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PROTECTION OF RADIATA PLATEAU CRITICAL

Date: 1 December 2004

The Nature Conservation Council (NCC) has written to Minister Debus and the Premier expressing serious concern in relation to the proposed sale of three significant sites on the Radiata Plateau.

"The sale of the three sites will ultimately lead to future development which would set a precedent for further degradation of the Radiata Plateau's unique environment" said Daniela Gambotto, NCC's Urban and Coastal Campaigner.

"The Plateau and adjacent area contain high numbers of rare and endangered plants and specialised habitats. Any development of the Radiata Plateau will threaten these endangered communities and increase the probability of future development on the Southern Escarpment between Katoomba and Mt Victoria.

"NCC is strongly opposed to the sale of these sites and is calling on the State Government to acquire the land in public ownership for incorporation within the National Parks System.

"Further, an Interim Protection Order must be placed over the Radiata Plateau to protect it from the impacts of future development.

"It is crucial that the State Government responds to this issue now, as the incremental loss of such significant sites will result in further degradation of the distinctive natural values of the Blue Mountains townships," said Miss Gambotto.

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