

19/06/2015

Mr L Garland  
69 Shortland St  
WENTWORTH FALLS NSW 2782

Dear Mr Garland,

**Subject: Alleged unauthorised clearing at 28 Pulpit Hill Rd, Katoomba (Radiata Plateau)**

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I refer to your recent report/concerns regarding vegetation removal works recently undertaken at 28 Pulpit Hill Road, Katoomba (Radiata Plateau).

Council officers have investigated your concerns and undertaken an inspection of the site. The inspection confirmed that understorey vegetation has been removed from a number of areas on the site including along the rear of adjoining properties fronting Pulpit Hill Road, the verges of an internal vehicular access road/trail and in an area adjacent the intersection of boundaries between 3 of the lots. The matter was raised with the owner of the property who advised that the understorey vegetation was removed from these areas of the site as part of bushfire hazard reduction works on the property, maintenance of vehicle access roads/tracks and to enable survey and identification of lot boundaries. Further investigations have confirmed that the Rural Fire Service (RFS) have recently required certain bushfire hazard reduction work to be carried out on the land.

The inspection has confirmed that the vegetation removal has essentially been confined to the understorey layer, not trees, and has not impacted on any scheduled or protected vegetation communities. Furthermore, the work has been generally carried out sensitively and with minimal ground disturbance. Accordingly, while it is acknowledged that the extent of vegetation removal could be considered to be slightly excessive in some areas, Council is satisfied that it is not significant in the circumstances and no further action is considered necessary.

Council is also aware that the RFS have requested the owners of other land in the vicinity to undertake bushfire hazard reduction work on their land, and it is anticipated that additional clearing work will be occurring in this area in coming weeks.

Thank you for bringing your concerns to Council. Should you require any further assistance or clarification, I can be contacted on (02) 4780 5561.

Yours faithfully,



Kylie Fomiatti  
Principal, Development Monitoring Team  
Development & Customer Services