



Blue Mountains Conservation Society Inc

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Nature Conservation Saves for Tomorrow

02 June 2019

Dr Rosemary Dillon
General Manager
Blue Mountains City Council
Locked Bag 1005
Katoomba NSW 2780

Via email:
council@bmcc.nsw.gov.au

Dear Dr Dillon

Submission: BMCC Draft Weed Management Strategic Plan 2019

The Blue Mountains Conservation Society is pleased to support Council's *Draft Weed Management Strategic Plan 2019*.

This support is in addition to our submission (attached) which was submitted as part of the consultation process. We note that most of the concerns expressed in our previous submission have been addressed or included in the Draft Plan currently on exhibition. We thank Council staff for their continued dedication and willingness to take on board the community's input in this process.

The Society supports the Strategy and has the following comments.

1. The Society strongly supports the tenure-neutral prioritisation approach to Conservation Management as described in "Principles: Issue 1" (p33) and elsewhere in the document. We also support the recognition of the importance of the Community Conservation Program and the collaborative work done by volunteers.
2. We note the elements in "Issue 3: Community Expectations" (p36) outlining the performance gap in the current level of weed control service that is not meeting community expectations. We also acknowledge and agree with the summary in "Issue 4: Sustainable Weed Management" (p37) relating to primary and secondary work, and agree that in general, more needs to be done in effectively communicating these ideas to the wider population.
3. "Issue 5: Weed Management Budgets/Resourcing" (p40). The Society has serious concerns with the level of funding allocation described, compared to other areas of expenditure for Council Assets. We believe this anomaly should be rectified. We acknowledge the possibility

of grant funding, but this also applies to other areas in Council. Further, it should be acknowledged that the successes in obtaining grant funding is heavily influenced by the work done by volunteers in supporting Council's work (for example, Popes Glen Bushcare Group's recently completed, very successful 6-year project (2012 to 2018), funded by NSW Environmental Trust).

4. "Issue 6: Priority Weeds" (p41). The Society strongly supports Council's Urban Weeds Team for the successful implementation of the compliance inspection program, especially the education and encouragement components this includes.
5. The Society strongly supports the inclusion of "Issue 7: Climate Change" (p42). The Blue Mountains community recognises the impacts of climate change on our environment including emergence of new weeds, changes to native flora activity, and changes to fauna occurrence.
6. We acknowledge the inclusion of "Issue 8: Community Engagement and Partnership" (p44). However, volunteer contributions include more than volunteer on-ground hours worked. The Strategy does not acknowledge or value the many additional hours contributed by some volunteers in their areas of expertise outside of "weeding". These areas, such as photography, project management advice, fauna & flora matters and other professional capacities need to be acknowledged.
7. The Society strongly supports Managing Ngurra and Connecting to Country as significant elements in the strategy. Many volunteers work on various sites important to the local Aboriginal community.
8. The Five Year Action Plan (pp51-57) is clear and relatively easy to follow. The Society would like to see ongoing public reporting of progress against the various performance indicators listed and a final report available in 2024.
9. Appendix 2: Priority Weed Lists. Table 3: Local Priority Weeds should show asterisks (indicating a "weed found in the Blue Mountains") against all plants listed.
10. One item that is not part of this Plan but would be of significant assistance in achieving the goals it contains is the adoption of a workable Council Encroachment policy, particularly in relation to Council land. The Society understands that a draft Encroachment Policy is in development but we remain concerned a draft Policy has yet to be publicly exhibited.

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission in regard to this key document.

Yours sincerely



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