

Dear Mr M Cronstedt,

I attach comments regarding the potential dangers in the Derby mountain bike area and hopefully emergency management systems are in place for this large area.

Good luck with the enquiry.

Yours faithfully

Keith Darke

Terms of Reference for Independent review into 2018-2019 bushfires.

The Maydena fire highlighted the need to have very effective emergency responses to the mountain bike areas. With Maydena the circumstances are quite unique in so much as entry is very controlled and the area is easily identifiable. In fact this business was shut down very effectively when it was required.

However if you consider mountain biking in the Derby/St Helens area bike riders are spread over a much greater distance, there is not any registration system in place, hire companies do not have an accurate account of who is out in the park and there is not any emergency procedures for the newly created lake side ride. The only means of escape from the lake side ride apart from swimming across the river is over a timber clad bridge or walking across country.

Perhaps there are very effective emergency management systems in place for the Derby mountain biking area. These were not apparent when I visited in December 2018.