



**PENNY SHARPE MLC**

DEPUTY LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

**TRISH DOYLE MP**

MEMBER FOR BLUE MOUNTAINS

**MEDIA RELEASE**

*22 February 2019*

**LABOR WILL WORK TO SECURE RADIATA PLATEAU IN BLUE MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK**

Deputy Opposition Leader Penny Sharpe today announced that Labor will negotiate for the purchase of the last remaining undeveloped peninsula-plateau in the upper Blue Mountains – the Radiata Plateau.

Standing alongside Labor’s Member for Blue Mountains Trish Doyle at Cahill’s Lookout in Katoomba, Ms Sharpe committed that Labor would engage with the landowner of Radiata Plateau to actively pursue purchase of the land and ensure it is added to the World Heritage-listed national park.

“Labor recognises the long-standing community campaign for this important plateau to be reserved in the Blue Mountains National Park, and it is time to make this a reality,” Ms Sharpe said.

“The addition of the Plateau will enhance conservation outcomes in the national park, preserve important Aboriginal cultural heritage, and provide excellent recreation and tourism opportunities.”

Ms Doyle, who has supported the Blue Mountains Conservation Society in their long campaign for the Plateau to be added to the national park, said: “This is a proud day for conservation and heritage in the Blue Mountains, and I am pleased to make this commitment to protect our treasured local environment.

“Many call this plateau ‘the final piece of the puzzle’ for Blue Mountains National Park. I certainly think it will be a stunning addition to the park and one that will be another significant attraction for the Blue Mountains.

“The Environment Minister was in the area recently but left without making any commitments, so I call on the Liberals and Nationals to support Labor’s policy to secure the Radiata Plateau and protect our natural environment.”

In December 2018 almost 40 local environmental and heritage groups, local leaders and statewide environmental groups signed an open letter calling on the Environment Minister to secure the land.

Radiata Plateau forms part of the southern Blue Mountains escarpment and its cliff lines are visible from many key tourism lookouts in the upper mountains. It is rich with biodiversity values including the presence of rare Blue Mountain Swamps and is home to many threatened animals, such as the Spotted-tailed Quoll and Greater Glider.

The Plateau also contains significant Aboriginal heritage, including being a traditional pathway down into the Megalong Valley.

It includes an extensive network of walking tracks used by local residents, bushwalkers and birdwatchers, as well as internationally recognised rock climbing crags and walls.

**ENDS**

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