

The Chief Executive
Tenterfield Shire Council
TENTERFIELD NSW 2372

29 January 2023

Dear Mr. Buckingham,

I am writing to lodge my objection to the PoM of the **Old Power Reserve – Crown Reserve R22044**. As I understand this reserve is categorised as Park and Natural Area (PoM *Figure 2*) and as such designated for passive recreational activities. I cannot see this reflected in this PoM which seems to accommodate the use for loud, physical activities and events. The grant funding which will cover the cost of this project <https://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/Policy-and-Legislation/Planning-reforms/NSW-Public-Spaces-Legacy-Program#:~:text=Tenterfield%20Shire%20Council,mountain%20bike%20trailhead> is clear however there is no mention of how Council intends to manage it once constructed. I am referring to the cost of maintenance which will be an extra burden to council which already has issues dealing with the parks and gardens already under its control.

A basic human right is to have access to safe, clean drinking water and we have not been able to provide this to our residents or tourists while they are in the main street, shopping or accessing services as the water fountain has not been working for several years. How are we going to manage this PoM? Further objects are set out below.

Reference Numbers refer to the legend included in *Appendix B: Revised Concept Design – Youth Precinct & Mountain Bike Trail Head Reserve*. Pg 31 of 33.

1. **Pedestrian Crossings** - the vicinity to the Coles shopping, multi-cinema complex, bowling arcade, cafes, childcare centre, medical centre, carpark and entry/exit driveway (**DA 2021-132**) concerns me in regards to the safety of pedestrians on skates or bikes who may not pay much attention to traffic when crossing. To note, several EV charging stations have been installed just inside the entry/exit recently, which seems to foresees an increase in EVs which do not omit any noise and, as such will cause increased danger to children and youth as they leave the Youth Precinct. Furthermore, there is no reference to a pedestrian crossing on the Miles Street side which is opposite the Catholic Church, and which is the street which children use when leaving St. Joseph's Primary School. There is a DDA footpath that leads to the corner of Crown and Miles Street where there is no pedestrian crossing or footpath along the perimeter. This is to become a busy intersection with the construction of the **DA2021-132**. I have made the above considerations after consulting [How to Prepare a Pedestrian Access and Mobility Plan - an easy three stage guide \(nsw.gov.au\)](https://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/Policy-and-Legislation/Planning-reforms/NSW-Public-Spaces-Legacy-Program#:~:text=Tenterfield%20Shire%20Council,mountain%20bike%20trailhead) and find this PoM lacking.
2. **Off street parking** – Inadequate and there is no mention how this will be regulated? The Crown Street parking area is planned to accommodate 17 vehicles (15 + 2) and Miles Street parking area accommodates 19 vehicles (17 regular + 2). At present there are over 10 regular sized vehicles and some extra long vehicles and RVs parked on the Crown Street reserve at any time 7 days a week. Furthermore, as a regular Catholic church goer, I can say that there are usually more than 10 cars parked on the Miles Street side during Saturday and

Sunday services. Lastly, no traffic assessment is included for the present traffic flow or to flow when **DA2021-132** is executed.

3. **Intermediate to advanced pump tracks** – I do not believe this can be considered passive recreation as it generates increase in volume of noise, aggressive sound and litter and pollution into the creek. A creek in which you can often find shopping trolleys, plastic and drink cans in now. I do not see it as appropriate to the land.
4. **Beginner asphalt** – there is no mention on maintenance of the track due to wear and tear or how the debris from usage or weather damage will be managed. Thus one is to assume debris will end up in the grass, spread when mowing is done and end up in the creek. Is this the best we can do to protect our waterways.
5. **Bench seats** – please define your interpretation of ‘strategic’ as no image has been supplied? The latest ABS demographic figures illustrate that **10% of our population is aged between 5 and 14**, while **56.6% is aged between 50 and 85**. The ‘strategic’ seats I located on the PoM are all near bike tracks and I imagine there will be bike stands near them or will the bikes be lying on the ground? How do they fit in with the DDA? I was not able to locate any seating for those wanting peace and quiet to sit and enjoy the surroundings.
6. **Hangouts**- again no image or specifications. How is this going to be managed if we cannot manage the other parks. Please note that Council has chosen to keep the Baby/child changing rooms in Jubilee Park closed to the public due to vandalism. There is no mention of how these ‘hangouts’ will be kept graffiti clean and what the ‘hangouts’ include. Furthermore, will they become a gathering place for the ever-increasing number of homeless people in our small town or for those partaking in alcohol or substance abuse? To note there is a bottle shop within 20 metres of this reserve and a further one 100 metres away. Will Council be able to ensure litter, rubbish and broken bottles will not end up detracting from citizens enjoyment of the park.
7. No comment.
8. **New skate park** – my only doubt here is the vicinity to vehicle parking and footpaths.
9. **Café** – There is an existing **Kiosk in Jubilee Park** which in my 4 years living here has never been utilised. Wouldn't it make **more economic sense** to use this existing structure which is already part of Council's assets than create another asset. The above mentioned Kiosk is near the beautiful rotunda and public facilities in Jubilee Park which features, BBQ facility, tables/chairs with rain cover, cycleway, rotunda, lighting, fitness track and exercise equipment, and an undercover playground. The image below was taken from the Council website but unfortunately has not been updated.



Furthermore, Council has approved **DA 2021-132** which includes cafés. Any new building council erects will involve a Carbon Footprint, as well as **increase our assets and depreciation**.

Do we really need to increase brick and mortar assets?

10. **Active footpath spine** – further information required. There is no mention of material to be used and how it will be managed. There is no supporting documentation in regards to or how it fits in with the DDA and the Tenterfield Shire Council Disability and Inclusion Policy .

11. **New culvert bridge** – again no drawing or specs provided. What impact will the roofing area and concrete car parking area of **DA 2021-132** have on the water flow into the Crown Street open

discharge point? What specs were used to engineer the bridge? Council has already had

disasters in the engineering and maintaining the bridge over the creek in proximity of the high school.

12. **Yarning circle – there are no shade trees at present** which may be the reason why very few people use the park at present. There is no water fountain or rubbish bin and no mention of how it will be managed after flash flooding and heavy rain.
13. **Skills track** – what material is to be used? How will the water and debris run off be managed? What is the environmental impact on the creek? There is no documentation to support this is the most suitable place for the track. It isn't enough to look good or to fit in, it needs backup to why that location was chosen and the environmental impact it will have.
14. **DDA footpath** – There is no existing shade at present and from the plan there is no evidence of shade along the footpath as there is no seating either. If I were pushing a wheelchair or a stroller I would expect to be able to sit down and enjoy the space with the person I am accompanying. Furthermore, are the trees to be planted natives? What impact will future plantings have on footpath (tripping)?
15. **Informal granite sand footpath** – will this limit access to all users to the site? Are we restricting those with a disability or limited vision or movement only to the DDA footpath? Does this mean they will not be able to access or enjoy the tranquillity of the creek?
16. **Signage** – insufficient. There are at least 5 entry points to the area. Will the DDA footpath identified in *Appendix B* of PoM **Crown Reserve – R22044** give only limited access to the site? From my understanding of the DDA it is unlawful for public places to be inaccessible to people with a disability. This in turn reflects back to point 10,12 &15.
17. **Solar light poles** – no indication of where they will be positioned?
18. **Basket ball court, stage 2** – have conversations with the Parks and Garden Committee started? Why is it in this plan?
19. **Drinking fountains** – insufficient taking into consideration that this proposal is for active sport recreation in an open environment. How will Council maintain them if they cannot maintain the one in the main street, in front of Bruxner Park? If there are insufficient drinking fountains this will result in users buying drinks and the possibility of increased litter from overflowing bins which will end up in the creek or scattered around the park. Again, what management and costs are involved in the maintenance of this area? Will we see shopping trollies not only in the creek and in front of Council Chambers but also litter throughout this new space.
20. **Rubbish Bines** – insufficient which means a danger to the environment. There has been no bin allocated anywhere along the creek frontage, near one of the hangout hubs or yarning circle. To date Council has cut back on garden and park staff, what frequency will Council have the bins emptied? Furthermore, there is no mention if they will be differentiated bins or not.

Council is also expected to supply performance target and levels. I have seen no evidence of this or cost & maintenance figures. **Is Council intending on removing further services from residents to maintain this space as outlined in PoM Crown Reserve – R22044?** Furthermore, I have seen no **Environment and Sustainability Study** or **traffic study** which I would expect to see for such a site. A site which the Mayor expects to generate a notable increase to tourism, which in turn increases the amount of users to the site.

Since becoming a Councillor, Executive staff have continually reminded us of the dire financial situation we are in, with the advice to sell off Council owned assets in order to decrease maintenance and depreciation. If we cannot maintain what we have at present how are we to maintain and preserve this Crown Reserve under this **PoM**. I voted against it when it came to council

and am still against it now as I do not see this project as appropriate for this particular site. This whole concept doesn't seem to have been well thought through.

My closing argument lies in the following:

ITEM 191/22 in which **Council Resolved to accept the tender of Collaborative Construction Professional for RFT08-21/22 for a contract total of \$2,181,198.29 incl. GST & provisional items** and then said company withdrew. As councillor I have not sighted the document in which Mr. Joe Smith states the reasons for his withdrawal.

Best regards,

Giana Saccon.