

**Subject: Statement of Concern by the Bighill Creek Preservation Society (BCPS)
Mountain Ash Limited Partnership Water Act Application
DAPP0001717 & EMS No. 001-00481044**

The Town of Cochrane is writing to confirm its support on the Statement of Concern recently submitted by the Bighill Creek Preservation Society (BCPS) regarding the Water Act Notice of Application for the removal of 13 wetlands required to facilitate a future aggregate extraction operation. The Town of Cochrane shares the concerns outlined in the BCPS Statement of Concern related to the immediate proximity of the future operation to Big Hills Spring Provincial Park, the material risk to the region's groundwater resources, including springs, creeks, wetlands and riparian habitat, and ultimately the Big Hill Creek that flows through the heart of Cochrane and is a cherished open space in our community. The Town and its residents are passionate about these public open spaces and believe they should be protected in perpetuity for future generations to enjoy.

Recognizing that Big Hills Spring Provincial Park a special and unique area in the region's geography, The Town of Cochrane has worked diligently with Rocky View County and BCPS with the shared interest of protecting this environmentally significant area. Efforts include the County's Open Space Master Plan that envisions future pathway and protected area connections from the Provincial Park to the Town of Cochrane. In addition, the Town of Cochrane Council approved the Cochrane Community Vision which focuses future planning efforts to protect natural areas and open spaces as they speak to the overall character of our community. And finally, BCPS has taken a lead role in working with numerous stakeholders to raise awareness and protect the long term interests of these important spaces. Unfortunately, all this collaborative work and a clear vision of protecting this area is now under incremental threat with the pending consideration of this application and others that will come forward in the future.

In closing, the Town of Cochrane would like to clarify our continued support for the BCPS and more specifically their Statement of Concern submitted regarding the Mountain Ash Limited Partnership Water Act Application. We respectfully request your formal evaluation of the concerns raised in their Statement of Concern.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Drew

Please note, we have also attached our March 24, 2021 letter of concern to Minister Nixon to demonstrate our ongoing concerns with this proposal.

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