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From: Fiona Harding [REDACTED]
To: Mountain Review
Subject: Preserving the Natural and Cultural Integrity of Kunanyi/Mount Wellington

Dear Minister Abetz,

I am writing to express my deep concern for the future of Kunanyi/Mount Wellington and to share my vision for its preservation as an untouched natural sanctuary. It is a place of immense cultural significance, environmental value, and a vital refuge for mental health and community well-being.

Kunanyi holds a unique position as one of the last accessible wilderness areas near a major city. Its pristine environment offers the public a rare opportunity to connect with nature, fostering peace, mental clarity, and resilience. For future generations, maintaining this space as a natural, unspoiled treasure will ensure they inherit a balanced, healthy, and happy legacy.

To achieve this, I firmly believe that Kunanyi's future must not include a cable car or any form of privatization for profit. The mountain's values—cultural, ecological, and social—are well-documented and must be respected and protected.

For tens of thousands of years, Kunanyi has been a cherished Aboriginal Cultural Landscape. Its protection should include formal recognition of this heritage, with the Palawa community actively involved in its management and decision-making. Respecting this history is essential to honouring Tasmania's First Peoples and safeguarding their cultural legacy.

The mountain's flora, fauna, and geoheritage are extraordinary and irreplaceable. These natural values must be enshrined in statutory planning rules and management plans that explicitly prohibit threats such as a cable car and associated commercial developments. Protecting visual amenity, reducing noise pollution, and prioritizing low-impact recreational use are critical to preserving Kunanyi's character.

Kunanyi is a much-loved community asset. Its accessibility and quiet beauty provide a sanctuary for passive recreation such as walking, mountain biking, and simply being in nature. Public infrastructure should remain low-impact, with investments directed towards enhancing access in ways that align with the mountain's values—for example, a visitor hub outside the park coordinating transportation to limit environmental strain.

I do not support the transfer of Wellington Park to national park status under government management, given the poor track record of facilitating private developments at the expense of park values. Instead, the Wellington Park Management Trust, with increased funding and Palawa involvement, should continue overseeing the park. This ensures decisions are guided by local knowledge, cultural sensitivity, and environmental stewardship.

This review must not undermine the Wellington Park Trust's ongoing Management Plan review process. There is no place for developments that threaten Kunanyi's significant natural and cultural values or compromise the quiet enjoyment cherished by so many. Let us keep Kunanyi wild, a publicly owned and protected refuge for all Tasmanians and visitors alike. Together, we can ensure that this incredible mountain remains a beacon of natural beauty and cultural heritage for generations to come.

Yours sincerely,
Fiona Harding

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