

# RADIATA PLATEAU

## A MISSING LINK IN THE BLUE MOUNTAINS WORLD HERITAGE AREA

The Hon. Gabrielle Upton, MP  
NSW Minister for Environment and Heritage

Dear Minister

**Radiata Plateau – home to rare species and threatened ecological communities - is at risk.**

Towering high above the rolling Megalong Valley, Radiata Plateau (Elphinstone) is the last remaining undeveloped peninsula-plateau in the upper Blue Mountains, yet it remains unprotected.

Several ancient plant species inhabit the Plateau's complex and convoluted cliffs, heath, shrublands and swamps. It is one of only ten places globally where the highly-endangered Dwarf Mountain Pine and shrub *Leionema lachnaeoides* grow and it is home to many threatened animals, including the Spotted-tailed Quoll and Greater Glider.

An invaluable bushland and fauna corridor between Medlow Bath and Katoomba, the Plateau is a missing link in the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area. It is the last remaining unprotected stretch of undisturbed southern escarpment.

Popular with local residents, bushwalkers and birdwatchers, the Plateau's extensive network of walking tracks and heritage passes are used daily. It is also the site of internationally recognised rock-climbing crags.

Distinctive and prominent, the Plateau holds significance to the local Aboriginal people, being a traditional pathway into the Megalong Valley.

The Plateau's future has been in the balance for over two decades. Held in private hands, major developments have been proposed in the past but did not proceed due to strong community opposition. However, just last year a development proposal was approved by the Land and Environment Court.

The integrity of the Plateau depends on it remaining untouched. While in private hands, future development threatens its ecological significance and will, most likely, curb public access.

Local residents and the Society have long argued that the Plateau should be purchased by the State and Commonwealth Governments for inclusion in the Blue Mountains National Park.

We find it incomprehensible that an area of such outstanding environmental importance remains unprotected. It deserves ongoing permanent protection. Incorporation into the Blue Mountains National Park will ensure this.

**We therefore ask you, Hon. Gabrielle Upton, Minister for the Environment, Local Government and Heritage, to urgently recognise the ecological and heritage significance of Radiata Plateau (Elphinstone) and its valuable place within the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area, by seeking to have the Plateau acquired by the NSW Government for incorporation into the Blue Mountains National Park.**



**WE CALL ON MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**  
to email Ms Upton  
[info@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:info@environment.nsw.gov.au) and support us with our plea to protect this valuable area.  
Send copies of your email to the Society at  
[leaveradiataplateauwild@bluemountains.org.au](mailto:leaveradiataplateauwild@bluemountains.org.au)

Yours sincerely,

Aunty Sharyn Halls  
Blue Mountains Bird Observers Inc.  
Blue Mountains Bushcare Network  
Blue Mountains climbers: Simon Carter, Ben Cossey, Lee Cossey, Monique Forestier, Andrea Hah, Tom O'Halloran and Amanda Watts  
Blue Mountains Conservation Society  
Blue Mountains Historical Society  
Blue Mountains World Heritage Institute  
Colong Foundation for Wilderness  
Dr Haydn Washington

Blue Mountains City Council Mayor,  
Cr Mark Greenhill  
Cr Darryl Bowling  
Cr Kerry Brown  
Cr Mick Fell  
Cr Brent Hoare  
Cr Romola Hollywood  
Cr Don McGregor  
Cr Daniel Myles  
Cr Shae Foenander  
Dr Peter Smith and Dr Judy Smith, ecologists

Emeritus Professor Dexter Dunphy  
Gundungurra Aboriginal Heritage Association Inc.  
National Parks Association (NSW)  
National Trust of Australia (NSW),  
Blue Mountains Branch  
Nature Conservation Council (NSW)  
Pulpit Hill Road residents: Rodney Mathew, Glenn Humphreys, Emil Mandyczewsky and Melissa White  
Springwood Bushwalking Group  
Total Environment Centre  
Wyn Jones



**LEAVE  
RADIATA  
PLATEAU  
WILD**

For more information go to the Leave Radiata Plateau Wild website at [www.bluemountains.org.au/leaveradiataplateauwild](http://www.bluemountains.org.au/leaveradiataplateauwild)

Sponsored by Blue Mountains Conservation Society [www.bluemountains.org.au](http://www.bluemountains.org.au)  
We also thank our campaign supporters Jules Booth, Kamil Sustiak Adventure Photography and Nathan Smith.

We recognise that the Darug and Gundungurra people are the traditional custodians of the Blue Mountains, and we pay our respects to Elders both past and present.

Photographs: © Kamil Sustiak Adventure Photography