



# Blue Mountains Conservation Society Inc

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**Nature Conservation Saves for Tomorrow**

24 May 2013

Ms Louise Markus MP  
Member for Macquarie  
Shop 24 Riverview Shopping Centre  
277 George St  
Windsor NSW 2756

Dear Ms Markus

## **World Heritage impacts of conversion of Blue Mountains Local Environmental Plans (LEP) 1991 and 2005 to the Standard Instrument LEP (SI LEP)**

I am writing to thank you for taking time to meet with representatives of the Society on Tuesday 9 May 2013 regarding the above matter, and to follow up on a number of our discussion points.

As we said at the meeting, the Society is deeply concerned that a Standard Instrument LEP will negatively impact on the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area (GBMWhA), potentially risking its continuing World Heritage listing. We believe the recent concerns expressed by IUCN about development threats to the Great Barrier Reef clearly show the Commonwealth should be actively involved in protection of World Heritage areas, in collaboration with state and local governments.

At our meeting we requested that you make representations to The Hon. Tony Burke MP, Minister for Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities regarding the need for a strategic assessment under s.146 of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act* to assess the impacts of the proposed SI LEP on the GBMWhA.

Before making any such representations you undertook to:

- consult with Mr Greg Hunt, Opposition spokesperson for the Environment, regarding our concerns and to provide feedback to the Society
- speak to the Hon. Roza Sage, MP, Member for Blue Mountains to emphasise the significance of the LEP review process and the proposed NSW planning reforms in relation to the protection of World Heritage values in her electorate.

Since our meeting with you we have reviewed the NSW government's White Paper – *A New Planning System for NSW* and the draft Metropolitan Strategy for Sydney, which includes the Blue Mountains Local Government Area in the West Sub-region along with Hawkesbury and Penrith LGAs. The combined impact of these planning documents and the draft SI LEP would potentially see the eastern part of the Blue Mountains LGA (from Faulconbridge) become just another “suburb” of Sydney, with inappropriate medium and

high density development.

We look forward to hearing from you soon regarding what actions you have taken and what actions a future Coalition government would take to ensure the GBMWhA is not adversely impacted as a result of the new Blue Mountains LEP, the draft Metropolitan Strategy and associated planning reforms in New South Wales.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "P. Ridgeway". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "P" and a long, sweeping underline.

Peter Ridgeway  
President