



Blue Mountains Conservation Society Inc

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Nature Conservation Saves for Tomorrow

Dr Rosemary Dillon
Chief Executive Officer
Blue Mountains City Council
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By email to: council@bmcc.nsw.gov.au

22 September 2026

Re: Objection to Development Application No. X/898/2026

Property Address: Blackheath Golf Club, Blackheath NSW 2785

Background

Development application No. X/898/2026 lodged by the Blackheath Golf Club seeks consent to clear 85 remnant native trees. The application does not seek consent to carry out the other works associated with the clearing including earthworks, landscaping and a concrete path. It is unclear whether approval is required for these works. It is also unclear whether approval was granted (if required) for the construction of green #7, though at first sight the activity appears to be 'works' within the meaning of that term in the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*.

The Blackheath Golf Club is located at the head of Govetts Leap Brook which flows over Govetts Leap into the Blue Mountains World Heritage Area. The Brook rises in a large Blue Mountains Swamp (which is in good condition) to the south of the Golf Club and, after running through the Golf Club, exits into a large Blue Mountains Swamp (which is also in good condition) to the north of the Golf Club.

Blue Mountains Local Environmental Plan 2015 clause 6.3 (4) (a)

The Society objects to the development on the ground that, on the information provided in the development application, the City of Blue Mountains Council cannot be satisfied that the '*development is designed, sited and will be managed*

to avoid any adverse environmental impact', as required by clause 6.3 (4) (a) of the *Blue Mountains Local Environmental Plan 2015*.

Design and siting

- 1) The development application does not accurately describe the proposed development in that:
 - a) There is no description of the understory of the remnant native vegetation proposed to be cleared or of the environmental impact of clearance.
 - b) There is no description of the environmental impact of the extensive earth and landscape works including the concrete path. Nor is there any acknowledgment of these works recently undertaken which are part of the expansion of the course.
 - c) There is no description of the hydrological impact of the removal of the trees and, if the impact is significant, the measures to manage such impact.
- 2) The application does not explore opportunities to avoid clearing the remnant native vegetation.
- 3) The application is inconsistent with one of the key objectives of the Private Recreation Zone, namely to '*protect and enhance the natural environment for recreational purposes.*'

Management

- 4) The application describes the presence of Blue Mountains Priority Weeds gorse, Scotch broom and blackberry in the remnant. The development application does not describe the measures to be adopted by the Golf Club to properly manage these weeds.

The Council could also invite the Golf Club to describe the measures that it is willing to take to restore the riparian buffer on the Brook that runs through the Golf Course with a view to reducing nutrient and sediment run off from the site.

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission.

Yours sincerely



Annette Sartor

President, Blue Mountains Conservation Society

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