



Blue Mountains Conservation Society Inc

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Nature Conservation Saves for Tomorrow

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Transport Access Program, Glenbrook
Associate Director, Environmental Impact Assessment
Transport for NSW, Locked Bag 6501
St Leonards NSW 2065

Dear Sir/Madam

Glenbrook Station Upgrade

The Blue Mountains Conservation Society (BMCS) is a community based volunteer organisation with over 800 members. It is the oldest continuing environmental organisation in the Blue Mountains. The goal of the Society is to promote the conservation of the environment in the Greater Blue Mountains region. The Society wishes to make a submission to the *Glenbrook Station Upgrade – Review of Environmental Factor (REF)*.

The Society welcomes any upgrades to railway stations in the Blue Mountains which improves accessibility and encourages use of public transport.

However, we are concerned that the proposed upgrade at Glenbrook will result in the loss of Sydney Turpentine Ironbark Forest, a critically endangered ecological community. This community is of national significance and is listed as critical given the very severe decline in its geographic distribution of more than 95% and the continued risks of surviving areas from weed invasion and degradation.

The Society believes that more options could have been explored in terms of the upgrade to avoid the removal and impacts on this critically endangered community. This included consideration of a new pedestrian bridge being built at the same level as the existing footpath, allowing access at the same level, with a lift to the platform.

The Society also does not believe the proposed biodiversity offset, of regenerating and enhancing the adjoining small corridor of native vegetation, is sufficient. The proposal will result in the permanent loss of 31 trees and over 400square metres of native vegetation. Rehabilitating already existing native vegetation, we believe, does not sufficiently offset the permanent decline of this already critically stressed vegetation community. This in fact represent a “net loss” of Sydney Turpentine Ironbark Forest.

If you have queries about this letter please the Society at the contact details listed below.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Madi Maclean", enclosed in a thin black rectangular border.

Madi Maclean

President

Blue Mountains Conservation Society

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