

As residents of Beecroft for close to 30 years, we are writing to strongly object to the proposal to claim bushland and netball courts in the Castle Howard Conservation Reserve.

One of the primary attractions of this area is the bushland, which is increasingly being destroyed by short sighted planning decisions. Our community has already seen the degradation of land when the M2 was originally built, and more recently have endured months of upheaval whilst road widening has taken place. This type of action would be interpreted as an assault against this community, and quite frankly if actioned we would set about to refrain from using this road and encourage our friends and community groups in the area to do the same.

The netball courts are continuously used by local netball teams, for both training and competitions, as is the local oval. The pristine bushland and ambience of the general area is appreciated by many residents of the Beecroft and Cheltenham and wider communities. Surely the continued provision of this amenity to the residents of Beecroft and Cheltenham, which has an increasingly young population, is of utmost importance, especially when there is a viable option (ie widening breakdown lanes) which can be adapted which would have significantly less community impact.

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