The Hon. Mark Speakman MP
Minister for the Environment
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Dear Minister

**Proposed New Road in the Royal National Park and Recreation Camp at Spring Gully, Bundeena.**

I oppose the proposed road. I ask that you refuse the application.

I understand the Rural Fire Service requires the road be an eight metre wide sealed surface plus road shoulders which will require substantial removal of vegetation and direct impacts on:

* Known threatened species habitat including the Eastern pygmy possum and the Red crowned toadlet,
* Eastern Suburbs Banksia Scrub and Coastal Upland Swamp, both endangered ecological communities protected under state and commonwealth legislation,
* The Jibbon relic cliff dune field, a conservation priority in the park plan of management,
* A suite of ecological values supporting a world heritage nomination of the Park as noted by Professor Keith, Senior Principal Research Scientist, Office of Environment and Heritage,
* The busiest access point to the Coast Track, the most popular walking track in the Park.

The road is to service the unacceptable proposal for a recreation camp on the former Scout land which was refused development consent by Sutherland Shire Council and which is the subject of an appeal in the Land and Environment Court. The recreation camp proposal seeks consent to remove several thousand trees, including the dense bloodwood mallee, from steep, sandy soils, over 3.6 hectares of the former Scout land inholding. This poses unacceptable impacts on the adjoining Royal National Park including the Jibbon Hill land recently added to the park.

Spring Gully and the Jibbon Hill dune field is a vital riparian corridor and habitat for several threatened species and communities. It is known to support a significant colony of Eastern pygmy possum as you recently noted in a media statement. I support Sutherland Shire Council’s recommendation that the government acquire the former Scout land for addition to the Royal National Park and ask that you ensure it is acquired for addition to the Park.

**Minister, can you assure the public that you and the National Parks and Wildlife Service will take the necessary action in the court proceedings to protect the world’s oldest dedicated national park and the public interest and stop this new road and land clearing within the park?**

Yours sincerely

Name:
Address:

Date: