trail is Excellent with a lot of thought put into the areas of Vegetation as well. In a Time of trying to get not only kids but Adults of their Gaming Consoles and Being Pro Active on setting up more Mountain Bike / Walking Trails to me it is a big Well Done Albury City Council... Keep Up the Terrific Future Vision and planning for our Great City And Also Note .....The Trail along Our Great Murray River all the way to Wonga Wetlands is nothing short of Outstanding. Best Regards
Leigh Rodgers	Eastern Hill is a beautiful natural environment used by many of us to escape the increasingly overdeveloped areas by the river. Please don't destroy it to the destruction of mountain bikes and car parks and cement. Nail Can Hill now belongs to mountain bikes - too dangerous to walk there. Regenerate the vegetation- maintain the tracks but keep it natural for all of us to be proud of. Please - just think about what you're doing.

Leisha Kilpatrick	I would like to put forward a statement against this plan. Firstly, a positive. I believe the upgrades to the car park and Rotary lookout would be great. They would likely improve access, use, and hopefully encourage people to look after the space better by reducing littering and unsavoury behaviour. However, the walking track and hillside itself is perfect the way it is. Unlike Rotary look out, it is used by some, and adored by all. This is due to one very significant feature which differentiates it from others walking tracks in the area. This track is a short, accessible walk which provides complete immersion in nature. Unlike other local hiking tracks (such as Nail Can Hill and Red Light Hill), this walk is of a shorter distance and flatter elevation gain, meaning it is accessible to a wide group of people (kids, elderly, all fitness and mobility levels) who seek nature but cannot hike a mountain or walk multiple km. furthermore, this track is one of the only natural tracks left in Albury which is an easy grade walk. It surrounds you with stunning 360 views of Albury/ Wodonga's natural landscape. You walk on the earth track and undulate with the hills around you. It provides an enchanting, tranquil experience. These factors are what make this space so important to so many people. People who walk this track chose it for a reason. It is not walked due to the convenience of location. They go out of their way, driving from home to the car park, for the opportunity to soak in the experience, to breathe, de-stress, and be present. A concreted track and additional infrastructure features would extinguish this experience. Not due to the increase in patronage but due to the sanitation of nature. It will go from a path carved out of nature to an urban pavement, a natural sanctuary to a commercialised, industrialised zone. I implore you to consider this before moving forward with this project. Thank you for your time
Leoni Sullivan	I have studied the plans and from I can see the walking tracks are not with the bike tracks the plans are very clear in what they have suggested, Eastern Hill has great lookouts that could be suited for change especially the facilities in that area, this is the first proposal things can be changed. Let's all have a better look and see if there is a compromise, that could be done so all Albury Residents, not just for one group, I like the plan.
Leonie Sullivan	Interested to see plan
Lily Last	I feel that a lookout is not required for Eastern Hill, but rather to just maintain and to take care of its already natural beauty. A lookout and bike path are unnecessary as it will do detrimental damage on the overall land, and a lookout is not natural and is doing more harm than good. We need to look after the natural wildlife in the area, and by building there, their habitat and homes would be disrupted and more than likely destroyed.

Linda Houghton	We have been residents of Albury for 66 years and brought up our four children here who have enjoyed the natural beauty of Albury along the river from Mungabareena Reserve to Nouriel Park. I was very upset to find out that my daughter's seat, Elke Black, was to be replaced in the masterplan document. We were unaware of the plan to upgrade the reserve but were able to attend the community meeting and have asked family to assist us to put our submission in as we are not internet savvy. Having read through the information available and reading articles in the Border Mail, we would like to see the area upgraded but would not like to see it overdone with the removal of mature trees or construction of intrusive bike path routes. Where possible we believe council funds should be used to upgrade the carpark, toilet black, picnic area and barbeque. We would like to think that no plans have been decided on yet and that council members will consider the opinions of Albury residents who currently enjoy visiting this reserve and what it has meant to our family over generations. We would particular like to see Elke's seat included in any future plans for the reserve.
Lisa Jones	I am very excited about the improvements to Eastern Hill. What a wonderful welcoming environment you are going to create - I can't wait.
Lisa Spinelli	My family and I live in East Albury and really like the proposed plan. Love the feature of the new trig point lookout and the addition of more seating / picnic tables around the lookout. My Kids will definitely love the new MTB trails too.
Louie Giblin	I am a bike riding maniac I love it. But I also love walking, it's pretty fun too. I would love the riding tracks to be built on Eastern Hill so I can ride my bike from home around the hill. But it's not just about me. Other people like to ride too, and they deserve to be able to have a chance of riding, it's so much fun and it makes me happy. So, I hope that you would allow tracks to be made on Eastern Hill.
Louis Ried	Love what you are trying to do but as a mountain bike rider and 20 plus year user of Nail Can can, we please get some trail maintenance up there, there is so much more potential at Nail Can most trails have not been touched in years and some areas are very dangerous. I think it is very disappointing that this is not being explored the trail networks are already in place and trail maintenance would prevent further erosion occurring. With Eastern Hill being such a small hill I struggle to see how quality downhill mtb trails would be constructed Please explore more options with Nail Can
Louise McManus	Most people would agree that Eastern Hill needs to be better used as a walking/ riding space and lookout. My concerns are with the potential for erosion and the unsafe roundabout being proposed. The council should engage a soil expert to advise it on conserving the topsoil, and a water engineer to minimise the damage from runoff along the tracks. As more than one of the approaches to the roundabout would be sloping, the risk of accidents at this intersection would be increased. If traffic needs to be slowed on East St., speed humps would be a better option.

Louise Pemberton	Thank you for the opportunity to write this submission as a concerned East Albury resident. I like most people making submissions was completely unaware of a survey that took place in Jan-Feb of 2022, but I have attended the pop up sessions in an attempt to glean clarification for some of my concerns. Let me mention to begin with that I am a regular walker on Eastern Hill, it is where I go for exercise, to think, to relax and to generally get away from the stress of work and other life strains and complications. I love this gem of a serene environment that is available for Albury residents, it is something that should be treasured in an ever sprawling environment of development and urbanization and while I do support the regeneration of Eastern Hill and some improvements around accessibility, I am stating my opposition to the development of mountain bike tracks and the over development of the Hill in general such that the beauty and soul of it would be lost forever. Apart from my personal connection to Eastern Hill, as a scientist with >30 years of analytical experience with large clinical data sets, I have major concerns with the development, promotion and distribution of the initial survey. My understanding is that the intention of this survey was to gain a broad overview of opinions of the local community on the Eastern Hill Activation Plan yet on closer inspection, the survey was strongly promoted to two stakeholder groups (that undeniably support the development of mountain bike trails) while at the same time under promoted to the local community who are the current users of the hill and as such major stakeholders too. Where is the voice of the local community in the survey responses? It is barely represented at all. So, the data from the initial survey is completely flawed and biased towards one/two stakeholder groups and from a study development point of view should therefore not be considered at all. There is no randomised group of respondents to the survey and therefore the results of the survey are meaningless. When I raised this concern at one of the pop up sessions, I was informed that the views contained within the survey would still be considered which also raised alarm bells for me. How can Albury City compare these mostly quantitative results to the rich qualitative data (both for and against development) that you are receiving from these "Have Your Say" submissions? I strongly urge you to accept that the initial process was so flawed that a new and correct consultative process with the whole community be undertaken. Eastern Hill means too much to so many people and the millions of dollars proposed for this project warrant this honest, transparent collaboration with the Albury community. Thank you for taking the time to read this submission.
Lucinda Gould	Eastern Hill is a beautiful, peaceful untouched walking track of Albury. Which the community and people of Albury love and enjoy using for this reason. Few of these are left. So why take this away? Developing and changing this track will only cause disruption, upset and frustration to the community of Albury. Eastern Hill is a getaway for those that walk the track and walk their dogs there so special that people are also sacredly remembered there. The Eastern Hill plans to development are an unnecessary use of money and resources causing only upset to the people of Albury.

Lucy Thompson Multiple submissions	Please leave this beautiful part of nature alone for families and dogs to use. It is lovely up there always lots of families and dogs running around, smiling and smelling all the smells and dogs just being able to be dogs. The mountain bikes have Nail Can Hill. Leave this alone for the rest of us. They don't need both. It's also where you can go up there and have a peaceful walk after a stressful day. Photographers use it regularly for family photos, it is loved by the public. There are also families with small children using it allowing them to get out into nature close to town, they won't be able to walk up there safely if Mountain bikes are rushing past. And the dogs will have to be on leads, it's not fair to the rest of us let us have a peaceful beautiful part of nature for us to enjoy. Work life balance is important and during covid it was so busy with people walking and getting out. Every day there are lots of people using it. I wanted to take the time to express my feelings and concerns about the proposed development for Eastern Hill. Firstly, I am disappointed in the council staff members who attended the meetings in the council office and their reactions to the community's objections, it didn't appear that they were taking the communities reactions as constructive feedback, they seemed to be dismissive and took offense to our objections rather than taking them on board. It seemed as though they didn't really care. My other objections in relation to the wildlife on the hill have been already well documented from other submissions, so I won't reiterate them. However, I do believe we should be preserving the natural environment and other animals' habitat. I feel one of the most important aspects of the hill is its natural beauty, the calmness of the area when you walk along there for not only people but dogs. The importance of a nature reserve for people's mental health and a place to escape the fast-paced life we live in cannot be underestimated. It is so beneficial to families, kids and animals - it is somewhere you can go for a walk with your kids and animals and not be worried about cars or rivers. It is definitely one of the last remaining nature walks in close proximity of the city, probably one of the last remaining ones in lots of cities. People who visit the region and go there can't believe how beautiful it is and how close it is to town. Why ruin something like that, once it is gone it is gone. While I am not against mountain bikes and providing an outlet for our youth, we have Nail Can Hill, let's make that a fantastic mountain bike reserve and leave Eastern Hill for the other segments of the community who want to walk and appreciate the natural beauty. In this current time, we cannot underestimate people's mental health and giving them a quiet safe place to walk and relax is a necessity. It is somewhere which is open, and people feel safe up there walking in the early mornings or evenings by themselves.

Ludger Pille	1) The 'Friends of Eastern Hill' collated a detailed document that describes the process that led to the development of the DRAFT Eastern Hill Activation Master Plan (DEHAMP). This document is entitled 'DRAFT Eastern Hill Activation Master Plan Summary of Concerns'. A copy of this report was emailed to Councillors King and Bowen and Albury City Council CEO Zaknich. I am appalled by the preferential treatment that the Mountain Bike Community has received by Albury City Council in the development of DEHAMP. I am also appalled that this preferential treatment has led to a situation that stakeholders, who were never engaged with or consulted must now justify in this process why by the Mountain Bike Tracks should not go ahead. A proper community engagement process would have identified and allowed for many different interest groups to have their say on the development of the Eastern Hill Activation plan and not just a very small interest group in our community. This submission form does not allow to attach documents or include figures etc.! For this reason, I ask that the report written by the 'Friends of Eastern Hill' be included into the submission to the Councillors. 2) I am totally opposed to the installation of mountain bike tracks on Eastern Hill for environmental reasons. On the 28th of March 2022 council unanimously supported a motion that acknowledged 'we are in a state of emergency that requires action by all levels of government, including council, to mitigate against the adverse effects of climate change' (Border Mail 28th March 2022). This proposal, to install Mountain Bike tracks on Eastern Hill, flies in the face of this declaration. Mountain bike riding is notorious for causing environmental problems such as erosion. Albury City Council should have embarked on a project that will enhance the environmental value of Eastern Hill. This will enhance the character of Eastern Hill. People come here because of the ruggedness, serenity, friendly passer-by's and to get away from the hustle of daily life. Mountain biking will destroy this peaceful character of the hill. A good example where this was achieved is Tower Hill Reserve in Warrnambool. Here a totally denuded and neglected piece of land was re-vegetated and brought 'back to life' with the involvement of the wider community. Today Tower Hill Reserve is a major natural landmark full of native flora and fauna. It is very important that the walking trails on EH are made more accessible to more members of our community. Here I am thinking about the members of our community that have mobility problems (wheelchairs, prams etc. etc.). It also it is a very good initiative to improve the access for cars to the Rotary Lookout to make this saver for cars and walkers.
Luke Preston	Let's implement it all! It's going to be great
Lyn Elias	The recent media attention prompted my walking partner and I to visit the Eastern Hill Rotary Lookout for a leisurely afternoon stroll - much to our delight we found the secluded tracks offered wonderful views of the surrounding hillsides. Having not ventured to Eastern Hill previously we found the site to be a hidden treasure which should be promoted so all locals and visitors to Albury can enjoy. The redevelopment proposal is a positive opportunity to give everyone access to this area.

Lyndell Leard	Oh, please do not ruin such a beautiful area with mountain bike tracks. I am in the process of relocating to Albury and the thing that really sold me on buying in East Albury was having such a beautiful piece of nature in the middle of the city. Each time I have visited I have walked the ridge line to the chair. I believe the tranquillity and the natural environment will be ruined by mountain biking. I looked at Nail Can hill on one of my visits to Albury and was put off walking there by the bikes. Just keep Eastern Hill for walking. Upgrade the toilets by please no mountain biking.
Lynette Barber	As a resident of East Albury, I am concerned that the redevelopment of Eastern Hill will have an impact on the environment. In an era where climate changes are a huge concern on a local, national and global scale, I'm surprise Alburycity is embarking on such a development. The natural environment should stay....simply natural. We are all aware that as soon as us humans begin tapering with the environment, issues occur, regardless of the best intentional landscape designers, designs . From the maps provided, Albury does not really need another bike trail. In additional the report suggests the trail is for tourist rather than the local community. Tourists may benefit business, but not necessarily the local population. For me this is about preserving the natural environment but agree with the indigenous vegetation burning off strategy as Eastern Hill has over the years developed a weed infested problem.
Lynne Margery	I'm a resident of Walsh St East Albury and regularly walk to the bench on Eastern Hill. I remember walking this for the first time and was amazed and pleasantly surprised that I could physically and emotionally feel like I was in the country while being in the Centre of Albury. Each and every time I walk this hill, I'm grateful that I have a 'sanctuary' to go to clear my head and reconnect with nature. This walk was my 'therapy-feel good moment'' through my year of cancer treatment and why I think it is important to leave untouched, no concrete needed in this location PLEASE. I am sure there are other patients from the cancer hospital who too use this 'sanctuary' as a grounding place. I am 59 and can do this walk easily but cannot walk the steep streets of East Albury. Please revisit Nail Can Hill and upgrade the mountain bike tracks for those mountain bikers requiring some challenging activity.
Macie Cale	I get to walk out with my family and dog.
Madeleine Hynes	Big no to the redevelopment! The car park is fine but changing and destroying the beautiful landscape that we have access to in the middle of Albury is a big loss! There are millions of other places where people can ride bikes that have been re-developed in the years previously, why can't we keep this part of the world the way it's intended to be?

Marcella Larson-Banks	I wish to submit that I am very disappointed by how council has conducted this entire process in relation to the development of the Eastern Hill Draft Activation Plan. I am severely disappointed that despite acknowledging shortcomings in the community consultation process and obvious bias in the survey data, council staff have continued to conduct themselves with a general tone of defensives and ongoing bias in all discussions I have been involved in or witnessed. My entire involvement in this process has been defeating, frustrating and disheartening. I have lost faith in a just and fair process for civic issues in our community. I am also alarmed by council staff's failure to engage with the community fairly, openly and with curious compassion. I acknowledge that community members have been disrespectful in this process, and I do not condone this at all but I - and others - have conducted myself with fairness and respect at all times and yet, quite frankly, have been made to feel that I am being a problem and that my objections are unfounded and unreasonable. There has been a general tone of defensiveness and misrepresentation by council staff in every conversation I have been involved in. This has left me with very little faith in community consultation processes being improved in future as promised. I have been made to feel that I am carrying on - I have to say, this process has taken more mental energy and effort than I would have liked, I am certainly not 'carrying on' for the sake of it. It is disappointing that council staff saw people's passionate objections to the process and the plans as a nuisance rather than seeking to reflect on why there was a backlash. I am very concerned that council staff appear not to have analysed their initial survey results – to question two significant spikes in survey responses (correlated to call to actions by a mountain biking group) and to ensure that multiple responses by the same person were identified in the data set. I am also very concerned that council staff, whilst acknowledging the shortcomings of the initial community consultation process, consider the current 'have your say' process as ameliorating their original failures. It is my belief that there is an obvious distinction between a process that seeks to collect original data on how a space should be utilised versus the current have your say process, which is seeking feedback on already constructed plans. That council staff have failed to see the distinction between these two processes is of significant concern to me and gives me very little confidence in council staff's understanding of best practice data analysis and collection. I am also concerned that a coordinated response by the mountain biking community – both in the initial survey process and in the have your say process – will continue to unfairly bias council's next steps for the development of Eastern Hill. Given council's failure to objectively analyse previous data or to realise the stark difference in the initial survey process versus the have your say process, I am concerned that they will deem the thousands-strong, well established mountain biking community's reach and influence to be on par with the newly formed, much smaller and less established influence of the Friends of Eastern Hill. I have submitted already that I will be very, very sad to see Eastern Hill developed and believe this would be entirely out of alignment with the city's environmental policy aspirations. We cannot continue to develop every parcel of land and commodify nature in this way. By the time this development is proposed to have finished in all stages, we will be less than 10 years away from a predicated key date in our history which will see the earth start to become a very difficult place to inhabit. I will be sorely disappointed to know that members of my community contributed to the deterioration in our wellbeing – and that of the planet's – by an ongoing desire for more, more, more. Rob

	Sharpe called these activation plans aspirational, but I would argue they are very, very short-sighted – both in terms of who they service and how well they will protect our community – and the planet's – wellbeing.
Marcella Larson-Banks	I was very distressed to learn of the development plans for Eastern Hill. I believe the changes are absolutely unnecessary and will have significant impacts on the community. I am concerned about the absolutely inappropriate amount of community consultation that occurred and the biased way in which information was collected. Further, whenever we talk about mental health, we talk about the importance of getting outdoors and into nature for mental wellbeing; it is becoming more and more difficult in many places - Albury included - to find untouched, undeveloped and easily accessibly natural areas. Development on Eastern Hill would take away a much needed, much used mental wellbeing salve for many members of the community. This space would be taken away for goodness knows how long the development would take (I'm thinking of the huge impact of the very slow moving works at Nouriel) and when it is finished would be merely a tourist attraction - increasing traffic in a residential area and foot traffic in a natural area - taking away from its original appeal. It honestly is very upsetting to think about. As for the plan for bike trails, it beggars belief that this was chosen as a suitable spot (by a small few I might add). Is there even demand for it? And if there truly is, there are many other feasible spots. I think the Albury people are very patient with the amount of ratepayer money that is spent on beautifying areas, tying them up in years of development, detracting from the beauty of what was already there, making visibility on the roads difficult (due to large plants and trees in the middle of roundabouts) but I feel enough is enough. Where does it stop? When do we acknowledge that not everything needs to be made into concrete structures? That not everything is enhanced by human involvement?
Margaret Richardson	Eastern Hill is an inappropriate site for the new mountain bike trail. There are many much better sites for the trail that will not disturb this unique bushland area, assessable to nearby residents and anyone else who chooses to use it, including the employees of the nearby hospital looking for a beautiful quiet break in a busy day. There will be a much better place in the area for a mountain bike trail, which can be developed over time in the future for major events, if necessary, while being available for casual use at other times. Big events will be a major draw to the area, and something for residents to be proud of and excited about. That spot is not on Eastern Hill with its narrow road access, minimal parking, and objection by community members. Once the much better alternative spot is found it will prove to be a great asset for riders and Albury City council. Any attempt to develop Eastern Hill for bike riders will be met with constant objections and angst towards Albury City council, probably leading to the current councillors in favour of this being thrown out of office and replaced by others who close down the project. Lawyers a likely also to be involved at great cost to council.

Margot Smith Arthur	I have reviewed the DRAFT Eastern Hill Activation Master Plan, and as a long time (14 years), and regular user (3x/week) of Eastern Hill, I have some concerns. I live in Doctors Point Road, and I regularly walk or run a loop formed by accessing Eastern Hill via Gunbower close, travelling along the ridge, then down into Mungabareena, and back to my home via Doctor's Pt Rd. Many East Albury and Doctors Point residents similarly regularly walk or run along this and other tracks, often with their dogs. We feel privileged to have access to such a natural area, with its lovely track formed by usage. The 3.0m wide emergency and maintenance access with turnarounds would completely destroy the natural setting and feeling on the ridge and is contradictory to the stated objective of preserving and enhancing the high value existing native vegetation. The path is beautiful as is, and encourages peaceful use, not high volume traffic. The beauty and peacefulness of Eastern Hill is in a great part due to the fact that its infrastructure is minimal. Apart from the lookout, it remains a natural setting. As a city, I believe it is extremely important for us to retain these natural areas, and if any "improvements" are deemed necessary, they should be kept to a minimum, and should be very low key. The health of our community depends on engagement with natural spaces. A space which has paved wide walk/access ways, and elevated viewing platforms has moved away from being natural, is no longer in harmony with nature, nor is it environmentally conscious. I hope you will give serious consideration to the input you receive from the existing users, friends, and neighbours of Eastern Hill, and will revise your plans accordingly.

Maria and Malcolm Evans	We live in East Street in East Albury. Our property directly abuts the green belt area which is subject to a proposal for development primarily for mountain biking. We are horrified that we did not know of this proposal until reading about it in the newspaper a couple of weeks ago. We do feel very secluded and private on our block but are appalled that we have had no contact from Council regarding this plan for land which adjoins our property. Council have not followed their own procedures to notify adjacent landowners of proposed developments. If we wished to do anything on our land our neighbours would be notified and given the opportunity to object. Council states that over 500 people have completed an online survey on the proposal back in January/February. Surely, we should also have been notified of this survey. The Strategy states that broader consultation with the community was undertaken. It appears that landowners adjacent to this proposal were not regarded as stakeholders. Nearly 50 years ago we built one of the first houses in Wirraway Street and always walked our dog up to Eastern Hill. We loved it so much and would just sit up there and take in the beauty of the area. When the large lots were developed, we couldn't wait to build on the highest block abutting the bushland. For over 35 years we have enjoyed the tranquillity and beauty of the area. The beautiful natural features are what drew us to the area. The major designated and longest habitat corridor runs straight through the proposed development. Question: Has this habitat corridor had genuine consideration in this action? Why do Council want to interfere with natural beauty when there are new developments screaming out for the provision of facilities including recreational facilities? It appears from the Mountain Bike strategy document that there are already four existing local trails and facilities. Three on crown land and are managed by Albury City and the other by Charles Sturt University. It is stated that there has been little maintenance on the two smaller tracks, and they show signs of wear with erosion and general deterioration. Question: If Albury City does not manage its existing trails why will this be any different? Is there an opportunity for Albury City to collaborate with CSU to further develop their Mountain Bike Trail? In the Albury Mountain Bike strategy document, page 20, it is noted that Thurgoona, Lavington and North Albury in particular are predicted to see significant population growth in the coming years, access to facilities for these growing communities will be important. Thurgoona is predicted to see significant growth in increases of 60 to 85% for the overall population. Following on, it states that mountain biking age group of 5 to 17 is considered a key demographic in terms of provision of local facilities. Youth population growth is predicted to be significant in Thurgoona, Hamilton Valley and Glenroy. It is also noted that South Albury and East Albury are both predicted to see a decline in youth population. The Charles Sturt University Trail is ideally located. Question: Shouldn't these bike trails be conveniently located to local need? The traffic in East Street is already heavy and travels at a very fast speed. We had to widen our entry to the property to avoid being tail ended as we slowed to turn in. The provision of a roundabout might bring traffic heading towards the hospital to a sudden slow down, but

	this will cause additional problems. The proposed roundabout will do nothing to slow the western bound traffic which will, no doubt, be increased. The road is not suitable to accommodate further development. Question: Is there anything proposed to slow down traffic heading south: The area between the kerb and the fence line towards the water tanks is always washing away down as far as the bus stop. It is not properly maintained now, and additional foot/bike traffic will just exacerbate this existing problem. We believe this development will: • destroy the natural beauty of the area • effect the habitat corridor • increase noise and traffic • create less privacy and security • require a lot of maintenance Who is this development going to benefit?

Marie Day	I am not surprised, but I did not know anything about community consultation or the “Have Your Say” platform regarding the “Eastern Hill Activation Draft Master Plan”. I feel that I must make a comment. I am certainly opposed to this proposal. I would certainly be supporting an independent review of all submissions received on this subject and fresh consultation, certainly to include the people and residents most affected by this proposal. The whole process does appear to be flawed and biased. It certainly seems that Bike Riders are far more important to have input and to hell with residents of forty years plus in the area. Members from the Mountain Bike Community certainly seem to have preference over the local rate payers and the wider population. Forward planning and consultation on all counts is expected by all people affected on these very important issues. It would be a very good idea to get rid of one lot of traffic congestion at a time, prove if it works in reality and then go on with the grand plan. I remember traffic lights were first mentioned to replace the roundabout at Borella Road /East Street intersection a very long time ago?? Nothing is happening and is badly needed to help cope with the traffic from the Riverina Highway/Thurgoona, a daily event. I am trying to get onto East Street from Bilba Street, and I am inconvenienced every time that I go out. Traffic parked to close to the corner and no vision. Hospital car parking – absolutely overflowing and I doubt, very much, that the “new temporary car park” will be able to cope with the present need overflow. The distance aged people walk/or will have to walk to get to the main entrance of the hospital and is up hill!! I believe a much more convenient solution for parking would have been to go multi-story in the present hospital car park. (Don’t worry about building a new Hospital, that is not going to happen for many a day). Enough money has already been spent at the current site the need is to build on this is what is required. Congestion for traffic trying to get onto Eastern Hill or onto East Street from the residential areas is very very difficult and time consuming. (My personal experience over 40 years plus). Ambulance traffic – consideration and safety for all please. A roundabout at East and Walsh Streets is just plain dangerous and not required for the general public, a complete waste of money. I personally think that the bike riders/mountain bike riders don’t need all this fuss. Most would probably be able to ride from their homes to Doctors Point etc. to join up with the various trails. I would certainly want proper consideration to the traffic and safety issues confronting the whole community and the residents of the Eastern Hill Area. The safety of the community as a whole and the residents of the area must be of paramount importance. The residents must be entitled to respect and consideration in this whole matter. I think that consensus decision-making and a lot of effort and hard work is required, everyone expects and is entitled to majority democracy conducted properly.

	I believe that there are far more important issues that require our attention and finances at this point in time to be of benefit to the “whole” community.
Marilyn Millgate	I do have concerns re the development proposal on Eastern Hill . We live in Willern Court and frequently take walks over this beautiful space. It would be beneficial to improve the access road off East St., but I do believe in keeping the interference with this environment to a minimum. People visit Eastern Hill for the peaceful walk and solitude ...so important for mental health. I also think mountain biking through this space would be a destructive intrusion. As it is dangerous at night on East St ...the installation of street lighting would be beneficial.
Marita Pille	The Eastern Hill walk over the ridge to the bench and down to Mungabareena provides a refugee from the hustle and bustle of life that I would like to be preserved. An improvement to this environmentally unique and picturesque area so close to a major city could be to make it more accessible to people with mobility issues by establishing safe paths and some seating for example. The beauty and environment of this area should be enhanced and not destroyed by establishing multiple mountain bike trails that will make this area unsafe for walkers, because history has shown that bike riders will use all paths and not just paths allocated to them; plus, it will lead to environmental damage and interruption due to multiple path construction and then once in use destruction and erosion through the rides and rain. Council has erected signs that instruct not to remove anything from this already environmentally challenged and important area. The environmentally destructive nature of mountain trails stands in stark contrast to the intention to preserve and revegetate this very beautiful nature corridor. Furthermore, Nail Can Hill has already many mountain trails close to the city of Albury, and I am as a walker do not like to go there, because I feel unsafe due to the mountain bike riders. Most areas in Albury Wodonga are shared paths for walkers and bike riders, which I think is not going to work very well looking at the increase of the numbers of bikes with increasing speeds (eBikes). If Council wants to do something special and unique then it would make sense to me, to enhance what is there, but not create something artificial such as numerous mountain bike tracks, just to please a small part of our community. And if Council is hoping to attract visitors to Eastern Hill, then mountain bike trails are unlikely to do this, because there are plenty more and much more exciting tracks, including Nail Can Hill, if it would be maintained properly, available in and around Albury, whereas an amazing exposure to nature with a 360 degree view, so close to a major city is something that potentially could attract many visitors as well as people living in Albury. When we have visitors or get asked where to go and what to do in Albury, we tell people to check out the Eastern Hill lookout and walk along the ridge, because the views are breathtaking, and it provides a very unique experience worth visiting and preserving. Thank you for your time.

Mark Cosgrove	Don’t alter Eastern Hill. It is one of the last green spaces close to Albury that all ages can access with ease. Mountain bikers are spoilt for choice on Monument Hill. Let walkers and families enjoy the pristine views all year round. Visitors to Albury always comment on the ‘natural and preserved’ beauty of Eastern Hill.
Mark Huggins	Better access along Eastern Hill path for less mobile people, but no concrete. Crushed pebble, boardwalk preferred. Mountain bike trails are already supplied in N/W Albury, and just need maintenance. Why create another cost for ratepayers when existing infrastructure needs maintenance to adequately fill community wants. Is there an EI statement done, and does it include mitigation for inevitable injury and ambulance/paramedic access.
Mark Mitchell	I think the proposed development looks amazing. It doesn't seem over the top or like it will be an eyesore or impose in any negative way on the natural beauty of the area. It's in my opinion a perfect spot for a planned lookout and destination for taking in expansive views of the entire local area. My main request would be that there will remain spots for quiet solitary contemplation and well-built and planned paths and facilities. It would also be preferred to retain as many of the older vegetation as possible. Also, to link any walks departing from the lookout to other ones further afield. Thanks

Martin Baker (multiple submissions)	I have had a particularly strong interest in Eastern Hill from the time my wife and I purchased land in Doctors Point in 1989 but my connection with the land goes back to hikes with scouts in the 1960s and picnics at Mungabareena and the Waterworks even earlier. Early this year I responded to the initial Eastern Hill Activation survey conducted by Council and on June 27th I attended a casual one on one discussion with a Council officer, after receiving an invitation in the mail as an adjoining property owner. I have written to all Councillors and key officers of Albury City expressing my views of that meeting and explaining a little of the history of our end of the hill gained over 33 years of living on and observing and caring for the flora and fauna in the reserve. Please read this submission in conjunction with my letter dated 9th September. While I don't consider Eastern Hill to be in need of an estimated $4.737m redevelopment (Ref 22009 EHAMP Anticipated Order of Costs REVD Draft Eastern Hill Activation Master Plan APPENDIX 1: Anticipated Order of Costs from yonder report provided on request from a Council officer), certain aspects of the proposal have merit. I am generally supportive of the 5 general recommendations identified in the yonder master plan and have no fundamental issue with the specific recommendations numbered ①④⑦⑧⑨⑩⑪⑯⑰⑱⑲ and ⑳ on the plan though I question whether some of these things are really necessary or just 'nice to have' upgrades. I am vehemently opposed to the construction of any downhill mountain bike runs and to the construction of downhill mountain bike specific infrastructure such as land bridges, trail head carparks and trail head gathering space including signage and shelter for the benefit of a small sub-group of the mountain biking community. Of the $4.737m estimated project cost about $1m is directly attributable to mountain biking only. As for the development of the trig point lookout, it seems to be a lot of money to effectively duplicate the Rotary Lookout that is barely 200m away. If Council wishes to improve the access to and amenity of Eastern Hill then it can be done at far less cost by delivering what the majority of local residents and users consider to be important and not by prioritising the interests of minority groups ahead of long term park users. Eastern Hill is a centrally located natural jewel which is contiguous with the historically and culturally significant Mungabareena Reserve. The whole area should be preserved from incongruous development……it should be protected and enlarged in area, as and when opportunities present. It is my vision that that one day the last piece of the ridge may be acquired by Council thereby connecting the Eastern Ridge parkland to the Murray River making one large, continuous reserve that will define Albury the way major parks have defined other cities in the world . Do you share this vision? I write as an adjoining property owner and regular user of Eastern Hill. Process I received an invitation dated 14th June 2022 from (Council officer named but omitted) offering me the 'opportunity to discuss the project with Council Officers'. I took up this opportunity and called XX on June 27th and he kindly agreed to meet with me at 3pm the same day at Albury City offices.

	At our meeting XX produced a map showing the extent of the Eastern Hill reserve as it is today with no mark-up of the proposed activation plans. We chatted about the reserve, and I expressed my desire to preserve the ridge and walking track south of the trig point and the Mungabareena side of the hill including the Hume and Hovell Track as is. XX explained that Council felt it desirable to have better and safer vehicular access to the Rotary lookout area and as part of this it was proposed to develop the carpark and the trig point area. He also mentioned the idea of a roundabout on East St. XXX did not alert me to the fact that a primary driver of the 'activation of Eastern Hill' was to construct a mountain bike park. When the subject of mountain bikes came up XXX indicated a small area on the map and said that mountain bikes would be confined to a very small area immediately adjacent to Eastern View Estate to the north of the existing Hume and Hovell track. Even then I did not realise that this was a 'downhill' mountain bike track with a pickup point planned in Mungabareena Reserve. We also discussed the Wagirra Trail, which XXX said was another of his projects. I left the meeting assured that Council had the best interests of the community at heart. However, when I saw the 'Yonder' master plan I was shocked at the extent of the trails, the 'trail head' carparks, a MTB trail on the western side of the ridge which carves around the Kiewa Valley lookout before heading downhill to Mungabareena access points and the relocation of the Hume and Hovell Track. Language The 'Yonder' master plan contains some very misleading language and I wonder why it was considered necessary to try to conceal the true purpose of the plan from the community. I draw your attention to the final initiative (number 25) on the master plan key titled 'Protect the Cultural and Natural Values of Mungabareena Reserve'. Under that heading, the fine print shows that this actually means creating a carpark so that downhill mountain bikers can be collected in utes and driven back to the Rotary lookout for another downhill run. Let's face it, downhill mountain biking is about the adrenaline rush, not a gentle pedal through the bush, yet there is no reference to the fact that this park is designed exclusively for a particular subset of mountain bikers. This concealment of the true nature of the draft master plan brings into question the circumstances surrounding the brief given to Yonder. Recent History. When my wife and I bought at Doctors Point in 1989, we had the option of purchasing the parcel of land which includes what the activation plan calls the "Kiewa Valley lookout" and the eastern face of the hill down to the lagoons at Mungabareena, including the area now used as the Hume and Hovell Track. We chose not to take up the option, preferring instead to have the land return to public ownership because we trusted Council to manage the 'Open Space' zoned land in the best interests of the community. Had we known that Council staff would one day promote such an ill-conceived and divisive 'Eastern Hill Activation Master Plan' then we would have taken up the option and kept the hill in private ownership and protected the natural environment to the best of our ability.

	Before this proposal, indigenous species plantings undertaken by Parklands Albury Wodonga, the cessation of grazing and subsequent regrowth of native plant species, the construction of the Hume and Hovell track, the removal of fences and even the installation of a memorial bench seat by users of the reserve have been sympathetic to the natural environment and minimalist in scale. Some years ago, Parklands Albury Wodonga approached us and enquired whether we were interested in having nesting boxes placed on our property to encourage sugar gliders and like species to re-establish on eastern ridge. And it is not uncommon to see users of the reserve removing weed species and picking up litter. Observations from birders, botanists and nature lovers in general suggest that biodiversity is greatly increasing as a result of this softly, softly treatment of this area. The Eastern Hill Activation Master Plan is completely at odds with the way the ridge has been cared for and encouraged to return to nature, over the last 33 years. Hume and Hovell Track In a little over two years, on November 16th, 2024, to be precise, Council will no doubt be celebrating the bicentenary of the arrival of Hume and Hovell in our area. If anything is to be done on Eastern Hill, then surely it should be focused on Hume and Hovell rather than having their track 're-aligned' for the convenience of downhill mountain bikers, a pastime pursued by only a small minority. Cost Closer scrutiny of the Yonder master plan shows extensive MTB trails, car parks and land bridges all to facilitate the use of Eastern Hill by a small subset of mountain bike riders. As a ratepayer I would be interested in the breakdown of cost estimates for the project, and particularly the proportion of the costs that are directly attributable to providing MTB specific facilities. From my interactions with Council about this matter it seems that proper process, consultation and disclosure of Council motives for the proposal have been unsatisfactory. I urge Councillors to investigate and agree to a vision for Eastern Hill that includes the whole community, that we can be proud of for centuries to come. Many cities are not so fortunate to have such significant natural features so close to their geographic centres. There are many other developed parklands in our area. Let's keep Eastern Hill and Mungabareena Reserves continuous, natural and serene for the enjoyment of future generations.
Maryann Marcure Multiple submissions	Looks to me like all the gum trees will be removed for the lookout. Not environmentally sound practice. No improvement in parking numbers. Keep Mt biking on Nail Can Hill Would not like to see mt bike tracks on eastern hill. leave them up nail can.

Mathew Dixon	What a fantastic activation plan for an under-utilised and degraded area. Many positive benefits for the Albury community, helping to keep them active. It is an amazing location with commanding views of the Murray and Kiewa valleys, and it deserves to be a showcase that all members of the community have access to with their chosen method of recreation, dog walking, riding, running. I fully support this great project.
Matt Carter	Appears to be a very thorough and well thought out plan. Really appreciate the ecological restoration efforts while incorporating some new walking trails, lookouts, storytelling and much needed MTB trails for the area. Great job, bring it on!
Matthew Cummins	I think the draft plans look excellent. Anything that can allow more people to make use of our natural resources and beautiful Albury regions in a sustainable way is a big positive, in addition to any possible tourism benefits. The views from this hill are awesome, but the minimal infrastructure is well past its use by date. We absolutely should bring this up to modern standards so more people can enjoy it. You will always get naysayers whenever you want to bring something new to the area because some people are just anti change, and anti-anything that they don't see as something they will personally use, but I do hope these negative people don't scuttle types of plans. Well done to Albury City on what you have come up with.
Matthew Dallinger	Keep as walking and running. The artwork looks great. Better to use the money on Nail Can for mountain biking. The downhill tack on a bike would be too short, and too steep. Will be over too quickly. And I am a keen mountain bike rider.
Matthew Elliott	As a regular walker of Eastern Hill, I am writing to put forward my feelings towards the current Master Plan. When I walk with my wife from the Rotary Carpark to the Kiewa Valley Lookout, we regularly pass by fellow walkers, dog owners, families and photographers. It doesn't seem to matter what type of weather or time of day; people are always keen to take in the beauty of this special place. Our family would be very sad to see any development that would alter the serenity of this reserve and are in opposition to any development that encourages the use of mountain bikes or God forbid makes it more accessibly for motorcyclists to use the area. Currently, it is well loved and used and if the council do have funds to put towards the genuine improvement of this resource, then they should be prioritising the upgrade of the carpark, entry road redevelopment, maintaining paths and regeneration of native flora.
Matthew Leach	Great work on the masterplan ACC. Eastern Hill is such a great area which is currently highly underutilized. The mountain bike trails will be a great addition to the area and complement the hugely successful trails constructed by Wodonga Council on Hunchback Hill. I'm also very supportive of the improvements identified for East St to reduce traffic concerns.

Matthew Leahy	I just wanted to say that I think the master plan is absolutely brilliant. The current use of the hill is very much limited to walkers- which I enjoy and utilise- however that is in fact a small section of the community. As an east Albury resident I look forward to residents getting varied and diversified use of the hill and promoting other forms of activities for the hill.
Matthew Morgan	I think eastern hill is fine the way it is I have lived in Albury for 51 years and have spent my whole life using this area for recreation riding bikes running walking the dog There aren't many towns that offers such a magnificent green belt that divides 2 parts of. Albury it would be sad to see such a great. Asset over developed I think the monies could be spent on other developments that Albury really needs Ie an indoor aquatic centre to match other city's more basketball courts as there 80 kids on a waiting list to play in the local competition but can't be due to the lack of court space
Matthew Richardson	From what I've read and can see on the plan, the hill seems to be covered in Mountain Bike Trails. Leave the Mountain bikes on Nail Can Hill or on the outskirts of town. With a little maintenance to the walking and some upgrades to the lookout I think it would be perfect. Less it more. The 360-degree views are the main drawcard.
Matthew Weniger	In support of proposed plans
Maurice Ahern	I appreciate the benefits of upgrading access and different perspectives of different user groups that currently use / can access the Eastern Hill precinct I would appreciate the infrastructure not being overdeveloped and removing the natural connects – for all users e.g., walker, runner, bike riders etc. In doing so I see considerable benefit in developing the Eastern Hill ridge line that enables people with physical disabilities / mobility issues being able to move along the ridge line (walk / assisted / wheelchairs etc) to enjoy the views etc. Nail Can Hill is effectively inaccessible to people with moderate to low mobility. Eastern Hill can provide an excellent opportunity for lower mobility people (all ages) to enjoy the views and outdoors initially from the existing (redeveloped) carpark.
Maurice Eames	I fully support the draft Eastern Hill activation Master Plan as it is heading in the right direction to make the entire footprint inclusive for all of the Albury community and wider regional visitors and not exclusive for a select few. Albury council needs to be applauded for the work they have done already in other areas of the city providing excellent access for all to our great outdoor areas for all to enjoy. Just make sure whatever is decided it caters for all abilities and ages to enjoy.

Maz Barter	I am very pleased to hear that the Albury council is planning to put in the resources and time to improve upon the development of Eastern Hill, however, I am not in complete agreeance with these plans. The plans surrounding improvements for people with mobility issues is a very positive change that I am excited to see in the future. The part of the plans that I do not agree with is the development of a mountain bike trail. Considering the tranquil nature of the area, I feel that this would be out of place and detract from it. I also feel that it would be a shame to take away from the natural landscape that exists there.
Megan Cullen	I believe this project is just what Albury needs. It sits lightly on the land, provides access for people living with disabilities and creates a wealth of recreational and wellbeing opportunities for all our communities. Key elements that I really value are: - The opportunity to improve the surface of the trail and adding an art walk for hospital patients encourages a holistic healing environment. - The equal access pathway to the Trig Point lookout, means the stunning vistas can be enjoyed by all our communities and creates opportunities to bring family and friends to the lookout who previously were unable to access it. - The enhanced entry will greatly improve the safety for people walking or in vehicles and improves accessibility to the site. - The ingenious mountain biking trails which don't inhibit the views and experience of Eastern Hill. A very clever solution to maintain the integrity of the experience, but to create opportunities for recreation and improved health outcomes for our communities. I am a passionate supporter. I believe there has been significant engagement with communities and these considerations have been interwoven into the design outcomes. Great work! This project is significant for all the right reasons.

Megan Graham	Dear Albury City Council, Thanks for seeking input into the East Albury Activation plan, below is my response. I've lived in East and South Albury for about 20 years and am a regularly walk at Eastern Hill, mountain bike at Nail Can and in summer swim at Mungabareena. I know these areas, general usage patterns and their ecology very well. I support Albury City Councils East Albury activation plan because it provides improved access and to natural spaces for the communities and an improved experience through better amenity, access, paths etc. Which I think will benefit citizens mental and physical health and general well-being and I think that this is important and outcomes that Council should be working towards. I think that MTB tracks would be a good addition as it will provide people from East Albury and likely Thurgoona with a good riding option. I think that issues of erosion and minimising interaction with walkers can be managed with track design. In terms of natural values, half of Eastern Hill is essentially a weed filled paddock and so it is an appropriate place to have development. There is some remnant vegetation which will hopefully not be disturbed but be enhanced with understorey planting and weed control. However, I think that the plan has missed a major opportunity. I think that Mungabareena would be the best place for the mountain bike trail head. This is because it's better and safer experience to start a ride at the bottom of a hill and then ride along a flat area before heading up the hill and then end your ride on a downhill section. I also think that Mungabareena is lovely, and people would enjoy the river after a ride, and it is currently very underutilised. As well, hopefully having more people there this would discourage the anti-social behaviour caused by 4X4 in the section between the river and Eastern hill. The area where the 4X4 currently drive could be turned into a great pump track, which is really useful for building riding skills. I have read the 'anti' Eastern Hill development Facebook posts. I take issue with them for the following reasons: they are mostly inconsiderate of the wider community, they are written by people who enjoy the area and are mostly reluctant to provide others with that same opportunity, they are overestimating the natural values of Eastern Hill and they are catastrophising the impact of walking in the same areas as bike riders and people having a new seat or two! I did also read and comment on the MTB strategy and my main concern with that strategy which is relevant as it has been a precursor for this plan is that having MTB at Eastern Hill will reduce the pressure on Nail Can. I disagree with this statement. I ride Nail Can weekly and there are so few riders on most rides I will only come across one or two other groups. So there really is not much rider pressure on Nail Can. The degrading of the tracks is because they were not particularly well designed, and they are not at all maintained. Which makes them very vulnerable to erosion which is exacerbated by MTB in the wetter months. The end result is that even the easiest tracks become really difficult to ride as they have foot deep ruts in them. I would like to see Albury Council working closely with Crown Lands to improve this situation by creating new tracks and repairing existing ones and maintaining the track network. As Nail Can is large and is accessible to many residents and if improved could provide a 'destination' MTB experience, which would be valuable to citizens as well as have tourism benefits. Happy to discuss further if you like.

Megan Morgan Multiple submissions	Perhaps I can explain why we are so strongly passionate against the redevelopment of Eastern hill. For many of us, our families have lived in East Albury for generations. My grandparents built their family home in 1940 in East Albury and ran a bakery in town. My parents built our family home not far from theirs in 1970 and it's where I grew up. Kangaroos frequently roamed in our backyard. I explored Eastern hill as a child with my friends collecting branches to build a massive bonfire to light on Queens Birthday weekend. We let off firecrackers (yes, I still have my hair and eyebrows) I climbed trees and hammered a tin into the branches where I would leave messages for my friends. I caught tadpoles in the ponds and made cubby houses out of sticks and branches. We built our family home here in 1998 and my kids have run, ridden, built and explored in these hills. Don't you want this for your kids and our future generations?? Why do we feel the want to build platforms on something so beautiful in its Natural state?? Can't we just enjoy standing, sitting lying on top of a grassy hill without signs and a platform?? We use our phones and technology for everything else, they can tell us which mountain or landmark we are looking at. Sure, fix the car park, toilets, etc… but leave trig point and the rest alone for our kids to enjoy being kids. I'm not in favour of the proposed draft. I think our rates could be better spent elsewhere. The area is just perfect the way it is. Why not use the money to bring tourists to an indoor aquatic centre. Albury/ Wodonga is decades behind other regional areas with their aquatic facilities such as Wagga, Junee, Batemans Bay. Even Tasmania, with a population less than 5000, have just completed 2 indoor 25m pools with a kids learn to swim splash pad pool. Please take this into consideration. Thank you
Megan Nemeth	I agree with the upgraded lookout at the car park but you need to increase the number if carparks, instead of reducing them, otherwise it's all a big waste. Imagine building something to encourage visitors whilst removing spaces for them to park?! Families aren't able to get a pram up there easily. Otherwise, all it needs is barbed wire removed and to be maintained. People visit this space for its serenity. I vote no to the mountain bike riding tracks. Cyclists are already a menace to dogs /families and prams, not to mention the destruction of native flora and fauna- especially in inclement weather on a slopes hill. Get more indigenous consultation- speak with John Murray and the elders.
Megan Pearce	Love the idea of a mountain bike track! I'm all for it!
Megan Vogel	As an Environmental Science and Management Student, this plan presents a negative impact both for the environment and for the community and breaks my heart. I truly hope that the habitat and well-being of animals and flora will be considered, as this is highly destructive. It also reduces our connection to nature and presents an unnecessary addition to an already established location.
Meghan Brewer	Hi, my family and I have recently relocated to the AW area. One of our biggest drivers for the 400k move was to be in an area that encouraged children to make adventures outdoors. I believe these adventures should be regular and unguided. Opening up eastern hill will give my family more areas to explore and exciting new places to make memories
Mel Robbins	Nothing wrong with how it is now. Unresponsible use of city funds for an unrequired addition, seating currently exists.

Melissa Kane	love the proposal keen to see a water bottle refill station please keen to see lots of mountain bike tracks please
Melissa Sellwood	I think the draft plan will truly ruin such a tranquil spot. I live in east Albury and walk this track a lot. Cleaning up carpark and toilets would be a good idea but i think the money would be better spent on adding to Nail Can hill bike track . Also, I'm not convinced a roundabout in Walsh is a good idea. Trucks often come that way, stopping and starting on a hill is not wise. Keep it clear for ambulances. If it must go ahead, PLEASE don’t be cruel and remove Elke’s chair Thank you

Mercedes Goss	The Eastern Hill Redevelopment Masterplan is underpinned by the most flawed and biased undertakings of Community Engagement I have ever seen. Firstly, the Masterplan cites that it aims to meet the council endorsed Mountain Bike Strategy. However, this strategy (which incidentally cites extensive community engagement) uses data collected from 376 people via surveys and 147 comments. The data about the 376 people who completed the survey indicated that 90%(338 people) rode mountain bikes at least weekly, in other words, committed mountain bikers, the ones who the Eastern Hill development is aiming to cater to. Only 8% identified as general riders (see p 21 of the MB Strategy). Whilst it is logical to get input to develop a Mountain Bike Strategy by those interested in the sport, what is illogical is that Albury City Council endorses the strategy and uses it as the basis for the Eastern Hill Redevelopment Masterplan. Basically 338 people, with 38% not even from Albury, having an exceptionally large voice at the table. Last I looked, Albury had approx. 56,000 people and many of them use the tracks around the area for activities other than mountain biking. But this exceptionally large segment of the population was not consulted. Furthermore, when looking at the Yonder report, it indicates that there were " mixed results " to the question: "Would people like to see mountain bike trails on Eastern Hill?". No data is provided. Nor is there any data provided to determine the representativeness of respondents. Perhaps because it was not a pro-mountain bike response, it is being brushed over. The farce of claiming Community Engagement and consultation is further highlighted by the makeup of the 2 face to face stakeholder engagement workshops conducted by Yonder. Beside various Albury Council departments invited to participate the only other invitees were Albury Wodonga Mountain Bikers and Albury Rotary Club. True stakeholder engagement would have included the people potentially impacted by the proposal (This is a key element of stakeholder engagement). One would have to question whether Yonder are very inexperienced in community engagement practices or whether the project brief was very narrowly defined by council in order to achieve a pre-determined outcome. I would prefer not to see Eastern Hill developed, however if true community consultation and engagement had occurred and the people of Albury, and East Albury in particular, wanted the redevelopment then I would have to accept that my view was outnumbered. Nothing published by council to date has given me evidence to change my view.
Mercia Rolfe	Great idea with this plan. It all looks good, and I have many grandchildren looking forward to riding their bikes up there too.

Michael Beazley	Positive: *Developing the Eastern Hill lookout area to make it a more appealing and safer for locals and tourists to view our beautiful area. Negatives: *Major development of a natural area (Devil's Glen) that for my lifetime has been protected by council against exactly what is in the proposal. (Excessive use, noise, disruptive activity) *Increased activity in the area, especially weekends *Increased traffic to the already very busy East Albury area. Increased traffic to Doctors' Point area - very unsafe and not in keeping with the natural environment *Should a car park be constructed off Doctors Point, this will attract anti-social behaviour - cars being burned, reckless driving and vandalism of infrastructure such as occurs at similar areas like Kremur Street Boat Ramp and Mungabareena Reserve *Threat to the wildlife population in the area off Doctors Point Road, Devil's Glen and Eastern Hill. There are many native animals that move through this area and to see that change or be threatened through development for human recreation would be incredibly disappointing and irresponsible. *The development and use of native animal thoroughfares as pathways for pedestrians and cyclists making them no longer suitable for the native animal population to use *The major cost involved to develop the precinct which could be better spent elsewhere in our city *The ongoing cost of maintenance of the precinct once established. Who would do this at whose expense? Having lengthy experience with fringe sporting clubs using natural environments; how they manage maintenance is always a major cost to them and being predominantly run by volunteers, often poor or uninformed decisions are made as far as upkeep and re-establishment after damage to such areas is common Would the Council be supporting clubs involved - continuously paying for maintenance, upgrades, changes to infrastructure to keep participants engaged in using this area on a long term basis? Would this cost be borne by ratepayers?

Michael Chapman Multiple submissions	I write to express my concerns over the Eastern Hill Redevelopment Plan. The Plan also has several positive points and proposals which I will highlight as well. I am concerned about the appropriateness of the consultation processes used which do not seem to comply with Council's published protocols and have up to now been extremely narrowly focused. Looking at Council's own data there are spikes which coincide with meetings of the Albury Mountain Bike Club and provide nearly 70% of responses. I am not criticizing the Bike Club or its members. They are exercising their right to be involved and to have their voices heard. It is just that voices with a differing, even contrary, opinion, did not have the same opportunity. The advertising of the Plan involved a letter drop which went to 9 people, a social media program of unexplained breadth (and I do not know anyone who has the Council on their Facebook feed) and Council's own website. Surely for a major plan such as this a wider program should have been undertaken. I am certainly not opposed to redevelopment of the facilities on Eastern Hill, the toilets are a disgrace, the carpark and its surrounds are in urgent need of work. Making the walking trails more accessible and adding appropriate signage is overdue as are the proposed viewing platforms. What is not appropriate is giving most of the eastern face of the Reserve over to the exclusive use of mountain bikes. The Club claims to have approximately 200 members in a city with a population of close to 60,000. This membership is well served by existing facilities including trails at Nail Can Hill and other facilities like "pump tracks" . The existing trails on Nail Can Hill have greatly damaged that area and it now seems that the proposal is to spread that damage to Eastern Hill. The Council's Bike Plan states that there are within close proximity to the Albury area a range of mountain bike riding opportunities to suit all needs. Why do we need more in Albury? The Eastern Hill Reserve has the highest conservation zoning in the Albury City area and any development needs to be sympathetic to this. Along with an active regeneration of the remnant vegetation (which is already recovering since the grazing animals were removed) everything other than the mountain bike trails will enhance the area and heighten its value to the Albury community and to visitors. I have been told that the building of the mountain bike trails is stage one of the Plan. This is entirely inappropriate as the existing infrastructure needs to be seen as a priority. I am also concerned by the proposals for the location of a roundabout at the top of Walsh Street which is steep and has limited vision onto East Street, also the northern and southern approaches to the roundabout have limited vision due to it being at the bottom of a gully.

Michael Geerling	Well done on the progress with the vision, integration and layout of this plan for Eastern Hill. The quality visitor areas combined with walking & cycling trails are the feature that will benefit locals and cause Albury/Wodonga to become a destination it just a stop off. Look forward to further development of our natural features around the city. If I can suggest, a full walking/cycling path to the Dam at Lake Hume is a key opportunity that should be explored in conjunction with Wodonga Council. A loop the crosses private and public land and goes upstream on one side and downstream on the other. Will be a centre piece attraction for our city.
Michael Letch	Definitely not in favour
Michael Mellor (multiple submissions)	This whole idea is over the top. Why does it always have to be these flamboyant, overly ambitious and stupidly expensive proposals? Why not just give the car park a bit of a tidy up, build some new toilets and maybe do a little bit of track maintenance and leave it at that. The roundabout idea is completely crazy, do you even have authority on that road anyhow? The desperately needed traffic lights at the intersection of East St and Borella Rd appear to a responsibility of the RMS so seeing that won't happen for decades, good luck with the roundabout. Also, would be difficult to construct there, very expensive and would be potentially extremely dangerous. Whole thing bad idea and not needed as MTB riders are already well catered for in this area. Why not just give the car park a bit of a spruce up, maybe construct new toilets and grade off the track a little and leave it at that. What is the point of these grandiose schemes which cost a huge amount of money and seem to take years to complete therefore denying ratepayers and others access to public recreational areas. The river boardwalk project is a case in point, been under construction for what, nearly two years or more and still light years away from completion it would appear. This stuff is crazy and has now got completely out of control. Please wake up a bit Albury council, you cannot keep squandering the public money on this rubbish.
Michael Salter	Most components of this project look promising and well worthwhile, except for the mountain bike aspect. My understanding is that the trails would be funded first, then funding would be sought for the other components in due course. Personal view is that the order should be reversed, but perhaps ‘sport and recreation’ funding is easier to attract, making that the priority. It will be a shame to see such a magnificent passive use area, already used by a surprising number of people, effectively repurposed for use by riders who have a number of alternative options for their activity. If the hill could be appropriately revegetated, that might compensate, to some extent, for the trails if they have to go ahead.

Michelle Fruend	As I stated in the initial online questionnaire, I am not sure why Albury City Council needs to upgrade Eastern Hill, if you need to upgrade the carpark and lookout let it be minimal and don't touch the ridge walk, that we all love for the peace, quiet of this walk and how important this is for mental wellbeing. I am against removing the seat donated in the memory of Mrs Black at the end of the main ridge track. This is a great place to walk, meditate, watch the sunrise and set, watch the moon rise and I am not sure why we need to develop it and I especially don't want to see any more concrete. As a trail walker and runner, I don't want to pound my joints on pavement, if I did, I could run around the streets of Albury. It is for my physical and mental health that I choose to walk and run places that are quiet and on dirt. Whilst I understand some of your proposed development is to create better access around the carpark , that I can understand. I was so happy to see that Wodonga City Council didn't concrete the path on the opposite side of the river. Whist I support physical activities of all types, I do love that when you currently walk on Eastern Ridge you don't have to worry about getting out of the way of MTB like I do when I walk on Nailcan, it is our responsibility as walkers to get out of their way not the other way around due to the speed they are often traveling down the mountain which means that you need a level of vigilance when sharing spaces with MTB and therefore you are unable to relax completely. I am against this development and think there are better ways to spend our money.
Michelle Nipperess	I think that Eastern Hill needs to be kept for walkers and their dogs. It doesn't need developing or fixing but should be kept in its natural state. The plans and development for Rotary Lookout and the New Trip Point Viewing area are overdeveloped and the designs are unattractive and dated. Please don't go ahead with this. Eastern Hill should be left for the walkers, the bike trail riders have more than enough areas to ride in already. Such a terrible plan Albury City.
Michelle Roe	I support the master plan and the inclusion of mountain bike trails separated from walking trails, that link not to other publicly accessible places. The improvements to lookout facilities look good and will provide opportunities to rest and relax while taking in the views. I am disappointed that the summary consultation report from first stage of consultation did not consider the views of Wodonga residents. You should be more transparent and not invite public input if you don't intend to consider the views of all interested members of the community.
Mikaela Gould	I think it's a terrible idea, it will ruin the peacefulness of the walk. It would be really disappointing to see this walking track changed and modernised.
Mikayla Sawyer	I love the new look of the lookout definitely safer with the barriers would visit a lot more than I do if it looks like this it looks amazing

Mike Fruend	No. The draft is excessive and needs to be stopped. Improvement is needed at car park and accessibility upgrades around the car park only. Do not touch the ridge. Do not included mountain biking. Our community has an abundance of areas close to the town for mountain biking. This area does not have to be one of them. Our community uses the ridge now. People enjoy the unpopulated area. Concrete in wild spaces is not the answer to making a better city. Leave the ridge alone as is.
Minnum Waters	Please no mountain bike trails on Eastern Hill. I love the serenity of the area. I love the natural environment. I love the kangaroos, wallabies, echidnas and all the beautiful birdsongs. To have this in the middle of the city is magic and should be treasured. It ok to fix up the toilets and car park
Mitch Roennfeldt	As an East Albury resident, who uses the look out as a walking track, I believe yes, the car park can certainly be done up to have a great viewing platform. But the new proposal for the trig point viewing platform I don't agree with it. I feel that area should be left alone with a nice rocky outcrop and grass around it. A viewing platform may be better off out at the point. As for mountain bike riders I have always thought up behind the Albury TAFE was a designated area thoughts of upgrading tracks through that area?? I believe it will only attract vandalism and rubbish on the hill.
Nadia Dosenko-West	I am not adverse to cleaning up the carpark and creating a sustainable communal space for those who park their cars and use the walking track. I am not convinced the bike track, however, is sustainable for wildlife or our whole community. I personally have been walking this track for over 30 years. It's a peaceful and slow space which is greatly required for the well-being of our community. Bike tracks have their place, and spaces for this activity should be made available, however, Eastern Hill is a piece of paradise that is well appreciated by many who use it for mental, social, spiritual and physical purposes. Bike riders would change the dynamic of what this beautiful space already offers or community. I do not agree that this proposal should go ahead.

Nadia Mellor Multiple submissions	You is the term "developed with your input" incorrectly. It was developed with a few members of the community with vested interest. You did not follow your own strategic engagement plan and have blatantly contradicted yourself with the draft plan points and your own facts and answer sheet. You also say that the draft plan should not be released until all stakeholders are consulted with. The draft plan was released before consultation. Very unprofessional work by council staff. The presentation on 31st August morning was a disgrace to Albury City Council. The FAQs sheet contradicted many of the points on the draft plan. Examples of this are letter dropping, Elke's seat not being moved and no concrete in the trig station development. How can we trust Council with anything they say?? The comments from the audience were thoughtful and indicative of the views of the stakeholders
Nancy Robinson	I live in East Albury and have enjoyed walking eastern hill regularly since 1979. I love the views and natural landscape, birds, animals. It is loved by many people of all ages, families, walkers, dog walking, runners, an occasional bike rider. The area was heavily utilised in the LGA lockdowns in 2021. I first became aware of this development about 2 weeks ago!! when a poster was placed at the top of Mount Street informing "have you say", I read ACC news by email and knew nothing of the early proposals. I do not read the Border Mail I was shocked to know the MTB. Had made so much progress with a plan without consideration of many of the users of the hill. I tried to fill out the form on the web site ticking the boxes but would not work. I would like to see: • Good maintenance of the existing walking trails and Hume Hovell track. • Better toilets, • Road access improvements • Better Rubbish control (there is constantly rubbish littered there in the car park in spite of 1 bin and all down the access road. • Better signage and do an information board. About flora, fauna, history Etc (a good example is at castle creek reserve Wodonga) Planting of more native vegetation on the eastern side of the hill. • Weed control • Viewing point at the top … and signs not to litter? If it helps? NO to any MTB trails at all. There is nail can hill for MTB Also flows could add to erosion, upset dogs and walks… put off walkers using area.

Nat Ward	This is a really good initiative for Albury. It is an area of Albury parkland that is under used, and because of its central position, it makes it a perfect area to redevelop. It will then be accessible to a broader part of our community, especially for the young mountain bike riders who don't have anywhere suitable locally at the moment to ride. I believe any plan that encourages more physical activity for our community, is a very good initiative. Aside from the benefits for local users, this will be an asset for the tourism in our area, similar to our sculpture wetlands trail. I hope it goes ahead.
Nathan McGrath	I think this is a well thought out plan and great initiative to enhance the quality of living for Albury. Having descending MTB trails is a great idea but they need to be signed well, I've come across people walking dogs up a track I'm riding down elsewhere. Not sure the exact plan for the bike trails but it would be good to have varying difficulties for progression, also need to be well signed. The only other thing I'd like to see would be a fenced off-leash dog park, the other one in East Albury holds a bit of water so not ideal in wet years like this, but that would be a luxury. Well done and thanks for your work in the area!
Nathan Streller	I don't want the seat Elke Black Memorial seat removed it would be horrible for the family
Neil Brandt	Eastern Hill is a great walking and mountain riding destination for me it is at my back door, and I love coming to the area with my dog. It does need upgrades for easier access like prams to be able to get out the ridge line to the trig point. I do use a mountain bike on this hill and ride down to the river a lot. I DO NOT believe it needs a mountain bike trail system put in, it works well the way it is. We have Nail Can Hill which has a lot of potential, but is not maintained properly, if there were funds available for mountain biking the best thing to do is fix and maintain what we have(Nail Can Hill) and do not build and create another trail system that will slowly deteriorate. Kind regards...
Neil Geddes	The Eastern Hill walking tracks, part of the Hume and Hovell walking trail, are used extensively by Albury residents, their children and dogs. I have walked up to three times per week on the tracks for twenty years. Walking on these paths have not caused damage to the hill and its environment. Mountain bikes tracks should not cross or be close to the current walking paths to prevent accidents. They will need maintenance regularly, something that does not occur with the tracks on Nail Can Hill. Overall, I feel use of Eastern Hill for mountain bikes to be an unjustified risk.

Nick And Sarah Roseby	Regarding the current Eastern Hill Activation Master Plan, we wanted to personally email you to show our strong support for this project being executed in its entirety as per the current Master Plan – with facilities for walkers, runners, and cyclists. We are local business owners (Meet PAT, a very proud Albury representative) that currently employs 12 amazing staff. We are parents of 2 young children as well as an East Albury resident who uses the current Eastern Hill space almost daily. We are part of the walking, running and mountain bike community, and we have supported some amazing cycling infrastructure projects in different states (including ACT) over the years. There are so many reasons that this project should go ahead in its entirety: Inclusion and accessibility – we regularly use this space and can identify current barriers for the young, elderly and disabled due to the existing landscape e.g., eroded pathways. We wholeheartedly agree that the space should be improved to support use for all. This would be a fantastic benefit to the community. We want all ages, all ability and all interests to be supported, not purely a space for the privilege of East Albury residents. Promotion of Albury City – Albury City is a beautiful place to live and increasing access to Eastern Hill Lookout and surrounds will promote Albury to a wider audience. Mental Health of our Community – Part of being a parent is to encourage and support healthy, mindful and active kids who care for the environment. Having safe, accessible spaces for them to both appreciate and to explore is something we all wish for. I urge you to include mountain bike facilities in this development. A space within riding distance of East Albury that was been well developed and safe to promote this activity would strongly benefit the wider community!! This is the time for our representatives to push for innovative development projects which support the use of outdoor spaces, healthy living and engagement in activities that benefit mental health – bike riding, walking, running! This development is for the mental health of the community not an exclusive minority (that oppose the Master Plan). Restoration and improvement of the ecology of Eastern Hill – the area where the mountain bike trails are proposed are highly degraded due to previous use for grazing and we have observed on our walks that the area is conducive of invasive species such as Echium plantagineum (Patersons curse). We completely support the regeneration of this area to rectify the current erosion and encourage growth of native species through new planting. We are also for more tree planting for our climate!! If we can provide any additional supporting information, please let me know and we'd be more than happy to discuss this in person.

Nick Bond	Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Draft Eastern Hill Activation Master Plan (EHAMP). Like many other residents of East Albury, I place an extremely high value on Eastern Hill - I routinely walk the ridge trail as well as accessing the hill from Murray View Rd and from Gunbower Close. I am also an avid mountain biker who periodically rides the same trails. Again, like many though, I am very disappointed with both the lack of consultation in the planning process and in the Draft EHAMP itself. While there are a number of laudable goals of the EHAMP - such as increasing accessibility and providing a resource that meets the needs of the broader local community (rather than just a select few) - the plan as presented misses the mark on several fronts. Below I have provided a series of dot points relating to various aspects of what is proposed. - First, and perhaps most importantly, the Draft EHAMP appears to propose a level of development that is inconsistent with the essence of the location, and the ability to quickly feel that one has escaped from a more 'built' environment. - The artist's impressions include all sorts of structures that would detract from the sense of 'escape' from a more built setting. This is not to say that some improvements could be made to increase accessibility. They easily could, and they could be done in a way that did not fundamentally alter the undeveloped character of the area as it stands. - The decision to invest in MTB trails at Eastern Hill while there is an extensive trail network at Nail Can Hill seems wasteful and ill conceived. The trails at Nail Can Hill are extensive and well utilised by the local mountain biking community (including for events that attract large numbers), but they are in urgent need of attention due to a lack of investment in adequate trail maintenance. No good case appears to be presented as to why Eastern Hill should be a higher priority for MTB trail investment. I understand there may be issues regarding land ownership (local vs state govt), but if that's the case, why not work to on overcoming those barriers. Mountain bikers will continue to visit Nail Can Hill, and so adding more trails at Eastern Hill will only increase the need (and costs) of future maintenance. One option (as presented in the MTB strategy) would be to have a smaller trail network designed to cater specifically to local residents of East Albury, but I would argue this should be seen as a complement, rather than alternative, to trails being repaired and maintained at Nail Can. - If work is to be done to enhance facilities or trails at Eastern Hill, it seems a lost opportunity not to consider how to better connect the Eastern Hill Reserve with nearby Mungabareena Reserve. Presently there is a large area of the floodplain immediately to the east of Eastern Hill and to the south of new East Albury that is greatly under-utilised by the community due to the lack of amenities and destructive behaviour of 4WD drivers. It would be great to see this area enhanced so that the hillslope areas where better connected with the floodplain and the river, both in terms of walking trails and vegetation condition. This would require council to do more to deal with the unnecessary and destructive vehicle access that currently occurs in this area. - There is both a need and an opportunity to improve vegetation and habitat management at Eastern Hill, which would be entirely consistent with the current land-tenure. This should be being done as a matter of course and should not require a master plan or new facilities. Personally, I would much prefer to see funds directed toward native revegetation than toward an upgraded lookout. Finally, rather than presenting a single option to the community, why not consider presenting several alternative options for feedback, while also ensuring those options are actually demonstrably reflective of the range of views/desires among the community. Presently, the lack of

	open and transparent consultation means the community and the Council each should lack confidence the Draft EHAMP reflects the communities needs and aspirations. I hope the collective feedback will provide the Council with helpful guidance in terms of the next steps and look forward to hearing a response in due course.
Nick Crowe	Hi, I am all for the upgrade of the car park area of eastern hill. The walk itself should be left alone, that is the beauty of it. We don't need concrete structures in the middle of nature, nor do we need bike tracks. Concentrate on Nail Can for that. Make that the mecca for mountain biking Albury, just like Wodonga has done with hunchback. And Eastern hill the nature escape. The money should be spent on the eastern hill car park area, upgrade Nail Can hill bike tracks and the widening of Doctors Point Road for cyclists and walkers. It's extremely dangerous and inadequate for the traffic that uses it. I have seen council trucks over the lines going around the corners and cars off the edge. There is no shoulder in places to move off the road if needed. Before upgrading an area, the roads around it need to be adequate for the increase of all kinds of traffic.
Nick Driver	There has been significant backlash by those opposing the proposal. I live at the top of Walsh St. I have looked over the draft plans and believe the proposal has a lot of merit and will enhance Albury's facilities, tourism attraction and accessibility to this beautiful area. I hope to attend the Council information session on Wednesday 31st if my work commitments allow.
Nick Harris	I support the goals of the masterplan to improve the ecological, physical and mental benefits of walking along Eastern Hill. I do not support the mountain bike trails on the hill. The key features of the hill are the tranquillity, peace and quiet of the area, allowing people to walk and experience the beautiful view and nature. I am supportive of the proposal to revegetate the hill and remove invasive species, which will help increase biodiversity and ecology of the area, and if there can be more options for mothers and people with a disability to enjoy the experience that would be acceptable. Mountain Bike trails are not appropriate for Eastern Hill and their introduction of these will damage these features. The mountain biking will disturb the tranquillity and peace the area and will impact on the biodiversity. It will also introduce more conflict between bikes and walkers. The trig point proposal needs a smaller footprint, so it is more sympathetic with the natural surrounds. I also support keeping the seat at the end of the trail and keeping as much of the original path as possible. More genuine consultation must be completed. The community have been completely left out of this proposal, and consultation will ensure that the local community views are heard.

Nick Roseby	Regarding the current Eastern Hill Activation Master Plan, we wanted to show our strong support for this project being executed in its entirety as per the current Master Plan – with facilities for walkers, runners, and cyclists. We are local business owners (a very proud Albury representative) that currently employs 12 amazing staff. Are parents of 2 young children as well as an East Albury resident who uses the current Eastern Hill space almost daily? We are part of the walking, running and mountain bike community, and we have supported some amazing cycling infrastructure projects in different states (including ACT) over the years. There are so many reasons that this project should go ahead in its entirety: Inclusion and accessibility – we regularly use this space and can identify current barriers for the young, elderly and disabled due to the existing landscape e.g., eroded pathways. We wholeheartedly agree that the space should be improved to support use for all. This would be a fantastic benefit to the community. We want all ages, all ability and all interests to be supported, not purely a space for the privilege of East Albury residents. Promotion of Albury City – Albury City is a beautiful place to live and increasing access to Eastern Hill Lookout and surrounds will promote Albury to a wider audience. Mental Health of our Community – Part of being a parent is to encourage and support healthy, mindful and active kids who care for the environment. Having safe, accessible spaces for them to both appreciate and to explore is something we all wish for. I urge you to include mountain bike facilities in this development. A space within riding distance of East Albury that was been well developed and safe to promote this activity would strongly benefit the wider community!! This is the time for our representatives to push for innovative development projects which support the use of outdoor spaces, healthy living and engagement in activities that benefit mental health – bike riding, walking, and running! This development is for the mental health of the community not an exclusive minority (that oppose the Master Plan). Restoration and improvement of the ecology of Eastern Hill – the area where the mountain bike trails are proposed are highly degraded due to previous use for grazing and we have observed on our walks that the area is conducive of invasive species such as Echium plantagineum (Patersons curse). We completely support the regeneration of this area to rectify the current erosion and encourage growth of native species through new planting. We are also for more tree planting for our climate!!
Nick Shelley Multiple submissions	Unnecessary development. The hill is already used daily by wildlife, dogs, adults, teens and children. Plenty of animal habitats will be destroyed which is devastating. The hill is such a safe and happy place for all. My partner has commented that it is one of the only places she feels safe walking alone as a female. This development does not need to happen as there many mountain bike trails already in the area. Re-develop them and leave Eastern Hill alone! Not a necessary development of a natural walking and hill space. Wildlife and locals will be negatively affected.

Nicole Spinelli	Stop interfering with the natural bush land and leave it as it is in its natural beauty the way nature intended, the reason it is beautiful is because it stays untouched by humans who only destroy
Nikola Toole	I walk here almost every day with my dog and want to see as much of this natural landscape maintained. I am not completely opposed the Eastern Hill Activation Master Plan. I think an improvement on access to the lookout will be fantastic as it's currently not very safe entering/exiting. Another positive will be the improved pedestrian access. I am VERY opposed to the plans for MTB tracks. I believe there are PLENTY of other places in Albury and surrounding areas already available to bikes, and we do not need to cover this beautiful lookout in bike paths. It would be a shame to see another area taken over by MTB.
Nina Castillo	Well done Albury City Council on this draft plan for Eastern Hill. I am very happy to see: - mountain bike trails - better signage - upgraded walking tracks - better carpark
Nina Giblin	I still like the walking track but when I go up there, I'm still wishing that there were some good tracks to ride my bike on.

Noel Chapman	My family have lived on Eastern Hill (Heath St , Walsh St) for over 50 years (3 generations) and along with many other (most) Eastern Hill residents I have only recently been made aware of the proposed development plans for Eastern Hill. I am most disappointed that Albury City Council have not been far more proactive in advising Eastern Hill residents, who would be those most adversely effected by some of these proposed developments (particularly the proposed Mountain Bike Track). Why were we not advised by letter rather than by mostly our neighbours and a few signs and the Border Mail. Although some improvements to the existing walking track would be desirable, my wife and I are absolutely against a Mountain Bike Track as this would totally destroy the beautiful serenity of the existing walking track enjoyed by so many of us who love the peace and quiet that currently exists. And that s to say nothing of the horrific effect a Mountain Bike Track and all that goes with it would have on the existing native animals, birds , plants and general ecology there now. As well as this what about the massive increase in traffic that this would bring to our current peaceful streets? I could envisage everything from mountain bikes, cars, bike buses and trailers continually going up and over East Street, Walsh Street ,Heath Street and adjoining streets. And that s after the Mountain Bike Track is completed. What about all the increased traffic, noise etc during construction to our otherwise quiet and serene neighbourhood? It seems to me and certainly most of my neighbours that a small interest group (i.e., the Mountain Bikers group) have somehow been able to exert some undue pressure (or been given a special hearing) on the Council to get these proposed plans to the advanced stage that they're currently at. I would hope, with respect, that Council can now see that the majority of Eastern Hill residents most definitely DONT want a Mountain Bike Track to spoil our beautiful Eastern Hill Reserve and some fair and reasonable engagement on the plan can now take place.
Olivia Platt	What a great master plan for a growing East Albury. I have used that track for many years to take the dog for a walk. In more recent years the kids have come along with me. I have seen the area deteriorate since I first began walking up there as a teen in the mid-90s. I have read through councils very thorough plan, and I am excited for the future of the area. It will bring life back to a relatively forgotten area. It is lovely that a few locals still enjoy it but how nice for the growing community and visitors to really enjoy the 360 degree views of our fabulous town. The mountain biking aspect of the plan has our family most excited. Our son has recently begun riding and we are so impressed by the beautiful riding community that Albury has. This is the ONLY sport we have been involved in with our kids where their ability is not judged in any way. My son is never left out because he is less capable than another child. It is an inclusive and encouraging environment for him to be in. To already see self-esteem levels, rise and a happy child means the world to me as a parent. If something like this outdoor area can provide that to many others of all ages, then I am 100% behind it. This town is growing at a rapid rate, and we need to keep up with the growing needs of the community. A project like this will bring a new vibrancy to the area. Well done Albury City Council on such thoughtful community project.

Olwen Steel	Having been an East Albury resident since the turn of the century, I'm alarmed to hear about the planned changes for Eastern Hill, and that my opinion wasn't sought in this matter. I've also been around long enough to remember the Elke Black memorial bench being installed, and feel unspeakably sad and angry about the proposal to remove it. On my regular walks for pleasure, or on birdwatching outings, I'm aware of meeting many others who are keen to use this wonderful facility that's on our doorstep. Please would you re-consider this plan, so that the magnificent resource we have can be shared between the competing groups who currently use the area for recreation. Perhaps a smaller bike track, that doesn't impinge on Elke Black's memorial bench, and still allows for a sufficient and safe area for walking and birdwatching activities. Thanks for this opportunity.
Padma Ayyagari	There is absolutely no need to destroy the natural beauty in the name of development. As many would have pointed out - maintain the existing mountain bike trail at Nail Can hill. With the development of the hospital, this area is already congested with cars and traffic - we East Albury residents, do not want more traffic in the local streets and all the associated dangers with it - noise pollution, accidents - to name a few. What you claim as consultation with the community is invalid as you did not bother consulting with the main group I.e., the local residents who would be impacted most. Please leave the hill as is …
Padma Ayyagari	Totally unnecessary development. Leave the nature as us - it does not need to be a tourist attraction creating traffic congestion on an already busy area due to the hospital STOP THE DEVELOPMENT
Pam Clack	There is no way East Street is able to handle the extra traffic flow. We have 2 access roads to the Hume Freeway from East Albury and Borella is a bottle neck especially during peak periods and there is no way East Street can handle any more traffic.

Patrick Gooding	I have lived in Albury my entire life, the past 35 years in Murray View Rd approximately 100 meters from Devils Glen. During this period of my life my wife Joan and I have bought up our three children spending many recreational hours with our family in Devils Glen, Eastern Hill, Mungabareena and the Murray River. Now we are reliving these wonderful experiences in these beautiful areas with our adult children and our six grandchildren. Consultation Process I am not at all happy with and feel that the initial consultation process is badly flawed. This process appears to have been adopted to get a desired outcome with only limited stakeholders contacted, those being Rotary Club of Albury, Albury Wodonga Mountain Bikers, Aboriginal Elders and nine residents with property adjoining the proposed 77 hectare proposed development. What Mountain Bike Club would not activate their members to support such a project en masse when presented to them? (a bit like winning the lottery) The contact with Aboriginal Elders appears to be an exchange of information only with no recommendations being presented. Were they asked for their input and recommendations regarding the proposed development and if so what were they and why aren't they included in the engagement outcomes summary? With only nine adjoining residents being contacted in relation to this major development and numerous others being overlooked it only adds weight to my feelings of meeting a desired outcome. During meetings Council officers when challenged have admitted that the process is not in line with Council's own engagement process. Also one of the Council's officers heavily involved in this project appears to have a conflict of interest in that he is heavily involved in the MTB Club. A statement from the original survey states "Two of the most popular uses of Eastern Hill by the respondents are walking and bike riding". This may be true from responses to the survey but in fact is not at all true, during my time on Eastern Hill over the last 35 years I have rarely seen bike riders accessing the hill. This outcome in the survey is again a result of the skewed consultative process designed to deliver a desired outcome. General comments and recommendations on the proposed Development I am supportive of many aspects of the Eastern Hill Master Plan those being: Redevelopment of carpark and toilet facilities, but 15 + 2 carparks seem insufficient for the size of the proposed development. The current carpark takes more than this. General development of Rotary Lookout area looks appropriate. A lookout at Trig Point is appropriate but not on the grand scale indicated. DDA access to Trig Point is appropriate provided it is constructed by earthen materials. DDA access to other areas of the development would not be acceptable due to the detrimental effect on the natural environment.

	I am supportive of new access to the Rotary Lookout but not a roundabout at the intersection of Walsh and East streets. I would suggest a slip road entrance just prior to Walsh Street with a divided road only allowing access to motorists travelling south on East Street and a slip road exit at the current access point again with a divided East Street only allowing exit to the south. East Street is a main arterial road that allows Thurgoona residents access to the Hume Freeway, placement of a roundabout at the Walsh Street intersection will only lead to traffic build-up in the area. Pedestrian traffic could be facilitated by provision of a pedestrian bridge. The area surrounding the Devils Glen walking track is the most environmentally intact and fragile area in the whole development plan with a magnificent array of native birds, squirrel gliders, echidnas and kangaroos. This area is also the most peaceful in the whole proposed development area and affords visitors a special place where they can get away from the hustle and bustle of everyday life. It is a place of solitude. These comments reflect Albury City Council Environment Team comments “has the highest environmental values in Albury City Council” and “Devil’s Glen have the most intact vegetation and highest biodiversity values” This area is also the principal linkage to the lagoon, Murray River and Doctors Point Reserve for Kangaroos. Excessive development of this area will cut off access for the kangaroos and drive away the other native animals and birds. The track from the lookout to Murray View Road needs little alteration and should be preserved with little change to its current condition. In some areas it may be a little difficult but that is part of the attraction of bush walking. The track from Murray view Road to Doctors Point Road is currently not clearly defined. From the development proposal it appears to be located on the high western side of the gully following the boundaries of land holders, this is a Kangaroo track and not the best location for the track and in some areas impinges on resident’s properties. The track should be placed near the bottom of the gully and have a solid earthen base similar to the track from Murray View Road to East Street. Development of Doctors Point Reserve into a Park is worth consideration but if doing so consideration should be given to leaving a generous buffer zone to protect resident’s property and privacy. A common may be a better idea for this area as it is a visiting / resting place for many kangaroos. There is also talk of a carpark in this area, this would prove difficult to provide as the area regularly floods. An alternative to this would be to create a carpark in the area of the Matthew West Boat Ramp similar to but not as large as the Kramer Street Boat Ramp. This is only a short distance from Devil’s Glen and Doctors Point Reserve which would be of little inconvenience for walkers and serve a dual purpose. I am not at all supportive of any MTD tracks in The Eastern Hill Development Plan. The proposed tracks will be detrimental to the natural environment and native wildlife and hinder any attempt to revegetate it back to its natural state. Part of the Development brief is to “minimise impact to existing vegetation where possible” This aim in the brief is in contradiction with the provision of MTD tracks. Also the proposal is misleading in that it indicates 8 km of MTD tracks in the proposal where Council officers have indicated that 20km of tracks are proposed. I am supportive of the proposal in relation to the improvement to access and drainage at Gunbower Close as current stairs are much too

	high and dangerous and handrail is in a state of disrepair. I have not made comment in relation to the Water Tank Precinct and Heath Street Precinct as I am not familiar with these areas. I would be happy to discuss any of the above issues with Yonder or Council officers. I am also prepared to walk through any of these areas with these officers to explain my ideas.
Patrick Povolny	I can understand the car park could do with a revamp however, the walk across the ridge and a concrete structure would absolutely spoil the country feel that the walk and trees supply. This walk across the ridge and view over Mungabareena Reserve needs to be maintained not bulldozed by this unnecessary proposal.
Paul Childs	The master plan looks great. Well done to Albury City Council on this initiative. This Eastern Hill Activation project will help the community and visitors to appreciate the natural and cultural values of the Albury area. Until now, this area has been seen as undeveloped land with little potential. There seems to be little appreciation for its ecological and cultural significance. We live in Mount St and frequently walk along the Eastern Hill trails. While walking, we have seen echidnas, gang gang cockatoos, swamp wallabies, flame robins, mouse spiders and a range of native plants, including species that have traditional values for First Nations people. We see this project providing opportunities to protect (and hopefully enhance) these values. There is a great opportunity to raise awareness of the cultural significance of this land with input from First Nations groups. This is also a great opportunity to improve accessibility for people with disability who are otherwise excluded from areas like this. The footpaths that have been recently constructed around East Albury have improved our own daughter's access to the community. The Eastern Hill Activation project will further enhance connection between our built and natural assets. As a family, we are one hundred per cent supportive of this initiative. As an ecologist (working for the NSW Government), I would be happy to be involved in a project advisory capacity (voluntary) if the opportunity arises. We are very excited to see this project implemented.
Paul Eberle	Great idea great for tourism I work in a local bike shop and a lot of riders keep driving to Yack Beechworth or Bright because Nail Can is so rutted out due to no money being spent on it. So, I think a fresh MTB park would get a lot of tourists stopping over to ride and spend money in the Albury community
Paul Grover	This draft plan is excellent - contemporary, accessible, promoting the natural environment and respectful of the environment also. I would like to see this draft plan fully implemented - perhaps the memorial seat can be located in a respectful location within the space also.

Paul Henderson	I am writing against the addition of mountain bike taills on Eastern Hill. As a local mountain bike rider and avid cyclist this is not an appropriate space for the mountain bike trail network proposed. Eastern Hill is enjoyed by users as an easily accessible natural environment and this development is directly opposed to the appeal and value that the area represents. Furthermore, the plan itself appears to have been designed with minimal engagement of users and in direct conflict with Albury City's published community engagement plans. In regard to mountain bikes specifically, Albury Council should consider spending the money set aside for this to improve and maintain the existing Nail Can Hill circuit before expanding into other areas. If Council is unable to maintain existing facilities, then questions should be asked as to how expanded facilities are justified.
Paul Waterstreet	We would HOPE that a memorial to Hume and HOVELL is included for 2024 bi centennial
Peter Collier	Thanks so much for all the hard work that's gone into this development plan. Seriously cannot wait for this to go ahead. Especially the MTB tracks!
Peter Elias	I fully support the proposed activation plan for the redevelopment of Eastern Hill - the existing amenities desperately need updating, access is dangerous, and the potential of the site is underutilised. The draft proposal to construct all ability pathways, modern viewing platform, integration with the trig site, walking track connectivity of the various sites in the area, and the inclusion of the roundabout at Walsh St -- great vision and incorporating many aspects of the community feedback. Creation of a track from Hilltop cancer patient accommodation, past water tank murals, venturing onto the Hume and Hovell track combines so many elements, effectively inviting walkers, joggers, cyclists, flower lovers, bird watchers, and so many others to enjoy the beautiful hillsides we have within our city boundaries. Hopefully the proposed works will proceed.
Peter Fornasiero	The community consultation before the development of the draft master plan was very poor. The location is not suitable. This type of project should not be located so close to residential areas. It will cause significant erosion to deter the many animals that now live in the area and although only meant for mountain bikes, once humps and jumps are built will attract the same type of hoon activity as Nail Can Hill. Increased traffic on this already busy road will only make it more dangerous- a roundabout is not the answer. Some improvement to the lookout, entrance, toilet facilities etc. and walking paths would be a welcome improvement, Many people, including families with youngsters, regard walking, silence, contemplation and connection with nature as a very worthwhile activity. Big and expensive is not always the best!

Peter Larkin	To All Councillors, appropriate People and Rate Payers at AlburyCity. Being a Local For the past 60 Years and a Keen Pushbike Rider, Dirty Old Dirt Biker, Walker and Plumber, I would like to share my thoughts on the proposed redevelopment of Our Great Eastern Hill. Having My Wife Feeling Safe at the Safest Place Currently to walk and Enjoy Nature just 5 Minutes from Most Places in Albury is a Privilege. I have also witnessed MANY other Women enjoying the Peace and Solitude at sunrise which is Something to Behold Comparing to our Nail Can Hill which is Rutted and Unsafe from Soil Erosion from Years of Downhill Pushbikes. Initial Consultation Was Kept Very in House amongst the Pushbike Fraternity. Knowing now that this project was initially under the previous Councillors, I feel we Need to revisit Plans to Make Eastern Hill Safe and Still keep The Beauty Without Paving Paradise and spending $$$ on Unnecessary Expenses. Yes, Toilet Amenities, Car Park needs to be Upgraded and Access to Trig Point – Agreed. Please Don't Spoil Nature and this Space with More Man-Made Tracks. There are Plenty of Pushbike Tracks Down and around Mungabareena which when on a Mountain Bike you're Not Leisurely riding you're not soaking in the solitude of this Hill. I plead Not to Take away Peoples Solitude with Development and Greed of the Pushbike Downhillers. Battery Pushbikes are Here Now so Watch for More Erosion and Tracking on the Hill. Talk to Earthmover about Trenches from Tracks! There are Plenty of Other Locations to Put Forward for Development to Ride and Enjoy for the Pushbike Fraternity. Why surround Albury with Mountain Bikes on Hill That Is Paradise? Please Councillors and appropriate Bodies Do Not Keep Community Like Mushrooms like previously Kept in the dark. We all Want our own way but sometimes we all need to get back to Basics Instead of Overcomplicating our Lives and Special Places such as Our Great Eastern Hill.
Peter Meredith	Love the plan. Very inclusive of all members of the community and the sports of walking and cycling. I am looking forward to Eastern Hill being transformed from an over grazed section of land to, over time, back to a natural landscape. The proposed roundabout at the intersection of East Street and Walsh Street will improve pedestrian safety and formalise the entry to the new precinct.

Peter O'Dwyer	My earlier first stage submission was focused on what is now identified at the 'Water Tank Precinct' and having reviewed the draft EHAMP, I support recommended Actions 1 – 6 and in particular Action 2 – Improve track surfacing and drainage. However, I would suggest that additional strategy, which is not only relevant to the Water Tank Precinct but also the broader Study Area, needs to be included in the General Recommendations. That is: • Ongoing weed management and biodiversity enhancement; and • Maintenance of fuel loads adjacent to residential boundaries to help minimise bushfire risk. In respect of Actions 7 – 11 related to the Heath Street Precinct and Actions 1 & 16 – 18 for the Devil's Glen Precinct, I support in principle the recommended strategy. It is in relation to the Ridge Precinct that the draft EHAMP displays a significant shift towards preferencing the wants and desire of the mountain bike sector over the existing passive and largely undeveloped landscape characteristics of this key hillside area. That is, the essential value and existing attraction of the Ridge Precinct is the very lack of development including a network of MTB trails. This circumstance enhances the existing pedestrian experience and contributes to a sense of scale that is afforded when walking in the broad open landscape setting with sweeping views. Central to any walking experience is interaction with the environment and with other pedestrians. To be encouraged to walk anywhere, let alone Eastern Hill, are factors such as the suitability of the environment for walking, orientation and safety as well as predictability and reliability. Putting it simply pedestrians and MTB's require separation, not a sharing of space. The Albury Mountain Bike Strategy, identifies Nail Can Hill as the key area providing the most potential for further trail development within the city. In response the focus of the EHAMP should instead be maintenance of an alternative experience. That is, ongoing track maintenance coupled with judicious enhancement of this extremely important low key and essentially undeveloped public resource. Rather than facilitating the opening up of new opportunity for MTB users, the EHAMP should instead support a conclusion that Eastern Hill (and in particular the 'Ridge Precinct') doesn't require "Activation" to separate existing walkers and future MTB users. What it simply needs is: • Focus on walkability issues including ongoing and regular track maintenance; • Closure and revegetation of all unauthorised trails; • Appropriate low-key enhancement of the Trig Point and Kiewa Valley look-out areas; • Enhancement of opportunity for those with mobility, sensory, and/or cognitive disabilities; • Ongoing weed management; and • Biodiversity enhancement. The Albury Mountain Bike Strategy clearly highlights that Albury-Wodonga is well served in respect of the mountain biking experience. As a key point of difference Eastern Hill – Ridge Precinct should remain a protected passive open space area that not only provides a key

	backdrop to the urban area but also continues to offer a valuable opportunity for enhancement of the existing pedestrian experience and encouragement of enjoyment of the broad and relatively peaceful landscape setting.
Peter Summerfield	I regularly walk along Eastern Hill, having lived nearby for 14 years. I take my family and dog along quite often, and the Hill provided welcome relief during pandemic lockdowns. I appreciate the area because it is relatively untouched. I am not opposed to improvements, but I am STRONGLY opposed to developments on the scale proposed. I do not understand why we must continue to urbanise natural features in Albury. Any upgrade to the parking area needs to cater for the same or more parking. Regarding the cycle tracks, I think there are other options available in the district for able-bodied people. I am in favour of the equal access path up to Trig Point. I can't help but notice the irony of the current signage informing visitors about how precious the landscape is, and how nothing can be removed, yet the plans include a massive concrete land bridge and many dramatic alterations to the natural contours of the land. A 3m wide track for maintenance vehicles right along the ridge is hardly sympathetic to the natural environment, and would not be necessary if we weren't extensively tampering with the hill in the first place. Please upgrade the toilets and carpark without losing parking spaces. Please make Trig Point accessible via an equal access path, ending with a minimum impact landing at Trig Point (not the huge deck on the current plans). I say no to MTB trails. I say no to a land bridge. It is no longer a natural oasis if we overdevelop.

Petra Henniger	I am a resident of East Albury and cherish my walks, to breathe, being in and reconnecting to nature and enjoying the beauty around me on my regular visits and time spend on Eastern Hill. It is a small, very precious and vulnerable piece of nature, in the process of natural regeneration and cherished by walkers and nature lovers. I was very distraught finding out more about the proposed Draft Eastern Hill Activation Master Plan. As much as I like mountain biking and am aware of the thought that it may bring more tourist dollars to Albury, I strongly believe this is not the right place for it. Mountain biking is an adrenalin sport for which there are many more suitable opportunities in the surrounding mountains and Nail Can Hill. Special mountain bike tracks and areas for bushwalking and communing with nature require totally different areas. I and many of my friends stopped walking Nail Can Hill for this reason. We want to relax and recharge and appreciate the beauty of nature. Also, many of my visitors to Albury love Eastern Hill because of its natural ruggedness and beautiful views. For mountain biking we already have Nail Can Hill - please, leave us this small precious natural corridor of Eastern Hill for walking, recharging and nature appreciation in the expanding urban environment. Not everything needs to be developed. Please, leave us all this beautiful unmanicured small corridor. It is precious, it is delightful in its current state. I am sure many of the Friends of Eastern Hill would be happy to help with restoring the native flora to create a better and safer habitat for native fauna. This could be done, if approved by council, in form of a Landcare group. Maintenance requirements would only include: -the upkeep of the road up to and of the rotary look out, -occasionally grading of the paths (including Heath Street precinct) and - I would also highly suggest to employ a cool, mosaic, cultural burn policy for maintaining this area.
Phillip Pille	I've been riding mountain bikes all my life and I know that the eastern hill isn't the place for it. Nail Can hill has always been the place for it. Growing up in East Albury, nobody built trails or jumps in the area because we would constantly be colliding with walkers - because the walkers made those trails. To put a mountain biking track in an area heavily used by walkers is out of touch and not actually what the people want. The area should be regenerated to support the population of people currently using the area. To not even consult the indigenous community beyond 3 people is insensitive and corrupt considering the impact it will have on Mungabareena reserve. This all just seems like a cash grab after seeing what other places like Mt. Buller and Bright have got in funding from our government. You guys needs to actually consult the community of users of that piece of land. If this place was suitable for MTB, there would be existing trails, but there aren't. There are only walking trails, and this should be supported, not destroyed.

Phoebe Crilly	I would like to see the land left as is. My friends and I often walk along the hill and enjoy its natural beauty. I believe that creating a trail will take away from its beauty and in no way will be beneficial to the land.
Pia Laari	The draft master plan to proceed. To ensure that this will occur it needs a staged draft plan that sets out works to be undertaken in stages, targets and completion forecasts. The East Hill Improvement and public access to the hills and surrounding areas to be managed by ACC, should this not be managed in such manner it will occur via vandalism and environment damage. The Public Access and ongoing maintenance across the whole reserve is in an urgent need of management, works and control so as to retain, protect and restore existing environmental values.
Pia Pille	I appreciate that Albury Council is embarking on the development of Eastern Hill. This hill has brought me and my family so much joy over the years! I have been walking along the ridge of the hill for my entire life. It has been a relaxing and restorative area and I often bring my friends from all over Australia to experience the beauty of the walk. As someone who has a background in sociology and currently works in disability support work, I value the redevelopment of the access road leading up the hill and making the walk trails suitable for a range of members of the community. However, I do not support developing mountain bike trails on this hill. This will destroy the beauty of the hill and cause ongoing environmental problems on this hill. Please put the emphasis on rehabilitating Eastern Hill and make it a showcase of how to environmentally improve a piece of land and create an area that can be utilised and enjoyed by the entire community!
Piper Hudson-Triffett	I know so many people who love and I mean love mountain biking this is a great idea also I love it as well so can you please build this I know every kid and some adults would like this.
Private	I support the proposal. Although I suggest removing the mountain biking element and simply proceeding with smaller parts of the plan. E.g., updating the carpark, then the viewing deck and so on, so all the changes do not happen all at once. This will allow the community to be actively involved in every redevelopment aspect over the course of a few years.
Rachael Adams	NO no no! As a local photographer @forever_andalwaysphotography is my Instagram who uses this site regularly for family sessions please don't destroy it it's one of few spots that has beautiful natural hills with an amazing view of sunset I can get gorgeous photos of families at
Rachael Webb	I have lived in the area for 6 years and my sister has lived in the area for 15 years. I have used the hill weekly for walking with my kids and dog. It is a beautiful green space that is so easily accessible for us in east Albury. The proposed plan has some positive elements, like the upgraded toilets and car park. However, I don't support the addition of the mountain bike tracks. The environmental impact of the mountain bike tracks seems like they would be really negative for the area. Also, the added traffic of people and bikes would change the dynamic of the hill. We already have fabulous tracks on Nail Can Hill for mountain biking, so adding themes to Eastern Hill seems illogical. I really hope ACC looks at the process this plan has been developed under and admits the consultation process has been extremely flawed.

Rachel Buchan	To Whom It May Concern Thank you for this opportunity to contribute my input to this Eastern hill plan. I hope that my views will be considered. I applaud the council for some aspects of the new Eastern Hill proposal, as I recognise there are drainage issues, vandalism, daily garbage and limited access for mobility impaired members of the community. I walk up the hill several times a week, being a close resident. It is a place of peace and quiet, essential for my mental well-being. It also offers the unique experience of stunning views with the ability to watch the sunset and moon rise from the ridge. Expanding this reserve and creating better connectivity is welcomed, especially as the increasing population places more pressure on these remaining refuges. I understand this is an attempt to place Albury on the Mountain Bike circuit tourist map, yet my concerns with the existing plan threaten the unique assets and amenity of Eastern Hill. I would prefer a reflective walking track be developed rather than a sports facility. Whatever plans are adopted, I hope the construction is staggered so that access to this life-saving area is maintained for walkers. I used to walk on Nail Can Hill. Several of the walking tracks have been taken over by mountain bike riders. Areas I know contained rare and endangered plants and orchids have been destroyed by the widening bike trails. For fear of being run over (several near misses) by bike riders I have had to cease walking up Nail Can other than on the road. I am concerned that the same issues will arise on Eastern Hill. How will you prevent bikers from making their own tracks and cutting across switchbacks? Riding downstairs is a common practice and will probably happen at Gunbower. How will you prevent this? If you want to ease pressure on Nail Can I suggest you close all illegal tracks, provide proper maintenance to the existing tracks and increase community education to prevent future illegal track building before undertaking the building of more tracks. My experience of the views will not be enhanced by any type of metal railings. At Nouriel the river can only be viewed from behind bars, destroying the sense of connection to the river. Any railings must be of clear materials, as can be found at Mt Buffalo. Only clear safety barriers on the edge of the lookout platform need to be there. All suggested railings are detracting from the experience of nature. I cannot enjoy a view through bars. The height of the interpretation panels at the trig point are so high that they may be unreadable to wheelchair users. They contradict the aim to "heighten the unique site qualities of panoramic view" and should be much lower. I have only seen one mountain bike rider on the hill but daily see dozens of walkers. Granted someone has turned the walking tracks near Heath Street into wide bike paths, but this whole plan is to provide a new sporting facility at the expense of the amenity of the rest of the community. As on Nail Can, preventing cyclists from using the walking tracks is a major issue. On the Water tank trail there isn't even an attempt to separate the walking tracks from cycle tracks. This separation on the plan is only listed as an aspirational "where possible" but needs to be guaranteed. Will this area become unwalkable once bike riders gain more access? Pedestrian only signs may be insufficient. Special pedestrian-only gates as currently sit on Gunbower are needed. The current plan has 6 points at which pedestrians and mountain bike paths cross. Bikes will not give way to pedestrians so pedestrian enjoyment and safety will be compromised. Once the area is revegetated, the mountain bike paths also pose a threat to wildlife and may result in collisions. If more visitors are anticipated for this area why reduce the current car parking spaces from around 30 to 15 plus 2 disabled? East St is not

	wide enough for angle parking as suggested. Increasing the number of access points such as Sunrise Terrace is welcomed. People in New East Albury should be able to access the park from the eastern side of the hill. Vandalism is an obvious issue (a burnt out ute was in the carpark this morning). Will CCTV cameras and increased lighting prevent this? The pedestrian crossings on Walsh and East streets are a good idea as the speed of traffic makes crossing East Street dangerous. I would also like a crossing at the Heath Street entrance. Signage is also needed. As is wildlife signage. I have witnessed roadkill on East Street which will only increase as more habitat is created. Reducing the speed on East St would make it safer for wildlife and pedestrians. The access path from the roundabout whilst being wheelchair accessible has 17 switchbacks to achieve this, vastly increasing its length. Access to the hill by foot or bike should be encouraged. There is no designated bike path from East Street to the trailheads. Are cyclists expected to use the road? How will you stop them from using the walking track? I suggest a bike path alongside the road. Making the current road safer and better drained is welcomed. There is insufficient spatial separation from walking and bike tracks, especially at the Kiewa lookout. The current serenity will be destroyed by passing mountain bike riders so close to the track. No doubt bikers will ride through the carpark to access the railheads, potentially choosing to use the footpath as a safer option. A water station is a good idea. Recycling bins are a must. Concrete seating becomes too hot in summer (I witnessed a toddler burn their hand on one at Nouriel), so different seating material is required. Placing power underground will remove intrusive eyesores. Updated toilets are welcome (preferably with natural skylights, not power dependent). Plantings to screen the telecommunications tower would be an aesthetic improvement, so long as the functioning of the towers is not impaired. I reject the label "Founding Fathers" as disrespectful to the Wiradjuri. It could be labelled "Rotary lookout" without causing offense. Renaming Eastern Hill with the original Wiradjuri name will acknowledge that this land was stolen and not ceded. Does the track out to the Kiewa lookout need to be 3m wide? This is essentially a road, not a walking path, removing one's connection to the earth. Where will the turnarounds be? A road is only needed to construct the huge earthworks with retaining walls and drainage channels with each switchback on the bike path. A road is not needed merely for pedestrians. There are currently sufficient locals to assist with weed removal and the revegetation of the hill. Consideration must be given to ensure that the view is not lost. Removal of fences is welcomed. Expansion of habitat and connection with Mungabareena is needed. I would like to ride safely from Schubach Street to Mungabareena via Doctors Point, but the current road is too narrow. Mountain bike paths are designed for adrenaline rushes, paying little heed to natural environmental appreciation. The number of switchbacks proposed would require huge construction works to control erosion. What is to stop thrill seekers cutting through these paths, taking short cuts directly downhill? Commuter bike paths are the polar opposite, being preferably flat and direct. I would prefer a bike path to Mungabareena to this plan. Wodonga's bike paths are superior and more likely to encourage bike usage in the general population as an alternative form of transport. The current walking paths on Eastern Hill could be developed as special reflective walks, enhancing our appreciation of the unique natural

	vistas and elements this special place has to offer. Connection to place is achieved foremost by a connection to the earth and uninterrupted quiet contemplation. My biggest concern with this plan is the intrusion of mountain bikes on the serenity and the destruction of a peaceful experience with this natural place.
Raewyn Gibbons	The Rotary look out and upgraded walking paths will be a significantly improvement. Most welcome, because as it is now a barrier to more less ambulant walkers, enjoying the area. Of which there are many in that area. I am not certain that mountain bikers taking such a large area of this hill is the right thing to be doing for this part of Albury. I wonder if consultation really has included all those that may be impacted. So many 65+ agers are not computer literate. And may really like to have their say. This all seems to be happening without obvious and serious attempts at including as many interest groups as possible. Why not offer to address Age Concerned groups like U3A Aged Concern and Lifestyle Villages in vicinity. Eastern Hill and surrounds residences? Was there a full letter box drop to all Albury residents?? I am not convinced that on this occasion this has been properly attempted. It is not too late surely! DRAFT only at this stage.
Ralph Simpfendorfer	I am disappointed the plan has not made the most of a very important location for our First nation people. The planned trig Point viewing area was the place where the women left behind at Mungabareena could stand and feel as if they were in contact with the men hunting for Bogong Moths in the alpine region. It was their critical link. And it could be ours plus every local person and tourist wanting to recognise this historic place in our district. Albury has important links with our first nation people and is doing excellent work with the Yindyamarra sculpture walk. Rather than just another Mountain bike trail, turn this into further recognition of our first nation people and create a First Nation experience at the trig site and the link down to Mungabareena. Extend the bike trails on Nail Can rather than desecrate an important First nation area. Thank you
Ray Robinson	I support in general the improvements proposed for access and preservation of natural vegetation. Enhancement of vegetation on the steep eastern slopes would be great. Limitation of bike trails, which can be deleterious to natural areas and potentially increase erosion is desirable. Mountain biking is a legitimate activity and, as with skate parks, need to be well designed and positioned for appropriate access and environmental outcomes.
Raymond Murtagh	Like the master plan as long as consideration is given to fair development for both bike riders and pedestrians. Definitely ensuring the Hume and Hovell Track is identifiable and linked is a must. Improving access to the lookout from East Street also a must do, however don't agree with closing access after dark.

Raymond Peters	Having attended the information session last week, I now feel comfortable with the scale and applaud the consultant on integrating all activities highlighted in this draft masterplan. Well done to all involved and I feel all members of our community shall benefit from this visionary draft masterplan.
Rebecca Cameron	I have been walking this beautiful untouched ridge line and surrounds for 8 years. It is my happy place and has provided both physical and mental comfort. I have so many gorgeous pictures and memories and it concerns me that we will lose this gem to infrastructure and mountain bike trails. For everything the supposed improvements are trying to achieve, can already be enjoyed now. I would prefer to see the money spent on preserving the natural environment. I don't understand why we need another mountain bike range when the ones we have already in the Albury region are not being maintained? Is there a need for further tracks when we have access to the surrounding areas that offer mountain bike trails of all levels within a short driving distance. I don't understand why the mountain bike community was considered a stakeholder and the local residents in east Albury who use this area all the time weren't. It will have certainly skewed the results of your initial consultation. Does the activation of east Albury hill include the mountain bike trail proposal or is this separate? The 'activation' of what is already a naturally functional space offering views, walks and a home to flora and fauna seems unnecessary. If the aim is to create a 'destination', then views can be enjoyed from the car park area, and I don't think it is necessary to extend the path infrastructure beyond this. I have found the available information to be lacking in detail.
Rebecca Cooper	It is disappointing to see an outdated box culvert suggested for use as the land bridge. It will encourage antisocial behaviours and graffiti and there are surely better options that should have been considered. Natural sites such as this need more subtle features not a concrete box culvert. The damage posed to a site of historical significance - the Hume and Hovell track by more mountain bike trails is unacceptable. There are so many issues with the MBT network on Nail Can Hill that need to be addressed before replicating them on eastern hill.
Rebecca Hall	Needs to be done
Rebecca Quinlivan	I support the development for mountain bike riders and platform. I feel this development would enrich and encourage health activity.

Rhe Cutler	Eastern Hill is not in need of 'activation' it is in need of maintenance. -Upgrades to the entry should be top priority to improve access and safety. - Upgrades to the lookout carpark and facilities should also be high priority if AlburyCity are wanting to encourage more people to utilise the hill. In saying this, the 17 carparks proposed will not be enough to cater for the current users, let alone additional users. - having a daughter with mobility challenges, disabled access to the trig point is a great idea and should also be a high priority along with trail maintenance. Eastern Hill is a place for peace and reflection and is used by so many for mental health. The introduction of mountain bike trails would disrupt the serenity and peace that we all love but more importantly disrupt and destroy the habitat of the local wildlife. Where is the wildlife supposed to refuge once the hill is covered in trails and mountain bikes roaring down the hill? It is common knowledge that the Nail Can Hill trails are in desperate need of maintenance so why hasn't this been a priority over plans for additional trails? We don't want to see this irreversible damage done on Eastern Hill. Instead of Mountain Bike Trails, I would love to see more walking trails. A trail loop would be beneficial with the increased number of walkers. It could go down the hill to the lagoon and along the eastern base and back up to the trig point. Additional seating for rest and reflection would also be beneficial. There are some good things proposed for Eastern Hill, but I think the addition of Mountain Bike trails would be irreversibly devastating for the flora and fauna. We should be savouring the peaceful places for future generations, especially with the huge rise of people suffering with mental health.
Rhys Llewelyn	I am a local resident in Lavington, my parents live on East Hill. I am frequently driving past East Hill lookout. I would absolutely utilise this redevelopment with my family of 4 and my parents as a walking opportunity. I am more interested in the development of more mountain biking tracks in the Albury area. We definitely lack mountain biking paths. Mountain bike paths are a major drawing to some of our surrounding areas, Bright, Beechworth, Mt Beauty and Yackandandah. The list goes on.
Rich Hall	We need it, one of the fastest growing sports in the world over last few years
Ro Smith	The peace and tranquillity on Eastern Hill are amazing. Once gone it can't be reversed. Please leave it the way it is. There are heaps of overdeveloped areas such as the riverfront for those that must have all amenities.

Robert Harris	I support the principles of the Eastern Hill masterplan to improve the ecological, physical and mental benefits of walking along Eastern Hill but do not support the mountain bike trails on the hill. The key features of the hill are the tranquillity, peace and quiet of the area, allowing people to walk and experience the beautiful view and nature. I am supportive of the proposal to revegetate the hill and remove invasive species, which will help increase biodiversity and ecology of the area, and if there can be more options for mothers and disabled people to enjoy the experience that would be acceptable. Mountain Bike trails are a complete non-event on Eastern Hill and their introduction of these will damage these features. The mountain biking will disturb the tranquillity and peace the area and will impact on the biodiversity. It will also introduce more conflict between bikes and walkers. The trig point proposal needs a much smaller footprint, so it is more sympathetic with the natural surrounds. I also support keeping the seat at the end of the trail and keeping as much of the original path as possible. I am concerned with Council outlining this effort at upgrading without completing due diligence with the community at large. It appears to me that someone on staff has been approached and has taken up the cause. Has any thought been given to: • Garbage collection • Upkeep of the facilities • Theft and undesirables coming into the area – I have already have my vehicle broken into at Eastern Hill whilst walking • Protection of the area with native animals using the Ridge as well as the community – it works OK now but more traffic more stress for the native animals. • Fire risk I also walk at Waterview Road and have watched with interest the non-completion of the trail next to the “Canoe Launch” which really is a joke. Do Council have the people to care and nurture what has been proposed – not in my opinion as I fear it will get started and stall then meander on for years. More genuine consultation must be completed. The community have been completely left out of this proposal, and consultation will ensure that the local community views are heard.

Robert Walker	AlburyCity should be complemented on their vision and this future planning incentive. I believe this project, once completed, will be a significant and important improvement to the Rotary Eastern Hill lookout area. It will encourage further redevelopment of this area (tree planting by individual groups, clubs, schools etc.) and going forward, more locals and visitors will be able to safely access and enjoy the beauty this area has to offer. Albury has now many shared cycle and walking tracks. YES, for Safety! Separate tracks on the hill, but let's share the experience? Add a new question for visitor's "Have you been up to the Rotary Eastern Hill Lookout"? The rest is history.
Robyn Flemming	I grew up in Albury and didn't know the Eastern Hill ridge existed. I was stunned by its beauty and the peace there when I discovered it in my forties. Not everything needs to be manicured or conform to a template. It's a unique place. Please leave it alone. Mountain bike riders have alternatives. Once this special place is destroyed by tampering with what nature has gifted us, it will be gone forever. The traditional owners of the land had it right.
Rod Weir	I would like to see a swing bridge or board walk cutting out the big corner on Drs Point Rd for the safety of walkers, bike riders & people checking out the wetlands and wildlife, that connects bike tracks from Nouriel Park to Thurgoona
Roma Freeman	Eastern Hill is one of Albury's best kept secrets, I often visit the Rotary lookout and take others to relish the view it offers they enjoy it ambience and calmness. Maybe paths around it need to be made more accessible for those physically challenged but NOT MOUNTAIN BIKERS. Please do not remove the memorial seat … maybe there could be more memorial seats.
Ronny Weihrauch Multiple submissions	I agree with the natural beautification of Eastern Hill but wish to express my concerns of incorporating a mountain bike trail which will ruin the serenity of this wonderful asset of the city. Further upgrade Nail Can Hill as a mountain bike trail but leave Eastern Hill for its beauty and wildlife. I am against the council's plans of constructing a Mountain Bike Trail on Eastern Hill. This will spoil the natural beauty and serenity of this beautiful hill and cause damage and erosion as it has on Nail Can Hill. Spend our money in fixing and maintaining Nail Can Hill MBT. Upgrade the public toilets, picnic areas, walking trails and car park on Eastern Hill with a safer entrance off East Street. NO MBT FOR EASTERN HILL.

Ros Baxter	I have used Eastern Hill as a place of refuge post domestic violence. It's my "backyard "but also one I love to share with others, my family and my friends. To have it "developed "would be to destroy the sacred place which has contributed to my healing journey over the past 4 years. I am now introducing my first grandchild to Eastern Hill in the hope that when he is older, he will also have a place to go when he needs to rest his mind in nature. Please leave Eastern Hill alone. That is all that needs to be said here.
Rotary Club of Albury	The Eastern Hill activation project has been examined in detail by members of the Rotary Club of Albury, who whole heartedly support the redevelopment proposal. The Club initiated works at the Lookout to commemorate 50 years of Rotary working in the Albury community in the late 70's. The activation plan will bring the hill to life with new amenities, magnificent viewing platforms, all ability access, safer vehicle access and the plan clearly defines a separation between walking and cycling paths. The Rotary Club will celebrate 100 years of serving the community in a few years - 2027 and it would be wonderful if this coincided with the completion or partial redevelopment of the site.
Roxanne Treloar	I vote for the walking and riding track!
Roz Payne	As an East Albury resident & regular user of Eastern Hill I am generally opposed to the proposed redevelopment. The improvement of the carpark holds some merit providing there is adequate facilities to address the ever-increasing litter that is constantly scattered around the current carpark. The existing walking track is a tranquil, safe and relaxing place to walk, run, sit and reflect. It is one of the only remaining areas in and around Albury that is natural & mostly untouched by 'progress'. There is beautiful wildlife living on and around the hill that would probably be displaced by increased crowds, mountain bikes and construction. The hill is perfect as it is, surely it doesn't need improving! Please reconsider the proposed plan.

Ruby Rowat	I really must wonder who the 500 were that you spoke with? Residents all across Wiradjuri and Dhudoroa Albury Wodonga area rely on this land for connection to self, wellbeing, land, sky, water, country. I find it absolutely unconscionable and insulting that I had no clue as to this proposal back in January. I live on Kiewa Street. I lead beautiful TaKeTiNa active meditation sessions throughout pandemic on East Hill, enabling folk to connect to nature, self, and to the higher good. I run up there, I walk the hill, I cry up there, I sing, I watch the sunset while the full moon rises, I've taken my horse for a walk there, I take myself for an explore down through the billabong to Mungab and to the Murray River, passing and sometimes climbing magic trees along the way. I meet friends, both personal & professional, incidentally as well as convened meetings, on the hill - How will a concrete platform value-add to the Hill? at this point it looks like desecration to me. I'm all for access- how about employing support workers to aid those with mobility issues, or mental health issues, to regularly bring folk to this beautiful vista? Don't let a well-organized vocal mountain bike lobby speak louder than the silence of walkers. (I like mtn-biking too)
Ruth Davys Multiple submissions	I complete this submission for Giilangyaldhaanygalang Pty Ltd, 100% Wiradjuri women owned company that specialises in Wiradjuri language, Culture and Heritage. We are against this proposal for varying reasons mostly the significance that Eastern Hill and Mungabareena Aboriginal place have for Wiradjuri people. These places must be looked at in consultation with each other. As already revealed through consultation with others this place holds many significant sites, men's business and women's business plus special gathering and trading. None of these places should be touched. Please also make effort to consult with the Dyiraamalang group, Albury Wiradjuri Elders group. I can assist to get this on a meeting agenda. Mandaang guwu, thank you I do not agree with disturbing this site. There are many Aboriginal, Wiradjuri sites in this area with significant worth. This all needs to be taken into consideration when doing a site inspection and using AHIMS. The report states only 3 Wiradjuri Aboriginal people were consulted, we have a significant population of over 2500 Aboriginal people and not all sit on groups that Council approaches. A community consultation on the grounds of AWAHS is and will attract more Aboriginal people to have a say. Please contact the Dyiraamalang Albury Wiradjuri Elders group also.

Sajith Silva	To start with, development is great and indeed a crucial part of this modern world. It is great to come up with an idea to develop this beautiful Eastern Hills. This is a hidden gem in the heart of Albury and no matter how many times I walk up there, I'm in awe of this of the beauty and spirit of this place. I'm all for the development, but not at the cost of this magical spot. This place allows me to be alone with the nature, and it helps me to relax and forget everything for a good couple of hours, and obviously it has helped me to keep my mental health in a great condition. What I'm asking is please keep this beauty and peace in a way that has been for centuries and let our kids to enjoy and admire this natural beauty. There are still many ways that you can develop this place. This place of course needs toilet facilities and also need a good, safe entry and exit points as at the moment there's only one way which goes up. "What is there to life if a man cannot hear the lonely cry of the whippoorwill or the arguments of the frogs around the pool at night?"
Sally Morris	I see no point doubling up on a resource already available (shared trails on Nail Can) for an experience that will hardly compete with Nail Can for bikes when it means taking away a resource (pedestrian only hill rambling within town limits). Nail Can is nerve wracking when walking with small children and dogs, due to riders that fly past with little warning (and often quite aggressive comments) as you Round a bend in a trail - now my kids are older it's fine / but why take away a more decade space for go real gain? Eastern hill will never compete with Nail Can for bikes.
Sam Ratcliffe	I walk up Eastern Hill quite regularly, and yesterday did so to clear my mind after a very confronting week. The idea that something needs to be changed up there is ridiculous, it is nature. The beautiful part about nature is it is raw, you don't need to tamper with it. As I was walking up there, and saw a mother and her baby sitting on the memorial chair (she managed to get a pram up there no worries) I was very saddened to think of the pointless so called enhancements. I'm also quite disappointed with the so called consultation process, and who was consulted with. I very rarely see a mountain biker up there; however, you felt their voices should be heard rather than those who use it most. Too many times Albury City Council has missed the mark with their investments, and it seems they are doing it again. Please leave Eastern Hill alone.

Sam Sharp	As a resident of the community adjoining Eastern Hill, I DO NOT support the Draft Eastern Hill Activation plan as it stands. Community consultation for this plan was inadequate and not inclusive. I was not contacted as a resident to have my say. If I had been given a chance, as a resident in this community, to have my say I would have provided the following feedback: I DO support the following - repair to access points on the hill, including the east street entrance to the lookout area and an upgrade of the parking area and current paths on Eastern hill to increase accessibility, toilets and safety. - an improvement to the vehicle access on East St, including the installation of streetlights from Borella Rd side and appropriate footpaths to improve safety in the area. - repair to the stairs from Gunbower Close, as they are washed away - Better maintenance of the Devils Glen pathway (this washes out every time there is rain). I DO NOT support the following: - Mountain bike trails on Eastern Hill - Nail Can Hill already has an extensive network of trails suitable to attract riders to the region. The funding earmarked for Eastern Hill bike trails would be much better placed into Nail Can hill trails to continue their maintenance, rather than letting them degrade further. - The development of a parking area in the Doctors Point reserve. The draft plan does not provide any real information on this - How will affect the amenity of the area? Will there be lighting, toilets? How will stormwater be managed? How will security for the houses that will back on to this parking area be managed? Safe access by foot in and out of the area to Schubach Street is non-existent, what is the traffic modelling for the increase of traffic on this road? Are there plans to widen the road to provide safe passage for both vehicle and pedestrians right through to Schubach street? (A raised walkway over a small part of Devils Glen does not address this). The road approach to this area is narrow and a blind corner and we already have concerns about safety in this area for our children, cyclists and other pedestrians at the current level of traffic. If this part of the plan were to go ahead, significant extra planning will be required to find a suitable solution to provide safe pedestrian access right along the road through to Schubach Street. - Significant construction on top of Eastern Hill - e.g., overbridges, mountain bike trails. Construction as such would affect the natural amenity of the hill and fundamentally change it. Eastern Hill is held by many, including our family, as a valuable, natural environment that affords peace, quiet and a connection to nature right on our doorstep. An upgrade to the current access points in place is needed, but the further development and promotion of the hill as a mountain biking destination, along with construction on top of the hill, will significantly erode the value and amenity of the area. As the current draft plan stands, I respectfully request that the council reject the draft pan in its current state, and that council revisit community consultation to consult the wider community (residents adjacent to the hill in East Albury, including Doctors Point residents) before making any further decision on the future of Eastern Hill. By only engaging Rotary and a mountain biking group, your community consultation process was lacking and did not follow due process.

Sam Terrell	Bring on some bike trails! It’s a perfect place to introduce some well-designed and eco-friendly trails. And also, please leave the memorial seat that looks over the river, it’s a beautiful spot to sit and enjoy the amazing view
Samuel Terry	The masterplan is mostly fantastic. Granted, there is something to be said about the removal of the memorial bench and more thorough communication regarding revegetation, but overall, the plan would do an excellent job of activating a key space. Speaking as someone who grew up in East Albury, and is both a hiker and mountain biker, it is clear that this will not only be beneficial for locals but tourists who may also wish to access the space. It's evident that the walking and bike trails are adequately separated and it's unconscionable that an ostensibly small yet vocal minority operating under the pretence that all change must inherently be negative should spoil a largely good plan for the rest of us. I say that as long as local biodiversity is protected, the council should proceed.
Samuel White	What a fantastic master plan. As someone who has spent 40 years in East Albury and accessing Eastern Hill, I am so excited to watch my children grow up with an amazing trail and lookout, which is in desperate need of some love, and an upgrade so the future generations can get the same use out of it as we did. Not to mention accessibility for all ages and disabilities, this looks fantastic and I can't wait to see it come to life . The upgrade to the street and insertion of a roundabout is also well overdue as it is very dangerous both on foot and by vehicle at the moment. Way to go council, keep up the good work.
Sarah Heazlewood	Looks like a great way to have multiple uses for Eastern Hill. Clever to separate the walking tracks and MTB tracks - well done. I’m supportive of this proposal.
Sarah Perry	Looks like a well thought out plan to share this beautiful space.
Sascha Dennis	This is a fantastic idea to bring more MTB and walking tracks to the area! It helps keep tourism in our town and develop the area as a destination for people to ride/walk the trails! The lookouts will be a great place for families to gather and enjoy our beautiful region! Let's do it!
Savannah West	I would like Eastern Hill to be kept as a green space, and not the proposed tourist attraction. It’s important for green spaces to be available in our area for mental health and the constant changes we face with climate change. Please keep Eastern Hill as it is.
Scott Mann	Full support from me, anything AlburyCity can do to attract more people to the region has a fantastic economic impact and benefits all. The mountain bike community in Australia, some 350k strong directly spend an estimated $630.8 million per annum and support 6,095 full time employees annually through riding their local trails. Source: auscycling.org.au A must happen for Albury!!

Scott McKenzie	Firstly, as an East Albury resident who shares a boundary with Eastern Hill, I would like to express my disappointment in the lack of community engagement from AlburyCity. There are proposed works directly behind my residence and I did not receive notification via a letter drop, phone call or door knock. I only received a letter two weeks ago from the Friends of Eastern Hill group who funded and distributed these flyers with their own money and time. I am not against mountain bikes, but I strongly believe that Eastern Hill is not a suitable location for the following reasons: 1. Majority of current users are walkers of all ages seeking a quiet place. 2. Despite what your survey results state, over the years I have only ever seen a handful of mountain bikers using Eastern Hill. 3. Money spent on mountain bike trails would be better spent elsewhere, including maintaining the MTB trails we already have on Nail Can Hill. 4. An MTB trail network would require a lot of maintenance due to erosion and overuse and if the tracks are in disrepair, they're unlikely to be used and consequently wasting ratepayers' money. 5. Currently, there is not enough parking for additional users and the proposal, while set to encourage more users, actually has 30% less parking. 6. The environmental impact would be irreversible. Local wildlife will be forced out of their habitat to make way for trails that a small minority of the community will utilise. We should be enhancing the natural environment not making it worse. 7. The MTB trail network on the eastern face would be an eyesore to the people living on the eastern side of Albury. This face is visible from Eastern View Estate, all the way out to Hume Village. By the time this is constructed and realised it would be too late to undo the damage. I would like the see the following items considered: 1. More consultation with the local Aboriginal community to discuss the historical link between Eastern Hill and Mungabareena Reserve 2. A track that flows from the ridge track, down to the lagoon and loops back to the Eastern Hill lookout. 3. Create and experience for users. A trail of discreet signs going through the aboriginal and Hume and Hovell history in the area. 4. Better access from East St for cars and pedestrians 5. More car parking 6. More tables and chairs 7. Improved amenities at the Rotary Lookout 8. All abilities access to the trig point 9. Improvements to the trig point lookout 10. Increased security on Eastern Hill lookout 11. A maintenance plan for regular maintenance of the tracks, car park area, lookout and trig point.

Scott T	I think this is outstanding - minimal impact but positive use and preservation of outdoor spaces. This will bring people to town. Don't abandon this!
Sharyn Cross	I have grown up in east Albury literally all my life living in Heath Street in 2 different houses and have built 3 times up east and still living there on the corner of East and Percy St. East St is a very busy road. We love East Albury and enjoy the natural environment of the reserve I object to mountain bike trails on Eastern Hill and feel the roundabout on East and Walsh streets would be very dangerous in the dip of the hill I agree with revegetation of the hill it would beautify the area
Shaun Huguenin	I would like to congratulate council on the DRAFT Eastern Hill Activation Plan. It provides a balanced development that improves access for all user groups (car based access, walkers, runners and cyclists and all abilities community members). This combined with clear balancing of ecological objectives and the planned improvements to these values should be commended. In particular the sustainable and appropriately planned/built and managed mountain bike trails is a significant feature that I and my family would use multiple times per month and would better enable the closure and transition away of some of the trail network established in the higher value ecological areas on Nail Can Hill. Thanks for the ability to contribute.

Shirley Schubach	I am writing my response to the Eastern Hill Plan currently on public exhibition, you have already received a previous letter dated 23 February 2022, where I detailed my concerns at the proposed plan. I have reviewed the plan and would like to once again raise my concern into some of the proposed plans as detailed in the public exhibition document that I sighted at AlburyCity Customer Service. I would like to make the following suggestions: 1. Leave the walking tracks on Eastern Hill unpaved and modify the scale/.size of the proposed viewing platforms (see details below): I suggest that AlburyCity Councillors/Council Officers take a drive over to Wodonga and drive-or walk-up Huon Hill, near Killara Estate, via Wodonga. The main access roadway is unsealed and does not allow cars to go to the very top sections where one of the viewing platforms is located, the other platform is accessible by car, near a picnic area. Therefore, there is no erosion along the side of the road that can occur when roadways are sealed. The type of viewing platforms are perfectly adequate, not like the grandiose plans for Eastern Hill, that will impact of vegetation in the proposed areas they are to be erected. The walking tracks have been left unpaved; I have walked many of them. I believe the walking tracks on Eastern Hill should remain unpaved, and it is a known fact that walking on uneven surfaces is particularly beneficial to older walkers and it as. The Rural City of Wodonga have over the years created mountain bike/cycle tracks on the hills near Pearce Street, these tracks are unpaved, along with the many various paved cycle tracks through the city parklands. Nail Can Hill in Albury is a mecca for mountain bikes, during the past 20 years the many accessible walking tracks are now too dangerous to walk, because of the high speeds that the mountain bikes travel, and now e mountain bikes have added to the problem. The numerous walking trails are no longer safe for walkers to use, along with the problem of erosion. as detailed in my previous letter the only safe place for walkers is to stick to the ridge tracks. Great idea – Proposed Roundabout The proposed roundabout is a great idea and should be the number one priority in the proposed plan this will alleviate the danger of accidents when a car tries to enter East Street from Eastern Hill Lookout, many cars travel at high speeds along East Street, especially those accessing the Hume Freeway down South Albury, a roundabout will be a perfect calming device for this area. Please consider leaving Eastern Hill bike free, Why go to all the expense of putting in bitumen cycle tracks? this will destroy/ erode the beautiful flora, fauna and trees that have established since the Doctors Point Housing Estate has been completed over the past 40 years and the beautiful vegetation has grown back, even more so in the past years due to the heavy rains. Establish a “Friends of Eastern Hill”, I for one would be a member along with I am sure many other current users of this beautiful area. Do general maintenance on the various hillside walking tracks which include, Gunbower, Murray View and Hume and Hovell connection to Mungabareena Reserve and I am sure Parklands Albury Wodonga would assist.

	The Mungabareena Track from Eastern Hill has fallen into disrepair and over several years the various vehicle access tracks that allowed families to access and picnic near the lagoons that feed off the Murray River, these are no longer accessible due to 4x4 using these tracks hen wet to get bogged and then practise winching the cars out leaving the tacks completely washed out and in accessible to these amazing bird watching areas as well as families fishing in the lagoons, all the picnic tables have been destroyed. Different types of rubbish bins would also be beneficial including recycle bins as I myself have picked up rubbish left after people have been up on Eastern Hill lookout carpark in the evenings. On a recent Monday evening after school hours, I counted 13 cars at the carpark, I walked out to the point overlooking Bogong and spoke to several families walking with children and their dogs. Many of them were unaware of the proposed plans and several commented that it should be left without bikes as the bikes have Nail Can Hill. I even spoke to a fellow who was doing reconnaissance for the Brisbane Bush Walking Club as he was interested in bringing a group of walkers down to Albury Wodonga, he commented what a beautiful area it was and it was good to see there were no bikes? Please consider my request as I not only speak for myself but the many people who I have spoken to and who frequent this beautiful area, leave this beautiful area as the special place peaceful place for walkers, families to enjoy with a little maintenance for safety especially during the spring and summer months
Simon Baker	I am a local resident and regular user of Eastern Hill as a runner, walker, dog owner and road + mountain biker. Firstly, congratulations on some aspects of the plan - mainly the improved pedestrian access to Doctors Point - the current road situation around the lagoon is dangerous for cyclists , pedestrians and vehicle and is long overdue for a fix. I also support some development of MTB facilities on Eastern Hill - but believe the plan in its current form is too heavily skewed this way at the expense of other users. The entire Eastern face of the hill is dedicated to MTB with the sole exception being the Hume and Hovell re alignment - pedestrians should have better access to Mungabareena from Eastern Hill and additional entry point options. Another extremely popular route is around the base of the hill, through Doctors Point and Mungabareena, Borella Road and Schubach Street - or parts of this, giving a 10KM loop or option to traverse Eastern Hill via East St. As pleasant as this loop is - the lack of cycle and footpaths means that everyone is forced onto the road for most of this circuit - I think your/our money would be better spent enhancing the areas that are currently open before expanding access to the steeper country. Likewise, the majority of the Mungabareena reserve is poorly maintained, inaccessible and full of rubbish and de facto 4X4 test tracks - another more urgent management need in my opinion. Thanks for the opportunity to provide feedback and I look forward to end result.

Simon Goss	This is an horrendous and unnecessary development that will surely lead to erosion down the back of the hill. We already have fantastic Wiradjuri trails and stories along the Murray, and this is just going to duplicate it. The trees, natural surrounds and the natural ambience of the trail and scenery will be irrevocably ruined. And an absolutely contrived and artificial “natural” lookout is something the area simply doesn’t need. This is public works for the sake of public works. The development of McDonald’s on Borella Road has led to the bulk of litter now strewn along this trail, and with this proposal, it’ll become a dumping ground. In the meantime, Albury City has no answer for the abject disaster the development of Thurgoona has created (Who would’ve thought that creating a number of Estates without planning the infrastructure to cope with it would cause a complete bottleneck and overcrowding of the pitiful roads available to it). with its proposal in the next 20 years to expand out West Albury to Howling, the lack of infrastructure there will also result in another Thurgoona.
Simone Sheridan	I love the water tank trail idea. An Albury born graffiti artist first painted a water tank on this hill in 1984, this artist now lives in Belgium and has had a successful career as an artist (they make ceramics as a day job). I hope that Council will offer an engagement opportunity for arts integration into these sites, rather than directly commissioning artists without community consultation (which seems to be how works have been procured in the past) or promotion of arts opportunities to a wider audience. The arts community deserves an opportunity to respond to open arts call outs and expressions of interest.
Sonny Junck	Please make insane jump tracks and flow fast trails
Stacey Heer	Eastern Hill is a place of solitude and unspoilt natural beauty which is appreciated by so many people. This would be totally destroyed by this development and bike tracks would be disastrous to the peaceful surroundings. We do not need any more bike tracks, but we definitely need places like this that make such a difference to the emotional and mental wellbeing of the locals who use this space. This is a terrible idea. This area does not need development.

Stella Anyaogu	I do not oppose improvements be made to Eastern Hill, but I encourage Albury Council to remain inclusive in its approach to this redevelopment, so that all residents, and tourists alike, can enjoy the beauty Eastern Hill has to offer. Having previously lived next to the beautiful Plenty Gorge in Melbourne's outer north/east, I'm aware that turning a state park, or any public park for that matter, into one accessible by mountain bikes impacts how visitors (walkers, hikers, joggers) experience the area. Mountain bikes zoom past, causing (what feels like) a heart attack every time they narrowly miss you. To add to the problem of near misses, mountain-bike trails attract dirt-bikes. Visitors of mixed use parks can tell you that contacting council or a park ranger does little to prevent dirt-bike riders from using public park land. This issue eventually becomes a pain-point and cannot be solved through police involvement or community intervention. I'm aware that hazardous trails come part and parcel with mountain-biking. New trails and jumps emerge over time as the mountain-bikers themselves, create new and more 'thrilling' areas to ride. These hand-made trails are a major hazard to those on foot. I hope Albury Council carefully considers my concerns regarding the redevelopment of Eastern Hills.

Stephen Chaffey	I have reflected on the draft Eastern Hill Activation Master Plan and listened to various people's views on the plan have the following comments to make. Mungarabareena Reserve and Eastern Hill are closely linked and have deep indigenous history. Indigenous Australians are renowned for their connection to country. Many people in the Albury community who visit Eastern Hill do so as walkers. In my observations over 29 years of living in proximity to Eastern Hill, people predominately use the area for walking, quite reflection and conversation with friends and family. This could be referred to as the European way of 'connecting to country'. The current Master Plan seems unnecessarily intrusive with infrastructure, overly weighted to the activity of mountain biking and does not appear to reflect what could be a regarded as convergence of a sense of 'connection to country' by both Aboriginal and European peoples. In the Master Plan, the extent of mountain bike trails across Eastern Hill seems considerable. Albury City may need to carefully consider the slope, soil type and the extent of track maintenance that may be required in the future particularly where increasing numbers of mountain bikes will have electric technology and ride more like motor bikes than push bikes. Given the level of interest in more mountain bike trails in proximity to the Albury community, Red Light Hill might be more suitable than Eastern Hill given its much larger footprint and scope for mountain bike trails. The Eastern Hill Lookout is an important community asset, but it is in poor condition. After dark visitors to the Eastern Hill Lookout are notoriously noisy, often leave the area littered with rubbish and are prone to vandalism. Whatever infrastructure upgrade is undertaken careful consideration on ways to minimise the risk of poor behaviour and vandalism would be most important e.g., CCTV, gates to control access, etc. It may be wise for Albury City to engage further with local indigenous leaders and community and strengthen a 'connection to country' theme in their final Master Plan. Strengthening this theme may have greater uniqueness and enduring value to future generations than an overpowering theme and footprint of MTB trails.
Steve Dahl	* Support the upgrade of the car parking facilities and lookout. Managing antisocial behaviour and rubbish will be key issues to consider (as noted in the plan) * support the new trig viewing point but suggest keep it a "light touch". Note its position on the ridgeline (skyline) is highly visible from many locations around Albury Wodonga. Not sure why over storey tree planting is proposed around it - won't this block views? * support the use of interpretative signage and especially important to include the indigenous land use / meeting place perspective * support over storey revegetation on the slopes (rather than the ridgeline) - the 'openness' of the ridge and the continuous uninterrupted views are part of what makes this area special * suggest consider reviewing the number / extent of trails and the Council maintenance effort that they will require. Can they be staged to see how usage and track maintenance requirements develop? thanks

Steve Jones	I wish to object to the Eastern Hill Redevelopment Master Plan in its entirety, as I think it is overly extravagant and a total waste of money which council could use on other projects, projects which will help many more people than the proposed trails for mountain bikes. Mountain bikers already have a number of other trails already constructed at various places, both in Albury and beyond. Whilst they may have fallen into disrepair, for whatever reason, why doesn't Council spend money on upgrading/revegetating those? I understand the push for mountain bikers on Eastern Hill was part of Council Mountain Bike Strategy, but most 'hard core' bikers still say they will use other trails, with steeper longer and more varied trails than those proposed on Eastern Hill. Perhaps council could maintain the facilities they already own and adhere more closely with their climate change emergency position, preventing anything which will cause increase in emissions (think construction), I do not believe Council should be trying to build overly extravagant new facilities which will cost enormous amounts of money both in construction and in maintenance for many, many years to come.
Steve Parker	As a trail runner and mountain bike rider living in Albury this plan looks amazing! Eastern hill trails are muddy and eroded and entry/exit points aren't clear. Introducing an MTB trail will also reduce the pressure on Nail Can and give East Albury residents quality riding on their doorstep.

Stuart Baker	I am writing to express my opposition to aspects of the DEHAMP. I am particularly concerned that the initial consultation/survey phase did not capture the thoughts and feelings of many daily users of Eastern Hill. I have lived adjacent to Eastern Hill for the past 33 years and it has a special significance for me and my immediate family. What I didn't fully understand is that it also holds an equal significance of place to the host of other daily users who are objecting to the DEHAMP. Rather than asking an objective and non-leading question like, "what would be the most appropriate way to activate Eastern Hill"? And then carefully collating the responses to determine best use -Council in this case went with a preconceived objective to make the activation fit the Albury Wodonga Mountain Bike Strategy. Apart from totally misreading the significance of Eastern Hill for a considerable number of Albury residents the DEHAMP has attempted to do a glitzy and over the top makeover on a place that is highly valued for its natural simplicity. The other aspect of the plan that on a cursory look seems ok is that it is an aspirational plan for people not currently using Eastern Hill with the expectation that if it is built they will come. Unfortunately this undervalues and undermines the host of current users who are the incumbents but their views and aspirations to this point have not been heard or considered. I have attended both information sessions, the pop up on Eastern hill and both the community organised meetings where the concern and alarm at the DEHAMP were very much on display. My concerns and feedback re the plan. There should be no purpose built mountain bike trails east of East Street. The proposed activation of the section between the hospital and East Street has merit. Are there other traffic calming and/or crossing measures available rather than a roundabout? Improving the car park, lookout and access to it is a necessary aspect of the plan. An easy walking track to Trig Point with access for all is a great initiative and will encourage participation. A walking path along Doctors Point Road is wonderful and long overdue as it is currently unsafe and does not encourage pedestrian usage. The Car park at the base of Rainbow Ridge and walking path up through devils Glen requires a thorough Environmental review as there are significant wetlands and native animal corridors reliant on access from Normans Lagoon to Eastern hill. This entire part of the plan seems to be an afterthought and should be paused. Finally, the focus east of East Street out along the ridge should be re-vegetation and enhancement with minimal built structures to preserve and protect what is already there and to show respect to the traditional custodians and existing users with a simple and dignified plan.
Stuart Martin	Mountain bike track

Susan Keighran	I have lived in East Albury for 49 years, I love this area, when I heard of the planned development for the hill it horrified me. I walk those hills every day, and after attending 2 meetings and reading the Newspaper articles it is clear to me that the only reason you are looking at this id because if the Environmental impact the Mountain Bikes are having on Nail Cain Hill. You don't fix a problem by moving it to another. We, the people of East Albury do not want Mountain Bike tracks through our amazing hills. The upgrades on the lookout and toilet are nice, but seriously, you need to listen to us the ratepayers, even the bike community said they never asked for it.
Susan Lefoe	I believe the mountain bike trails on Eastern hill will spoil the natural, peaceful aesthetic that currently draws people to the site. There are plenty of mountain bike trails on Nail Can hill which need up grading. On Eastern Hill, the proposed Upgrades to the entrance with wheelchair accessible facilities including the path and viewing platforms and toilets would be great without compromising the peaceful environment that currently offers an alternative experience to Albury residents other than mountain bike trails.

Suzy Watson	Thank you for the opportunity to have a say on the Draft Eastern Hill Activation Master Plan. Although I am not in favour of the Plan in its entirety, there are elements that would appear to promise important improvements to make the Eastern Hill Ridge area and its stunning views accessible to more people to enjoy. The proposed upgrades to the Eastern Hill lookout area and all ability access to the Trig Point area are well thought out and will open up more outdoor areas to be experienced by those people who experience challenges with mobility. The proposed improvements for traffic access and egress at Eastern Hill Lookout area will make the area much safer to access by vehicle or by foot, whilst the planned roundabout will no doubt succeed in slowing traffic along the top of East Street. The proposed improvements to the access path at the top of Gunbower Close also promise safer and easier access to the Ridge area for walkers. All the above would be welcome improvements to the existing assets, but are the extent of my support for the proposal. My concerns for the plans include: 1. Disturbance of wildlife habitat and access to favoured areas. The Eastern Hill area is home to more than the flora and birdlife identified in the Draft Master Plan and includes Swamp Wallabies, Eastern Grey Kangaroos, Echidnas and more. The kangaroos and wallabies in particular can often be found grazing or lazing in the sun on the area identified as future Doctors Point Road Carpark. They can also be found taking shelter on the low-lying area during times of bad weather. These animals habitually use Devil's Glen for direct access to this area and their tracks and trails are easily seen in Devil's Glen. During the disruptive construction phase, and long after the new area is established, we can assume these animals will not return. 2. On page 15 of the Engagement Outcomes Summary, it is stated "people visit Eastern Hill for solitude and nature observation" Solitude will be under threat from assumed busy mountain bike activity, which will also contribute to the disturbance of nature to be observed if the development proceeds. 3. On page 19 of the Engagement Outcomes Summary, Issues and Opportunities, it is stated "There was concern that a mountain bike trail head and car park at Mungabareena will encourage more people into the space, creating the potential for more vandalism/ damage. It was suggested that a new car park be located adjacent to Doctors Point Road…" In my opinion, converting the paddock area in Doctors Point Road to carpark and trail access is a dangerous move for exactly the reason stated in the above comment, but with potential for more dire outcomes given the regular use of Doctors Point Road by residents accessing their homes and the level of use by pedestrians and road bike riders. Of greater concern is the very real prospect that a carpark in this area will become another hoon hotspot and stolen car dump and burn location. Six properties back on to this proposed location for which property owners have real concerns. Finally, I would like to express my concerns for the process. Like so many others, I feel there was insufficient consultation with two key groups – adjoining landholders and those who currently access and use Eastern Hill for walking and sightseeing recreation. A greater effort could have been made to find a way to engage with these stakeholders in the discovery phase of the Masterplan project. I encourage the

	project management team to keep the conversations open and continue to explore project directions that work for all stakeholders going forward. Thanks again for the opportunity to contribute.
Ta Hehir	An attraction of Eastern Hill is that is underdeveloped. It feels like you're away from it all and immersed in nature. The activation will remove this feeling and the appeal of going for a quiet and restorative stroll on the hill.
Tara Hicks	We are lucky enough to have friends who house backs onto Eastern Hill, and we use it with them every time we are there, it would be a shame to see it affected by the mountain bikes as it will cause erosion and impact negatively on the wildlife. Eastern Hill does need revegetation.
Tess Ducker	I am against the proposed development of Eastern Hill. I am a homeowner in East Albury. I walk our dogs up Eastern Hill daily, as do countless others. I enjoy seeing the wildlife and the peaceful serenity of the hill. I do not recall seeing council up on eastern hill at 7am in the morning, at sunset, or on a Sunday afternoon recording just how many people use this area. My sister is a photographer who also utilises eastern hill frequently, being one of the few "untouched" and central natural wonders of Albury. Constructing a mountain bike track on Eastern Hill would remove the peaceful nature of the hill and disturb the flora and fauna that call this place their home. At the community meeting on Eastern Hill I met several West Albury residents that were against the plan because they frequently travelled to Eastern Hill to walk the trail as they could not walk Nail Can anymore after mountain bikes ruined that track. We already have mountain bike tracks that by councils own admission require significant maintenance, if they cannot be managed, why build another one that will fall into disrepair? Why not focus on maintaining the tracks that already exist?

Therese O'Loughlin	As a visitor to this region over the past 25 years, I am aghast at the proposal of a mountain bike or any racing or adventure biking to this beautiful, piece of nature except for commuting, gentle cycling as has been occurring in all those years I have visited. I must say that I have not actually seen many cyclists at all ever and because no one could visit from afar during Covid, however I hear that Eastern Hill walking was very busy during Covid as it was an outside space people could exercise and enjoy. Development will result in pathways, heavy traffic and resultant interruption to water flow following rain to the hills and imperilling the survival of those beautiful gums, which make that essential green space so attractive and inviting. Surely there are other places for mountain bikers and maybe even more challenging for them than a relatively small green space in the heart of East Albury. 20 year old aren't going to be satisfied with defined tracks in this limited space. Please, please ensure that you engage the opinions of the widest demographic of your Albury council residents and not be influenced by a single interest group. No, no to a biking track to this Eastern Hill site.
Tierre McCormack	Where do I start and how much can I write in the hope that councillors in the end will research as we have to help them understand just how the community wasn't consulted and the real stakeholders should have been invited to the table. Please leave this beautiful tranquil restful place just as it is. So many people of Albury Wodonga use it for many purposes and your proposed developments are not in keeping with the naturalness so many love of the area. Let alone providing a mountain bike path that will decline the natural beauty of the area. Please do more consultation with the real people who value & utilise the space.
Tim Mckehnie	More mountain bike trails sound like a great idea!
Tim Parker	In regard to the Masterplan the biggest issue and huge safety concern it the placing the roundabout on East Street. a few points in regard to this are the following: - Most people do cannot navigate a roundabout property and for anyone turning right at the roundabout. E.g. into Walsh of East, will be meet with cars underestimating there breaking ability coming down the hill. - Heading south along east, coming over the hill from the hospital, if there's cars banked up at the roundabout, you will be coming over the crest of the hill blind to what's on the other side. - Putting a pedestrian crossing there is extremely dangerous across East Street, as same reason above, short breaking distance, people underestimate their cars breaking coming down a hill. - Over winter east Albury is extremely foggy, and giving pedestrians a right of way is a nightmare waiting to happen. The roundabout should be replace with giveaway signs of the new drive and Walsh St.

Tim Shilling	The masterplan appears to be well thought and has canvassed a wide range of user groups and stakeholders. In general, the development and revegetation of this area would be a good thing in my opinion. Just be careful to not plant tall trees everywhere so that the view is removed - one of the best features of this place even though it's a result of deforestation.... The proposed trail design looks good, however I would say that the trails need to be well thought out and careful attention paid to grades and drainage or they will scour very quickly. There are multiple mentions of the Hume and Hovell Track within the document including in the consultation sections, however, as someone who works on the Hume and Hovell Track on behalf of Snowy Valleys Council and Crown Lands, I'm not aware that any attempt to contact the track owner was made. That said, the HH Track has been realigned in this area a number of times as new footpaths and shared paths have been established by ACC and any change to the path network on Eastern Hill that proposes a further change is probably not a big deal.
Tim Wallis	I wholeheartedly support redevelopment of the Eastern Hill area. The current condition of the carpark/viewing area is sub-par; the trig point would make an amazing lookout point; the current exit/entry road is a hazard; and the inclusion of mountain biking facilities would provide numerous benefits including activities for young people in the area and attraction of tourists.
Timothy Wallis	Love the idea of upgraded facilities in this area. Also, would love to see mountain bike trails here.
Tina Sendall	What a fantastic idea! As a parent of a teenage MTB rider who lives in Thurgoona this would be so welcome for our area as currently go to Hunchback in Wodonga or Nail Can. To have separate walking/riding tracks pleases all users and as a Disability Support Worker, the lookouts would be amazing for our clients' access. Nice to see more recreational activities in the works as it's great to give visitors to Albury another reason to stay longer!
Tom Cencic	Please approve
Tom Gascoyne	As a local mountain biker and trail runner, the more trails and activities to do in the outdoors, the better.
Tom Last	There has been No consultation with adjoining property holders!! Signs put up on 27th August? Plans done, consultation money spent without sitting down with ratepayers and proposing ideas. This is a sensitive wilderness corridor which should be improved but No access to MTB trails or MTB activities due to the long term use by nature lovers and bird watchers. There is a small colony of Black Rock Wallabies and flying foxes which inhabit this sensitive area.
Tom Masterson	As a mountain biker local to Albury, I do not see any reason to have mountain bike trails on Eastern Hill when we already have Nail Can Hill range. The money would be better spent to improve infrastructure and trails and also builds new trails on Nail Can.
Tom Sheather	I believe that this is a good idea as long as it does not take too long to build!!
Tracey Cuper	I strongly support this plan. It is a great idea.

Tracy Richardson	I am writing against the overdevelopment and the mountain bike trails proposed for Eastern Hill. Eastern Hill is a well-utilised space that people currently enjoy because of the absence of development. This proposal will not only ruin the experience, but it will also cause conflict between walkers and mountain bike riders despite Council's contention that 'conflict will be minimised' (an admission that it's expected to cause some level of conflict). During the current flooding along the river many of the other local walks are not accessible and Eastern Hill is one of the very few areas still in a mostly natural state where people can walk. We need more walking tracks in our local natural areas not less. The disregarding of the full impact on most of the native wildlife, including birdlife, on Eastern Hill is most disheartening. I am also greatly concerned at Albury City's approach where it is apparent that Councillors are being asked to endorse a plan based on the desires of a minority user group without any direct representation from - and only a minimal effort to engage - the wider community. The lack of due process and proper community consultation (there was a survey that was not made widely known) should itself be sufficiently concerning to halt this plan and any further proposals should have a proper engagement process put in place before they are progressed. The regular reporting through local media and relayed through social media has tarnished Albury City's brand. A proper community engagement process would help remediate the damage that has been done. It is clear from the way the process was conducted, in particular the survey, that the wishes of a group of mountain bike riders (a small minority within the broader community) were prioritised above all other parts of the community. Eastern Hill should be a place that reflects what the majority of people want which is an area of minimal development, no mountain bike trails and respectful of the Mungabareena connection. Traditional owners need to be involved in a partnership and collaborative process from initial design through to final adoption of an accepted plan among the wider community not just a couple of people consulted in the early stages of developing a plan which seems to be what has occurred.
Trent Perry	Words cannot express - LOVE IT!
Tristan Black	It was with surprise and disappointment that we found out through social media that the commemorative bench my family paid for on Eastern Hill was to be replaced with "new furniture and interpretive signage". The fact that it seems no one who put this plan together actually walked the main route of the reserve to remind themselves what was there and what it might mean to the people who have been using the space for decades goes to the heart of why so many people are upset with this Masterplan. Of course, we would like to see our mother’s seat remain, but we would also like to see what it represents remain. A natural environment for people to escape the stress of everyday life, to get exercise, fresh air, walk their dogs safely off-lead, meet like-minded people and enjoy the unobstructed views. If AlburyCity wants to turn this around, they can consider how best to keep this important asset well-maintained including the access and usability of the carpark which has been unloved for some time. Forget turning it into a mountain-bike theme park and focus on what makes it special to Border residents now.

Val Abrahams	Sometimes progress is not warranted in such an area as Eastern Hill. It is a wonderful area for residents to walk, whether with their dogs or just to enjoy the last of an untouched area so close to the city! Also the building of a roundabout at Walsh and East streets is madness. Why? We all know certain “things” are done for the good of the community, but we strongly disagree with the plans for this redevelopment.
Vicki Walter	As a resident and rate payer of Albury City I am totally against a mountain bike track being developed on Eastern Hill. I find it extremely difficult to understand why the Albury City Council would put forward a plan of this type considering they themselves acknowledge that mountain bike riding has damaged Nail Can Hill and now they want the same thing to happen to Eastern Hill. To the best of my knowledge the council has not engaged or consulted with the Aboriginal elders of the area, or the residents of East Albury or greater Albury. As far as the observation platform is concerned has the council given any thought about the privacy of the Eastern View residents that back onto the reserve. I can hardly believe that residents would be happy to have their privacy taken away. Why were consultants employed to do a study before the residents of Albury knew about the redevelopment of Eastern Hill? I have to ask whatever happened to due process and integrity when planning and making final decisions. Who in the council put forward the proposal in the first place and did that person have a personal interest in the development of the bike track and why was it only the mountain bike club and the Rotary club were given the opportunity to have input into the redevelopment of Eastern Hill. In the report I have not seen anywhere about the safety of the walkers when they are confronted with a mountain bike rider. These people ride their bikes at high speed and do cut across tracks which can been seen by the demise of Nail Can Hill. I would like to know the total cost of the study the ratepayers of Albury have had to pay. As far as the economic benefits to Albury are concerned the study is very disjointed and extremely overstated on the actual return to the local business community. It seems that the consultants were given an outline on what was to be in the report and that it was favourability in support of the track. I have witnessed the demise and scarring of the landscape at Thredbo and the dust bowl that the mountain bike trails have created there in the summer. That is exactly what the residents of Eastern View Estate are going to have to contend with. Wake up Albury City Council you are putting the welfare of just a few forwarded, compared to the whole community and taking a beautiful area which is full of wildlife and serenity that accommodates the whole community.
Vicki Walter	As a resident of Eastern View Estate, I am completely against this plan. There will be scarring on the hill side due to the constant use of the bike track. The Albury City Council have recognized that Nail Can Hill has been damaged by consistent use of the bike tracks well that is exactly what is going to happen to Eastern Hill. As another example of scarring of a hill due to consistent bike riding is the track at Thredbo. Eastern View Estate and Eastern Hill is a beautiful place to live leave it as it is.

Victor Varela-Leroy	Having a designated paved/wooden path with benches, toilets and rest areas will be a welcome feature in our city. Similar things have been done in Philip Island which permits tourists to enjoy the scenery and the penguin's arrival yet impact on nature is minimal. The Eastern lookout needs lots of attention. The road up-down for cars is too narrow for a popular viewing point thus banking is a risk, there is only one bin which means the area is usually littered and toilets need renovating. There are two picnic tables that do not allow you to have a view and sit at the same time because they are facing downhill. If there are concern about the list of nature, council can further plant bushes and trees with the help of the community. The main sticking point is the MBT… considering Nail Can has one where funding can better it and promote it more so that it can be on par with Beechworth, Table top and Bright then it would be a preferred option. The Eastern side is too developed to be next to a MBT meaning that only a niche amount of the population will be using the MBT where they already have one encompass by nature. Additionally, the Australian wildlife is more abundant in the Eastern due to its proximity to the river compared to Nail Can, thus biker would be more prone to be injured and harm them. Further, their presence might frighten the wildlife away. So, develop, but preferably no MBT
Victoria Coffey	I don't agree to this 'upgrade' I am not in favour! I prefer the preservation of this beautiful place. I and many people go here find peace and be at one with nature, it's great for physical and mental well-being and I think this proposal takes away that peace, that so many people enjoy and need! I oppose this development going ahead. I am an Albury resident and I do not want the mountain bike track to go ahead at Eastern Hill. Feel it is an environmental mistake. It is unnecessary when we have many other trails in our area and wider region, including 'Nail Can' which could be upgraded for mountain bikers, and done well with input from the mountain bike community. Eastern Hill is a beautiful place that many of our community enjoy. I feel the wider community have not had the opportunity to have a voice in relation to this development. I want my voice heard! Thank you.
Victoria Tonkin	I am for the plan. Please be mindful of others concerns and those who use it and have done for a long time. I'm sure something tasteful and non-invasive that may suit everyone. Perhaps adjusting the plans to be less invasive. We have only been a resident in Alison Court for 5 years but for us personally, this would be lovely for our family.

Vince Richardson	I like the plans to improve access for vehicles and pedestrians to the Rotary Lookout and install BBQs and eating areas for the general public. This can only enhance the beautiful area and encourage more users to the much appreciated and popular historical walking trail. However, I note your plan proposes extensive mountain bike trails which I believe will have a serious impact on the existing and future flora and fauna and will detract from what is now an extremely enjoyable environment for those who use the walking trail. Over the past 25 years I have been a regular user of the McFarland Hill walking trail which became multiple use some years ago to include mountain bike riders and the deterioration of the hill over tree past 15 years is very evident and it now makes it very difficult for people to walk the trails which have been damaged by mountain bikes. In my opinion, whilst a mountain bike facility would be greatly appreciated by mountain bike riders and their families, I believe an alternate location should be sourced to ensure that both walkers and mountain bike enthusiasts can enjoy their chosen recreational activities without diminishing from each other's activity.
Vincent Dessmann	I am in support of an upgrade to the viewing area near the car park as well as steps being put in near the small bridge at the river which is becoming more eroded. I am strongly against a bike track as this will detract from the area and be a hazard for animals and people (better to improve tracks at nailcan). Some more benches to allow people to sit would be good. I believe the best thing that could be done to improve the area is invest in planting more native trees, bushes, shrubs, plants, grasses, possum boxes etc. This would provide more habitat for local flora and fauna and sequester more carbon from the atmosphere. If such a planting action went ahead a great many people from the community would also volunteer to assist in a community planting day which would be great for strengthening community bonds also.
Vincent Jones	Nail Can Hill has been destroyed by mountain bike riders. They don't need another area to destroy. Many of the ones I know go to Wodonga and Beechworth which is custom made for them. Our pedestrian traffic and dog walkers will be pushed into a confined section, without being able to access other sections for fear of being run over by a mountain bike rider or two. And our animals and birds will be pushed further out by the development of trails and mountain bike access.
Vivian Viney	I think the fact it will cost 5 million, even if it's over 25 years, is wrong. That money could be better spent elsewhere. This development will have to cause much disruption to local wildlife, which should be prevented. The proposition of removing a memorial bench dedicated to someone is disgraceful. This will surely upset the family members. Memorials of any kind should be left alone. You should be able adjust your development plans, so that the plans work around the existing memorial bench.

Wendy Appleyard	I am against the Eastern Hill Master Plan. The reasons for my objection are as follows: 1. As an older person who enjoys walking this track, I do not believe safety for the older generations can be guaranteed, even if cyclists are supposed to use a separate track. They won't always. 2. The mountain bike tracks on Nail Can Hill often have motorcyclists using these tracks. There is no way to stop this behaviour happening on Eastern Hill, unless policed 24/7. If it's not working on Nail Can, Eastern Hill will also become a problem. 3. The added traffic on Eastern Hill will adversely affect the peaceful and quiet amenity that we currently enjoy, as well as the safety. 4. The habitat of birds and other native animals is likely to be destroyed with the added traffic. 5. This proposed masterplan was not well publicised, and I believe a lot of users of this area were not informed of the potential changes and have therefore not had their voice heard. Please retain Eastern Hill in its current beautiful state so walkers of all ages can continue to enjoy the beauty, peace, serenity and safety of this area.
Wendy Glage	1. No mountain bike trails – ruin natural habitat 2. Leave Elke's seat 3. Do not disturb flora & fauna 4. Roundabout at top of Walsh St so dangerous – too much traffic now 5. So much traffic using East St – like a racetrack! 6. Traffic congestion now, let alone with extra roadworks 7. Greater information needed from council 8. Who wanted this???? 9. Do any of the planners know this part of east Albury?? 10. Consultation required
Wendy Horn	I like the idea of upgrades to the lookout and new trig point viewing point however I do not like the idea of mountain bike trails. This is somewhere I have been walking for thirty years. Where the memorial seat has been placed, I have called the "top of the world ". I refer to the walk as the top of the world. I love tuning into walkers along the way... a peaceful walk away from traffic for myself, family and dog... I do not agree with creating a hectic trail for mountain bike riders... please leave this gift us to enjoy... update Nail Can hill.

Wendy Phillips	I am concerned the development of mountain bike trails on Eastern Hill will negatively impact upon the local area. The plan shows insufficient area for parking of vehicles carrying bikes & I am concerned about the impact upon nearby narrow roadways and inhabitants. At the present time there is much collection of litter, poor maintenance of picnic tables constructed many years ago and deep track damage caused by 4WD vehicles and motor bikes within the wider Mungabareena Reserve area. I am concerned that maintenance within the new area may be similarly lacking. I am also concerned that the plan is to be constructed in stages, which means it's possible that all of the proposed developments will not eventuate. I am very much in favour of a track connecting Eastern View Estate to the lookout from Sunrise Terrace as is indicated on the Master plan.
Will Dallinger	What I would like to see in the mountain bike specific part of the master plan are more flow mountain bike tracks with large jumps and big berms, ranging from tabletop jumps to gaps jumps like Mystic Bright's flow trails called Hero trail and Shred Kelly's trail.
William Truscott	There are many good elements to the Eastern Hill Master Plan, however there is one major issue with the plan. The accessibility and access improvements are welcome, in particular: * Water tank precinct track improvements, * Formalising tracks around Trig Point Lookout, * Access from Walsh Street and Sunrise Terrace, and * Equal access to Trip Point. Eastern Hill Rotary Lookout and Trig Point Lookout upgrades are also welcomed. However, there is far too much of an emphasis on mountain bike trails. At present, Eastern Hill is generally utilised by walkers to appreciate nature and the views from a relatively easy access point. Whilst some mountain bike trails exist (formally and informally) within the area, this plan seemingly seeks to fundamentally change the main usage of the hill. It should be accepted that some mountain bike trails should be included, but the current proposal - taking up the entirety of the eastern portion of the ridge precinct hillside - seems excessive. There are also safety and noise concerns over the proposed roundabout at Walsh and East Streets - as vehicles tend to drive quickly through that section of East Street and trucks braking for the roundabout could be noisy.

William Walton	I have reviewed the Eastern Hill Activation Draft Masterplan and attended information sessions. I have lived in Doctors Point for 22 years and work as a GP in Wodonga. I think the proposed regeneration of Eastern Hill and the walking tracks are good. I have significant concerns about establishing mountain biking tracks in that area for a number of reasons. Firstly Mountain bike tracks cause significant damage to the local environment, including damage to flora and fauna with the potential for significant erosion as well. The planned regeneration will be delicate while it is established, and a lot of money could be wasted if mountain biking is permitted in the same area. Secondly, by its very nature mountain biking is a dangerous activity with a high potential for injury. My major concern is that should a person become injured, accessibility for emergency services to transport that patient to medical facilities would be almost impossible to do in a timely fashion. This would be particularly difficult at times when there is minor flooding (as there is now) which limits access to that side of the hill and Mungabareena reserve. Although there is a planned separation of mountain biking tracks and walking trails people do not always follow the directions they are supposed to and it is quite feasible that an elderly walking person could be seriously injured by a mountain biking person. Council may have liability in that circumstance which is a business risk that may not have been considered. In summary, I would agree with most of the proposed development with the exclusion of mountain biking trails which I think would be a huge mistake in that area for the reasons I have stated.
Willow Elliott	I am 10 years old. I live in Albury and love going on walks through the bush with my family on Eastern Hill and Devil's Glen. Please don't let bike tracks be built in these areas because it will drive birds and animals away and destroy their natural habitat.

Please note the following two submissions were received on 23 March 2023 (after the public exhibition deadline), and therefore were not included in the consultant's analysis.	
Names	**Feedback**

Diann Tremain	Cultural importance of Eastern Hill My name is Diann Tremain and I am an Elder of the Wiradjuri People, the traditional custodians of the land that contains the city of Albury. I have resided in the Albury area for almost 50 years and have had continued connection with Mungabareena and Eastern Hill and its important cultural significance. I was the chair of Albury Wodonga Aboriginal Corporation which organised the Ngan Girra festival on a yearly basis for 10 years at Mungabareena. Firstly, I will start by telling you a Wiradjuri creation story about how Millawa (the Murray river) and hills were formed. *Long before Millawa become a broad torrent of refreshing, life giving water, an earthquake shook the barren land and formed hills and a long trench or chasm. Occasional rainstorms swept across the land and a tiny stream flowed down this trench.* *Then came another tremor, which caused the hills to shake and land to dance as though a corroboree was being held far under the earth. Rocks and soil heaved, and from the very bowels of the earth hills were pushed up by an enormous fish shouldering its way to the surface. It was borne on the crest of a wave of water. The sun sparkled on the silver torrent, which moved slowly down the stream. The enormous fish was far too large for the narrow bed. It dug its head into the earth and scooped it up on either side, widening its path with strokes of its powerful tail. The water filled the hollows made by the head and tail of the fish and behind it, the broad stream flowed gently with many turns and bends as the water subsided.* The development of mountain bike tracks across the country known as Eastern Hill, which is the land between Mungabareena and Yarrawadda (South Albury) should not be developed for the use of one group. There are many groups of people who walk this track as the Wiradjury people have for many thousands of years. Wirjadjui have a continuous relationship to this country. Country is not just the land under foot or a spot on a map, the connection that Wiradjuri feel to country and the local landscape is sometimes difficult to explain to non Indigenous people. Wiradjuri people lived, hunted and gathered along the river and across the hills for thousands of years. Wiradjuri people have a intimate knowledge of the landscape, animals and plants. They used the big river gums and box trees to cut canoes, coolamons and hunt for possums and birds, this land had a rich source of succulent and highly nutritious wood grubs.

Names	Feedback
	In the hill area there are still large red and grey box trees standing that would be many hundreds of years old, some believe that ancient trees on this land carry the spirits of our ancestors and act as guardians across the hill. The food bowl of this catchment was bountiful and the Wiradjuri people lived a rich life in this environment. With a permanent Wiradjuri camp site in Mungabareena and along the river to Bungambawatha (Albury). The Wiradjuri have their own customs, law and lore. There were no landholders only custodians of the land, which they looked upon as their “mother”. They have maintained traditional rights and custodial obligations towards their land and heritage over many thousands of years. They are closely interrelated an interdependent with the land and rivers. They sustained and managed their environment so that they could continue practices that where significant to each clan group. They lived in and managed the land, through use of fire and other traditional land management practices by maintaining a balance and ensuring a place for all creatures of the creation. Wiradjuri people travelled along the hill ridge to view the Kiewa, Mitta Mitta and Millawa (Murray) rivers this land is where the memorial seat is situated at present. A group of Charles Sturt University (CSU) students surveyed this area many years ago and found stone flakes that would have been used to to make tools and spear heads on this site.The Wiradjuri heritage of this site gives the people a connection to their identity and country. The recent Reconciliation Action Plan has been endorsed by Albury City and will hopefully lead to better outcomes for Aboriginal people of this area, and includes the protection of traditional and contemporary sites and artefacts. This should include the cultural heritage of Eastern Hill and Mungabareena. The Master Plan of Eastern Hill suggests that there will be a new car park in Mungabareena for the use of the mountain bike participants. The suggestion of this has already been discussed with the Yonder consulting group and was rejected by the only two Wiradjuri Elders who were interviewed. The lack of consultation with the Aboriginal community throughout this planning process should be noted when council discuss the plan. Instead of building mountain bike tracks and destroying the cultural significance of the hill, it would be wonderfull to start a revegetation program that would enhance the area and offer a passive recreational environment for current users and future generations of users of the hill. Mountain biking is more than adequately provided for elsewhere in Albury and in Wodonga. Thank you very much for the opportunity to make comment on this plan. Regards Diann

Names	Feedback
Peter Tremain	Please accept my submittion on the Draft Eastern Hill Activation Master Plan. I attended Albury High school for six years till 1970, during that time I had many opportunities to visit Eastern Hill with school mates. I enjoyed many visits to Devils Glenn and other parts of Eastern Hill on weekend and after school. I loved the relatively unspoiled environment I found there. I had a great love of the outdoors and in particular the bush. This led me to a life of recreational activities based around the natural environment. Later it led to my studying Environmental Science and specialising in Cultural Heritage sites within natural areas. My studies led me to Post Graduate studies in Policy and Governance and Political Science with an emphasis on Community engagement and consultation in planning. I have lived for the past 13 years at the base of Eastern Hill on Doctors Point Road. I am a regular user of the reserve. I am concerned at some aspects of the proposed master plan as described in the Yonder plan. It is not an exaggeration to state that I am alarmed that the plan proposes a system of Mountain Bike Trails (MBT) criss crossing Eastern Hill. This is in my view, is very poor planning as MBT are more than adequately provided for at other locations in Albury on the Black Range, and in Wodonga on MacDonald's Hill, Fell Timber Creek. This is poor recreational activity planning. It is simply more impacts in more areas. The impacts of MTB on the natural environment of the Black Range is nothing short of environmental vandalism. During Albury's history the Black Range has been sorely abused. After almost total clearing of vegetation in the years leading up to and including the Great Depression, some stabilisation of erosion and the regrowth of its forest has happened. However, the arrival of the "Sport" of trail bike riding saw a proliferation of trails, the removal of vegetation and terra forming to accomodate the trail bike riding experience. This has caused erosion and degradation of an already seriously degraded environment. This should not be allowed to be duplicated on Eastern Hill.

Names	Feedback
	The trails on Eastern Hill are adequate to the needs of the passive recreation requirements of the majority of visitors to the site. Eastern Hill already has regular use by trail bike riders. However, they are people who are on a ride through the park. They are not there to race, do time trials and race trips from top to bottom and be picked up at the Mungabareena car park to do it again and again. The current level of that use would seem to be adequate to their enjoyment while not impacting on the amenity and enjoyment of other user groups. It should be noted that the hill is frequented by people undertaking what could be termed ultra passive recreation including Ti Chi, Yoga, and Meditation. MBT racing is not compatible with these quiet activities. It is my understanding that the goal of the Mungabareena Management Plan is to protect and enhance the natural and cultural values of Mungabareena. The development of a car park at the base of the proposed MBT is hardly in keeping with that goal. Again, more impacts in more areas. The proposed plan fails to address the serious safety issue of pedestrian and bicycle access to Doctors Point at the S bends crossing Norms Lagoon. This is the Hume and Hovell trail and people must risk death or injury on a section of road built without a footpath that is used by speeding drivers on and hourly basis. It would seem logical that a board walk constructed following the road line but built out over the edge of Norms Lagoon would greatly enhance the safety of the road by removing pedestrians. It would also enhance the visual experience of pedestrians and cyclists using Doctors Point Road and accessing Eastern Hill via Doctors Point Reserve. There are gaps in the interpretation provided to educate and inform visitors. There is no interpretation identifying the species of trees on Eastern Hill or of their importance to the Wiradjuri Traditional owners of the site. There are several gold mines on the hill. Again, no interpretation explaining the history and importance of gold mining in the Albury area. Miners Right to work a mine also provided a refuge to homeless people impoverished by the Great Depression. Kiewa Valley Lookout is poorly named. It is not just the Kiewa view and is significant in that its aspect also takes in the joining of the Mitta Mitta river with the Murray river, which would have been visible prior to the building of Hume Dam. It also gives a view of the joining of the Kiewa and the Murray. It also gives a view of the Murray Valley after it has been joined by these two major rivers and proceeds westward. I have found Aboriginal stone artefacts very close to the site of the lookout and believe that if an archeological examination of the site were undertaken, it would demonstrate significance. However, I am not advocating such an examination. There is a memorial seat at that location that is an adequate and low key level of development. Development at this site should at most only be the possible addition of a picnic table.

Names	Feedback
	Flora and fauna will face significant impacts by the proposed mountain Bike criss crossing tracks on the Eastern face of the hill. There is a small but significant population of Brown Quail (*corturnix ypsilophora*) on Eastern Hill and a population of Stubble Quail (*c. pectorals*). Both are protected species. Both regularly use the Eastern slope. Their habitat in the area of the proposed Eastern slope tracks would be impacted so heavily that this area would become unusable for ground birds. This could lead to habitat reduction to the extent that the populations of these species could be unviable leading to extinction on Eastern Hill. This would impact the food chain affecting reptiles and predator birds such as hawks and owls. The development of an extensive MBT network would have great impact on several species of reptile endemic to the location including the locally rare Beaded Dragon, the Blue Tongue lizard, the Red Belly Black snake, the Eastern Brown snake and several species of Skink. All of these species are known to bask on open ground at times and could be killed by speeding bicycles. The plan should be to enhance the natural and cultural values of the area. The natural values are obvious, however the cultural values seem less obvious in the plan. A major cultural value of the area can be identified as a quiet space for passive activities such as walking and jogging, nature based activities such as bird watching and just simply enjoying the beautiful views and natural senity. It is also extremely valuable as a quiet space for individuals and groups that is a refuge from our hectic lives. In conclusion, on examination of the plan, it fails to demonstrate enhancement of natural and cultural values of Eastern Hill and Albury. It duplicates impacts that can be found at other locations. It also fails to address important safety issues related to access to the area via Doctors Point Road and Doctors Point Reserve. I must draw the conclusion that the Plan is designed to benefit one prospective user group in particular: the Mountain Bike enthusiast. Thank you for the opportunity to have input into this important decission.

Eastern Hill Activation Master Plan Advisory Panel – Terms of Reference

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1. Purpose

1.1. The purpose of the Eastern Hill Activation Master Plan (EHAMP) Advisory Panel is to provide key stakeholder group representation and input into the review of key recommendations of the draft Eastern Hill Activation Master Plan.

1.2. The Advisory Panel is to review and discuss key draft Master Plan recommendations and recommend revised master plan concepts to Council for consideration.

1.3. The Advisory Panel is not a decision-making body and has no governing legislation.

2. Scope

2.1. The EHAMP Advisory Panel will facilitate discussion and debate in a professional and respectful manner on recommendations in the draft Master Plan that received the most diverse feedback from the community during public exhibition. The key elements to be considered by the Panel include:

2.1.1. traffic, pedestrian access and parking (Master Plan Recommendations 8, 9, 10 and 18);

2.1.2. inclusion and size of mountain bike trails and associated infrastructure (Master Plan Recommendations 12, 13 and 23);

2.1.3. the size and scope of Trig Point infrastructure (Master Plan Recommendation 15);

2.1.4. the proposed re-alignment of the Hume and Hovell Track including Kiewa Valley lookout provisions (Master Plan Recommendations 21 and 22); and

2.1.5. ecological restoration (Master Plan Recommendations 24, 25, General 1 and General 4).

2.2. It is anticipated that Panel discussions will identify solutions and refinements to these draft Master Plan recommendations that can then be presented to Albury City Council for further consideration.

2.3. The Panel will have regard to the findings of the previous public consultations and the independent consultant report that summarises the findings from the public exhibition of the draft Master Plan.

3. Membership

3.1. The EHAMP Advisory Panel will invite representation from the following interest groups:

3.1.1. Access and Inclusion Committee (1 representative);

3.1.2. AlburyCity Councillors (2 representatives);

3.1.3. Albury Wodonga Mountain Bikers (2 representatives);

3.1.4. Friends of Eastern Hill (2 representatives);

3.1.5. Mungabareena Aboriginal Place Management Group (1 representative);

3.1.6. Rotary Club of Albury (1 representative); and

3.1.7. Youth Council (1 representative).

3.2. AlburyCity Officers will be available to provide support with technical input and administration for the Panel (meeting minutes, etc).

3.3. Members may nominate an alternate representative.

3.4. Members may resign at any time upon giving at least seven (7) days written notice to the Chairperson.

3.5. Members of the Panel shall cease to hold office:

3.5.1. if the Panel is dissolved by AlburyCity;

3.5.2. upon written resignation;

3.5.3. in the case of members other than Councillors, if absent without prior approval of the Panel for three (3) consecutive meetings; or

3.5.4. if AlburyCity by resolution determines that the member has breached AlburyCity's Code of Conduct.

4. Meeting Chair

4.1. The Chairperson must be a Councillor.

4.2. The Chairperson must convene Panel meetings.

4.3. If the Chairperson is not available, then the alternate Councillor delegate will be responsible for convening and conducting that meeting.

4.4. The Chair will have the following responsibilities:

4.4.1. Assist to develop and distribute the meeting invitation, agenda and minutes.

4.4.2. Maintain a decision register and action log.

4.4.3. Moderate discussion to ensure that all members of the panel are provided the opportunity to provide input.

4.4.4. Ensure that discussions are undertaken in a respectful and polite manner.

4.4.5. Seek to achieve consensus in decision making.

4.4.6. Summarising and reporting findings back to Council.

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5. Roles and Responsibilities

Members of the EHAMP Advisory Panel will be expected to:

5.1. Abide at all times with these Terms of Reference.

5.2. Provide feedback and input into the master plan development.

5.3. Be respectful to the views and ideas of others within the panel.

5.4. Ensure that decisions are future focused and consider all members of the community.

6. Code of Cooperation

Members of EHAMP Advisory Panel will:

6.1. Start on time and finish on time.

6.2. Participate and contribute - everyone is given opportunity to voice their opinions.

6.3. Actively listen to what others have to say, seeking first to understand, then to be understood.

6.4. Give and receive open and honest feedback in a constructive manner.

6.5. Use facts and not emotions to make decisions (whenever possible).

6.6. Be always respectful to other members of the group.

6.7. Read the agenda prior to each meeting, and if possible have sought any additional information required in advance of the meeting.

6.8. Adherence to AlburyCity's adopted Code of Conduct will apply to all committee members. The Code sets the minimum requirements of behaviours for all committee members. A copy of the Code is available on request.

7. Frequency of Meetings

7.1. The EHAMP Advisory Panel will conduct fortnightly (every 2 weeks) meetings for a period of up to three (3) months.

7.2. Meetings will be up to two (2) hours in length on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month.

7.3. All panel agenda items must be forwarded to AlburyCity, by close of business at least five (5) working days prior to the next scheduled meeting.

7.4. The agenda will be circulated three (3) days prior to the meeting.

7.5. The Chairperson has the right to refuse to list an item on the formal agenda, however members may raise an item under 'General Business' if necessary and as time permits.

7.6. At the end of the 3-month period, a report will be prepared for Council presenting proposed changes to the draft EHAMP.

7.7. A quorum of the Advisory Panel shall consist of five (5) members including one (1) Councillor.

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8. Decision Making

8.1. The conduct of business will be, wherever possible, by consensus and resolution.

8.2. If consensus and resolution is not possible, decisions will be made by the majority rule of members present.

8.3. Dissenting views and opinions may be recorded in the minutes on the request of the panel member.

9. Proxies and Guests to Meetings

9.1. Members of the Panel may nominate a proxy to attend a meeting if the member is unable to attend.

9.2. The Chairperson will be informed in writing of the substitution at least one (1) working day prior to the scheduled nominated meeting.

9.3. The Chairperson may in his or her absolute discretion decide whether to accept or reject a nominated proxy.

9.4. The Advisory Panel may invite observers or guests for the purpose of clarifying certain matters as decided by the Advisory Panel. Requests to invite observers or guests must be made in writing and approved by the Chair at least (1) working day prior to the scheduled nominated meeting.

10. Public statements

10.1. The policy of AlburyCity is that only the Mayor, Chief Executive Officer and senior staff are authorised to make public statements (including, but not limited to, media interviews, speaking at public meetings and producing written material for publication) on behalf of AlburyCity.

10.2. Panel Members must not make public statements on behalf of the Panel unless the Chairperson has given prior approval.

10.3. Members may speak about and share information on their experience as a participant but must be clear that they are not speaking on behalf of the Panel.

11. Grievances and complaints

11.1. Members are encouraged to inform the Chairperson if they are not receiving the advice or support, they need to fulfil their role.

12. Executive and administrative support

12.1. Executive and administrative support will be provided to Panel members (eg. making copies of documents, provision of additional information) via a request of the Chairperson.

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12.2. Members of the Panel are not able to direct or attempt to direct AlburyCity Officers.

12.3. The Chairperson is permitted to seek such assistance as is reasonably required from AlburyCity by request to the Chief Executive Officer.

13. Expenses

13.1. Participation in the Panel does not attract a salary or any other payment.

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14. Authorisation

Owner	**Directorate**	Insert details of Directorate - Team Name
	Responsible Officer	Insert Officer Position
Authorisation	Insert 'Approved Manex' or 'Adopted Council' Include date approved/adopted	
Review Date	Insert date four years from last issue date, or earlier if required.	
Register	Public or Internal Policy and Procedure Register.	
Record of Amendments	Insert date	Provide brief description of the change.
	Insert date	Provide brief description of the change.