



Blue Mountains Conservation Society Inc

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Nature Conservation Saves for Tomorrow

19 September 2018

Commissioner,
Blue Mountains City Council Public Inquiry
Locked Bag 3012,
Nowra NSW 2541

Sent by email: bluemountainpublicinquiry@olg.nsw.gov.au

Dear Commissioner,

The Blue Mountains Conservation Society is a community-based volunteer organisation with over 800 members. The goal of the Society is to promote the conservation of the environment in the Greater Blue Mountains region. As the oldest and largest environmental organisation in the Blue Mountains with substantial expertise in environmental matters, the Society is a highly respected and influential local organisation.

The Society wishes to take this opportunity to state its general support for the staff and councillors of the Blue Mountains City Council. Over many years the Society has been actively engaged in strategic planning matters at the local and state government level, committing considerable time and resources to campaigning, developing substantial submissions and meeting with relevant staff and elected representatives. Most recently, the Society was intensively involved in the development of the Blue Mountains Local Environmental Plan 2015, the Western District and Western City District Plans, the Blue Mountains Tourism Strategy and other major strategic planning projects. Currently, we are engaged in the development of Council's Lawson Crown Lands Masterplan. Through this engagement in the planning process, we have worked very hard to ensure the best possible environmental outcomes for this city in a national park and World Heritage Area.

The Society is, therefore, very concerned about the possibility that the democratically elected councillors could be dismissed as an outcome of this Public Inquiry. We do not want to see all the good strategic planning work that the council has undertaken with the community over the past decade, particularly relating to LEP 2015, potentially being overridden through the appointment of an administrator. Further, there are several major local strategic plans, such as the Lawson Crown Lands Masterplan, as well as legislatively required planning relating to the Regional and District plans that are still in progress. All these require extensive community consultation and representation of the community's views through the elected councillors.

We sincerely hope that the Commissioner will take into account the impact on this highly engaged and environmentally-committed community of any potential loss of its elected representatives on council.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Madi Maclean". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'M' and a trailing flourish.

Madi Maclean

President

Blue Mountains Conservation Society

mobile 0412 428 202 or email president@bluemountains.org.au