



Blue Mountains Conservation Society Inc

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Nature Conservation Saves for Tomorrow

23 April 2013

MEDIA RELEASE

Blue Mountains unique character in jeopardy – public meeting

Blue Mountains City Council has confirmed that our current Local Environmental Plans (LEPs) 1991 and 2005 will no longer exist. The NSW government is requiring Council to prepare a new single LEP for the Blue Mountains in the format of the “one size fits all” NSW government mandated “Standard LEP”.

“The Blue Mountains Conservation Society believes a robust and stringent LEP is essential, as it determines the character of our villages, protects against over development and ensures our bushland is conserved,” said Society President Peter Ridgeway. “As a result, the Society has organised a public meeting so residents can learn more about what the new LEP means for them.”

The “Hands off our LEPs” Public Meeting will be held on Sunday May 5th from 2pm to 4pm at the Mid Mountains Community Centre, New St, Lawson.

The public meeting will include presentations from the Mayor and senior Council staff, as well as representatives from the Blue Mountains World Heritage Institute and the Society.

“The Society recently met with the Mayor and the Council General Manager on the issue of our LEPs,” said Society President Peter Ridgeway. “At the meeting Council confirmed the NSW Government has not agreed to the Blue Mountains getting an exemption from preparing a Standard LEP. This is despite the fact that our current LEPs are award-winning and best practice, and were developed over many years with extensive public input”.

Council also confirmed they have commenced the process of preparing a new Standard LEP, with public exhibition of the plan expected to occur at the end of 2013.

“We believe few residents of the Blue Mountains are aware that the planning and development rules governing the Blue Mountains are undergoing a major review right now,” said Society President Peter Ridgeway.

“The NSW Government has imposed a very tight timetable on Council to prepare the new LEP, which means there will be very little opportunity to have community input or comment. We think this is totally wrong”

“We are also very concerned that, in the adoption of a Standard LEP, vital provisions in our existing LEPs will be lost. This includes provisions relating to the protection of the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area, whose international significance underpins our tourism and visitation economy,” said Society President Peter Ridgeway. “We are also worried that residential areas will be vulnerable to inappropriate development if the mandated zonings under the Standard LEP are adopted.”

For more information see www.bluemountains.org.au or contact Sue Morrison, Hands of our LEPs Community Campaigner on 0418 292 672.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "P. Ridgeway". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large, prominent 'P' and 'R'.

Peter Ridgeway
President, Blue Mountains Conservation Society