



Blue Mountains Conservation Society Inc

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Nature Conservation Saves for Tomorrow

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Re: Lawson Parklands Preliminary Design Stage 1

The Blue Mountains Conservation Society (BMCS) is a community-based volunteer organization with over 850 members. Its mission is to help conserve the natural environment of the Greater Blue Mountains, and to increase awareness of the natural environment in general.

The Society made previous submissions to the public exhibition of the 3 'demonstration sketches' for the Crown Land at Lawson (April 2018) and the Draft Lawson Crown Lands Masterplan (2019). We are pleased to now have the opportunity to comment on the preliminary design for Stage 1 of the Lawson Parklands.

Re-vegetation of the site

- The BMCS strongly supports re-vegetation of the site, particularly the widened riparian buffer and additional planting in the old seepage and drain lines to the creek.
- The creek and riparian planting need to be fenced or otherwise managed to keep dogs who are off-leash outside the designated area (as well as people and bikes) out of the riparian areas.
- The BMCS supports an arboretum and botanical walk planted with indigenous flora species, as previously proposed.

Fenced dog off-leash area

- The BMCS strongly supports a fenced dog off-leash area on public safety and environmental protection grounds, though we do not support the proposed siting of the off-leash area for reasons stated in our previous submission.
- The BMCS supports water play and provision of water within the dog off-leash area. This will help deter dog owners from allowing their dogs to go off-leash into the creek. Dogs have done considerable damage at the creek crossing above Adelina Falls, denuding the creek banks and cutting trails through an adjoining swamp.

- The BMCS requests that Council reconsider clearing vegetation within the dog off-leash area for a 'meadow play' facility. We oppose further clearing on the site – there are already cleared areas within the proposed off-leash area for dogs to run freely.

New circuit path

- The BMCS supports an upgraded shared circuit path but still has safety concerns about bikes, walkers and people with limited mobility using the same path.

Picnic facilities and nature play

- The BMCS again supports the concept of a picnic area and children's nature play area at the identified site.
- Water and accessible toilet facilities must be provided at the picnic area. We understand that no toilets (or water source) will be provided as part of Stage 1. The toilets at the current oval are not open unless there are sports activities occurring there. Given the many other elements being considered in the preliminary design (a second picnic area, hammock grove, outdoor art gallery and various other recreational activities) that seem to be intended to attract more people to the parkland and increase the dwell-time of visitors (including children and elderly people or people with limited mobility), lack of provision of toilet facilities is a major oversight in the plan.

Commercial activities on the golf course/parklands area

- The BMCS does not support commercial activity on the golf course/parkland area.

Native Nursery

The Blue Mountains Conservation Society again wishes to express its disappointment that a potential native nursery at the old golf club site is not included in Stage 1 of the Lawson Parklands. As Council is aware, the Society has been attempting to find a location to re-open its nursery in the mid-mountains for a number of years and this is acknowledged in the Lawson Crown Lands Masterplan. The nursery would not require additional funding or the relocation of the current tenants of the clubhouse. We urge Council to reconsider its position and include the clubhouse site in Stage 1 of the Lawson Parklands.

Yours sincerely,



Tara Cameron

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