



# Blue Mountains Conservation Society Inc

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## Nature Conservation Saves for Tomorrow

23 September 2020

The Hon Matt Kean, MP  
Minister for the Energy and Environment  
GPO Box 5341  
SYDNEY NSW 2001  
[hornsbby@parliament.nsw.gov.au](mailto:hornsbby@parliament.nsw.gov.au)

cc Trish Doyle MP  
Member for Blue Mountains  
[bluemountains@parliament.nsw.gov.au](mailto:bluemountains@parliament.nsw.gov.au)

Dear Minister,

### **Katoomba Airfield, Blue Mountains National Park**

The Blue Mountains Conservation Society is a community-based volunteer organisation with over 800 members. Our mission is to help protect, conserve, and advocate for the natural environment of the Greater Blue Mountains.

The Katoomba Airfield is a Crown land inholding of the Blue Mountains National Park, located on Grand Canyon Rd Medlow Bath. The use and tenure of this inholding impacts the ability of NPWS to effectively manage the surrounding National Park, and Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area.

The Society respectfully asks you to intervene in the current review process to secure the long term future of this site. We respectfully ask that you pursue the request of over 12,000 signatories to the petition presented to state parliament on 1 August 2019

*“to incorporate the Katoomba Airfield into the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area to be managed by the National Parks and Wildlife Service ....”*

### **Commercial Lease**

The Society wrote to you last year (14.05.2019) requesting your involvement in the proposal to grant a commercial lease over this inholding of the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area. Although the lease application to develop Katoomba Airfield as a recreational aviation hub was rejected in January 2020, following overwhelming community opposition, it is currently being reviewed by Crown Lands (DPIE).

Whilst we recognise that the current Crown Lands review of the decision about the commercial use of the Katoomba Airfield is not your direct concern, we ask that you to look into this review as an opportunity to transfer an inholding into the Blue Mountains National Park.

We call on the NSW government to implement a 'whole of government' approach in regard to the future of this site for the long term benefit of the people of NSW.

### **Land Assessment**

There is a long history of land assessments which have repeatedly recommended inclusion of this inholding into the surrounding National Park. Since the last assessment was undertaken, further information of relevance to the National Park is available, in particular :

- the presence of threatened species, such as the *Dasyurus maculatus* (spotted tail quoll)
- listing of Blue Mountains Swamps as a vulnerable ecological community (Biodiversity Conservation Act)
- impacts on tourism (now exacerbated by the increased visitation of the Grand Canyon walking track since the closing of other fire affected tracks)

The Society would be happy to supply detailed documentation on the values relevant to the BMWHA if you are willing to pursue this.

### **Permanent Resolution**

We call on you to take action to **put an end to over 25 years** of assessments, submissions and work by departmental officers and the community, and

- Incorporate Katoomba Airfield into Blue Mountains National Park
- Keep the airfield for emergency use only

We would greatly appreciate a response regarding your position and possible actions on this inholding at your earliest convenience.

Yours sincerely,



Tara Cameron  
President  
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