

Mount Wellington cable car road proposal runs through endangered trees, expert says

By State political reporter [Alexandra Humphries](#)



Photo: [A stand of silver peppermint trees \(eucalyptus tenuiramis\) near Hobart. \(Supplied: Rob Blakers\)](#)

The Mount Wellington Cableway Company's planned new road to the cable car base station runs through a threatened ecological community, a *University of Tasmania* expert says.

Distinguished professor in geography and environmental studies, Jamie Kirkpatrick, said a community of *eucalyptus tenuiramis* - also known as silver peppermint - on mudstone exists along most of the planned road.

He said the silver peppermint community was listed as threatened to protect those left, after a long period of depletion.



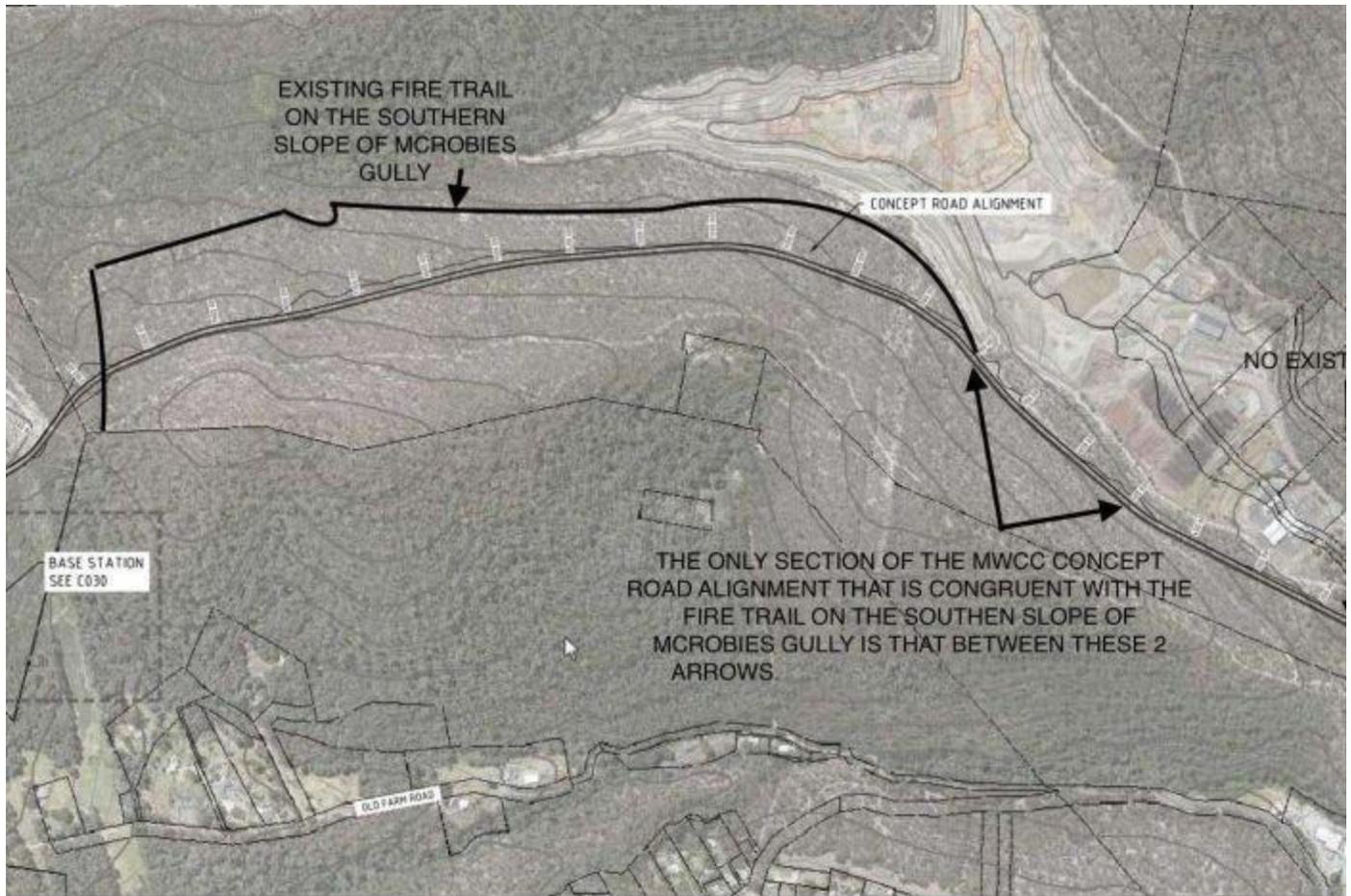
Professor Kirkpatrick says that building a road would change drainage and affect vegetation. (ABC Science Ann Jones)

"They're protected because most of the landscape on mudstone has been cleared for agriculture, so it's a community that's been really, really depleted by clearance since the early 19th Century," he said.

Building a road through the community would not only damage it during construction, he said, but changes to drainage would impact on the nature of vegetation growing in the area.

"It just puzzles me that anyone would actually propose to put a tourist road through a threatened community right next to a tip," he said.

"From the Lenah Valley side there's alternatives there that don't go over the Organ Pipes and don't require roads to be built through threatened communities."



[Photo: Map showing the proposed path of road to cable car base station from McRobies tip site, near Mt Wellington. \(Supplied\)](#)

Professor Kirkpatrick said at least one rare orchid had recently been discovered in the understory of a silver peppermint stand on the slopes of kunanyi/*Mount Wellington*.

Louise Sales from *Friends of the Earth* said the responsibility was on the MWCC to "*do its homework*."

"We're deeply concerned that the cable car proponents are proposing putting a road right through a threatened ecological community," she said.

[The great cable car debate](#)



[The Hobart cable car debate is as old as the hills — why does the proposal cause such a reaction in Tasmania?](#)

"There's a few stands of silver peppermint gums there, and there's also some endangered orchids in the area."

A MWCC spokesman said it had engaged its own experts.

He said the Company had applied to the *Hobart City Council* for landowner consent to conduct a flora and fauna survey, but one has not yet been performed because permission has not been granted to enter the site.

The application will be considered by the *HCC Parks and Recreation Committee* on Thursday night [09/08/2018].

The MWCC estimates the new road infrastructure will cost \$2.5 million out of the total \$50 million budget for the Project.