



MEDIA RELEASE

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FLORA DAMAGE AT DEMPSTER HEAD

A temporary halt to some activities at Dempster Head will be in place immediately following the degradation of flora in the reserve.

Council have requested signage be installed advising that Mountain Bike and Motor Bike access will be prohibited until further notice. This is due to several reports being made of a significant increase in activity on the reserve that involves the unauthorised removal of native vegetation and addition of new infrastructure and tracks that have caused damage to the area.

Reports have been received claiming the use of a chainsaw and other equipment have been utilised to remove bush, build jumps and tracks. These works have been completed to the detriment of the surrounding bush, and without ensuring safe access has been provided for everyone who is enjoying the recreational space. During the temporary closure, illegal structures built in the Dempster Head reserve will be removed.

Shire President Victoria Brown stated "We have been approached by opposing groups with differing opinions on the future of Dempster Head. Our goal is to now work with all interested parties to ultimately find a solution that is satisfactory to everyone involved, including our own responsibilities in the management of a Crown Land reserve.

"We are not adverse to the concept of using Dempster Head as a recreational area, however it needs to be achieved taking into account the preservation of the natural environment and the safety of everyone who wants to use the area. We want to work with all the groups in finding a positive outcome, until then access will be limited to those on foot."

The Dempster Head Management Plan is currently being reviewed and updated. There will be a public consultation process undertaken during the review process to allow all interested parties an opportunity to have input and hear from other groups on the management of Dempster Head.

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Ends

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