

**From:** David Reeve  
**Sent:** Friday, 7 November 2014 1:24 PM  
**To:** 'mathew.bourke@brisbane.qld.gov.au'  
**Cc:** [secretary@climb.org.au](mailto:secretary@climb.org.au); [treasurer@climb.org.au](mailto:treasurer@climb.org.au); 'julian.simmonds@ecn.net.au'; 'helen.abrahams@ecn.net.au'  
**Subject:** Issues to be Addressed at Kangaroo Point

Dear Cr Bourke,

I am writing to you in your capacity as Chairman for Environment, Parks & Sustainability.

As you are no doubt aware, Council authorized the Broncos to place a large advertising banner on the Kangaroo Point cliffs. It came to the attention of the climbing community yesterday, and there ensued a tremendous outcry on the social media. Hopefully you will have been made aware of the leading post on Council's Facebook page here ...

<https://www.facebook.com/BrisbaneCityCouncil/posts/10152525666477709>

I won't go into the arguments for and against this action because they are largely irrelevant to the point I want to make to you today. Suffice it to say that when we contacted the Broncos, they were very apologetic for upsetting the climbing community, that they are removing their banner tomorrow, and that they are very happy to discuss how collaboration with the community could be achieved in the future.

My point to the Committee for Environment, Parks & Sustainability is that only a short number of years ago our relationship with Council was consultative and productive, yet recently has degenerated into a position I regard as over-reaching, arrogant and foolhardy.

It is arrogant, because it denies the fact that climbing gym participation in the Brisbane area is now well over one hundred thousand. It takes a certain type of wilful blindness to fail to see that even 10% of that number recreating at Kangaroo Point cliffs is a substantial stakeholder group. It takes a certain arrogance to disregard the multi-million dollar value of recreational climbing to the City of Brisbane. Council may well talk the talk of their commitment to adventure tourism, but being blind, it seems they can't walk the walk.

It is foolhardy because Council took steps to authorise placement of fixtures into the cliff without pausing for a moment to consider the possible safety implications. However, I am at pains to point out that the contractor is blameless in this debacle. The blame lies squarely with Council for not consulting with the climbing community. If they had taken the trouble to do this, the safety issue of a third party installing hardware into the cliff which might not be conformable with EN 959 - the safety standard the community rigorously strives to maintain for the good of its members – would not have arisen.

At the heart of most problems that arise at Kangaroo Point is the fact that we have a lot of pressure on the limited amount of real estate suitable for climbing. ACAQ are attempting to alleviate this pressure by putting to Council an eminently reasonable proposition for the re-opening of the cliffs at KP North. The proposal is here...

<http://www.qldclimb.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/ACAQ-KPN-Proposal-7May14.pdf>

From our point of view, the push back we are getting on this proposal is part and parcel of the same arrogant disregard for the climbing stakeholders at Kangaroo Point. If this is not the case, then we

feel there is a reasonable answer to the following reasonable question we have lodged with the Senior Program Officer Parks Management Natural Environment, Water & Sustainability Branch ...

*With In 2010 we were delighted to announce to the community that Council had made the decision to spend \$100,000 on the stabilisation of the KPN cliffs for climbing. Given this background, I'm sure you can see that I need to seek quite specific reasons for the current holdup. In particular, it would be helpful if you could highlight in what way the 2010 geotechnical report and the ensuing stabilisation works were deficient, given that, in meetings with Council representatives, we were assured things were 'good to go'.*

This is an open letter and will be published on our website and Facebook page. I have copied my councillor, Julian Simmonds, and Cr Helen Abrahams in whose ward the Kangaroo Point Parklands lie.

Thank you for your attention.

Regards

Dave Reeve

President  
Australian Climbing Association (Qld) Inc