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**Sent:** 26/07/2023 11:07:55 AM

**Subject:** Protect and prioritise Stony Range Regional Botanic Garden

Hello,

I'd like to express my concern regarding the proposed development of a five and eight storey complex at the Northern side of Stony Range.

From a mental health perspective, these natural spaces need to be protected and developed. As we saw during the pandemic, ongoing access to nature was critical in supporting mental and emotional health.

There is also a wealth of scientific research which points to the benefits of a space like Stony Range increasing the diversity of our microbiome (skin, eyes, gut etc) which in turn effects our resilience and immune function. The benefits of which would surely be felt by NSW health!

The peoples representatives in council need to prioritise and protect this space.

What metrics have been considered when prioritising this development over the long term benefits of Stony Range?

The immediate cash made through developments like this are surely attractive but the cost is felt elsewhere, the benefits are short lived compared to the ongoing damage caused.

I would appreciate your response and any proposals to mitigate the impact on the natural flora and fauna at Stony Range.

Kind regards  
Grace