



Blue Mountains Conservation Society Inc

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Nature Conservation Saves for Tomorrow

Mr. Richard Kingswood
Upper Mountains Area Manager
National Parks & Wildlife Service
Govetts Leap Road
Blackheath 2784

20 June 2014

Dear Mr. Kingswood,

Re: Overcliff Walking Track, Wentworth Falls

The Society is writing to express its concern about the condition of a Hanging Swamp on the Overcliff, walking track, Wentworth Falls and to share the results of a survey conducted by our plant study group. We do so in the hope that our research may assist in applications to gain funding for repairs.

Society members would like to see the circuit walk of Overcliff Track, which goes to Breakfast Point then proceeds back up the slope to the Conservation Hut, completed for families and walkers who are unable to enjoy National Pass. Because of its significant flora, diversity of birds, interesting geology and lovely valley views, this walk has the potential to become an interpretive walk of excellence. This walking track could be included in the Discovery Ranger Walks programme as well as being self guided.

Last year a member of the Society became particularly concerned when a Hanging Swamp on Overcliff Track dried out because of deteriorating walking track conditions. This was reported to NPWS by phone in July 2013. Temporary repairs were

undertaken then shortly after, the walking track was closed following land slips close to Breakfast Point.

The Society Plant Study Group members visited the site in March 2014 and completed a survey of the Hanging Swamp. The report and flora species list are attached

Significant species of the endangered *Temperate Highland Peat Swamps on Sandstone* ecological community under the EP&BC Act were identified, as well as characteristic species of *Blue Mountains Swamps* under the TSC Act. This led to the conclusion, that this swamp is an endangered ecological community warranting protection under existing legislation.

Dr Ian Baird, a peat swamp researcher in the Blue Mountains, has confirmed that this patch of hanging swamp is definitely an example of a Blue Mountains Swamp.

As community interest supports funding applications, the Society since its inception, in 1961, has had an interest in walking tracks in the vicinity of the Conservation Hut. Members have done track work themselves, raised funds for the installation of bridges in the Valley of Waters and created the Nature Track self-guided walk.

We support NPWS in its endeavors to maintain a high standard of environmental education and walking tracks in the Blue Mountains.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "J. Cameron".

Vice President