



Blue Mountains Conservation Society Inc

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Nature Conservation Saves for Tomorrow

Dr Rosemary Dillon
General Manager
Blue Mountains City Council
Locked Bag 1005
Katoomba NSW 2780
By Email to: council@bmcc.nsw.gov.au

Dear Dr Dillon

Draft Plan of Management and draft Masterplan for Wentworth Falls Lake Reserve

The Blue Mountains Conservation Society is a community based volunteer organisation with over 850 members. The goal of the Society is to promote the conservation of the environment in the Greater Blue Mountains region. The Society would like to make a submission in relation to the draft Plan of Management and draft Masterplan for Wentworth Falls Lake Reserve currently on public exhibition.

The Society is supportive of the intent of the draft Plan of Management and Masterplan, which continues the work undertaken by Council over the past several years to mitigate stormwater impacts, remove weeds and revegetate degraded areas with native species.

The Society also congratulates Council for their real engagement with community stakeholders in the management of the reserve, including educational activities and events. Further significant involvement of Conservation Society, Blue Mountain Bird Observers and Jamison Creek Catchment Community Group is needed as bushland and wetland elements of the Masterplan are activated. This will help ensure the best possible outcome for the environment and improve visitor experiences.

In terms of proposals in the plan the Society has the following comments:

- Strongly support the proposed hardening of accessible foreshore edges and restrictions on visitor access to other sections of the foreshore, especially areas vulnerable to erosion.
- Strongly support closing and rehabilitating the multiple informal tracks in the reserve.
- Installation of picnic/bird hides. This may mean "either/or" but dual purpose structures do not work. Bird hides should be carefully sited to maximise the opportunities to observe water birds in a quiet and less-visited location and picnic shelters should be sited to maximise easy access (near a path). The facilities and use of each type of shelter are necessarily very different. However, the overall idea is supported but further community input is needed on the specifics.

- The intention of using some of the visitor infrastructure for environmental education opportunities is strongly supported, again assuming community input on the specifics.
- The outer loop proposal is supported. However, concerns remain on the inclusion of the specific wording for the short cut central “boardwalk”. The wording in the description implies that this pathway will be built and that it will take the form of a boardwalk. The wording should be changed to make the integrity of both the hanging swamp and the valley swamp (near the current jetty) the prime goal and the method of achieving any pathway should be left open.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft Plan of Management and draft Masterplan for Wentworth Falls Lake Reserve

Yours sincerely

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

Tara Cameron

President Blue Mountains Conservation Society

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