



# Blue Mountains Conservation Society Inc

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**Nature Conservation Saves for Tomorrow**

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20 November 2020

By email to: [council@bmcc.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@bmcc.nsw.gov.au)

## **Proposed Classification of the Former Katoomba Clubhouse Site: Council matter number A90903-E**

The Blue Mountains Conservation Society (BMCS) is a community-based volunteer organisation 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 Blue Mountains Conservation Society warmly welcomes the Council's decision to purchase the former Katoomba Golf Clubhouse site with a view to establishing a global Planetary Health Leadership Centre. The Society congratulates the Council on its decision to establish the Centre and is very keen to support the Centre. As Council is aware, we promoted a similar idea in our submissions on the Western City District Plan and Local Strategic Planning Statement.

**However, the Society requests that the Clubhouse site be classified '*Community Land – general community use*' rather than '*Operational Land*' as has been proposed in the public notice.**

'Community Land – general community use' classification is suitable for the Clubhouse site as it is to be used '*to promote, encourage and provide for the use of the land, and to provide facilities on the land, to meet the current and future needs of the local community and of the wider public*' (Local Government Act 1993, section 36I; see also NSW Department of Industry, *Guidelines—classification of Crown land managed by council Crown land managers* (June 2018): <https://www.olg.nsw.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/Classification-of-Crown-land-managed-by-council-Crown-land-managers-%E2%80%93-June-2018.pdf>). These are indeed the main objectives of the Planetary Health Leadership Centre.

'Community Land – general community use' classification is also suitable for land '*for which a lease, licence or other estate may be granted in respect of the land (other than the provision of public utilities and works associated with or ancillary to public utilities).*' (Local Government Act 1993, section 36I). The Society assumes that the proposed MOU with Western Sydney

University and the Sustainable Development Solutions Network may involve rights with respect to the land being granted to those organisations. The classification requested by the Society need not be an impediment to this.

'Community Land – general community use' classification will also provide better protection for the community's interest in the land because the procedure for sale is more detailed. This is a particular factor in this case because the Council has spent funds acquiring land that we understand it once owned.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "T. Cameron".

Tara Cameron

President

Blue Mountains Conservation Society

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