



# Blue Mountains Conservation Society Inc

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**Nature Conservation Saves for Tomorrow**

Date: 5 November 2019

The Hon. Matt Kean, MP  
Minister for Energy and Environment  
GPO Box 5341  
SYDNEY NSW 2001  
sent via email to  
[www.nsw.gov.au/your-government/ministers/minister-for-energy-and-environment/](http://www.nsw.gov.au/your-government/ministers/minister-for-energy-and-environment/)

Dear Minister Kean

## **Protecting the Grose Wilderness and Blue Mountains National Park**

The Blue Mountains Conservation Society (BMCS) is a community based volunteer organisation with over 800 members. It's the oldest continuing environmental organisation in the Blue Mountains. The goal of the Society is to help conserve the natural environment of the Greater Blue Mountains.

### **The Hounslow Classic**

The Hounslow Classic has been held in the Grose Valley for the past 5 years.

This year's 68km Ultra Sky Marathon included the Blue Gum Forest, Lockley Pylon and Grand Canyon (see attached map). These are in the Blue Mountains National Park and parts of the Grose Wilderness.

The event has up to 100 runners.

The [Hounslow Classic website](#) and [Facebook](#) has details and images.

### **The Grose Wilderness**

One of the Management Principles for wilderness areas, stated in the Wilderness Act, is "*to preserve the capacity of the area to evolve in the absence of significant human interference*".

The Hounslow Classic seems to be in conflict with this management principle – especially on the 3km section between Lockley Pylon and The Pinnacles where "outbound" runners pass "inbound" runners. Plus the preceding section out of and into the Blue Gum Forest.

The Lockley Pylon to The Pinnacles section – known as the Lockley Pylon Walking Track is on the Lycon Plateau and is predominantly montane heath. It's a fragile terrain where flora and small fauna face an endless struggle for survival.

Although there would be other sensitive areas over the course, The Pinnacles is half way and more likely to have passing traffic.

### **Our request**

We seek advice on the steps taken by NPWS to preserve the Gross Wilderness and protect other sensitive parts of the Blue Mountains National Park from adverse effects due to the Hounslow Classic and other similar events. We also request to know if any funding from the event is directed to the Blue Mountains NPWS to support things such as trackwork and/or weed control.

Yours sincerely,



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