

New Tourism Law – What it Means for our National Parks

Blue Mountains National Parks are largely free of commercial tourist developments. New legislation passed by Parliament in early June may change this.

National Parks and Wildlife Service are intent on using the tourist law to allow new exclusive commercial operations in national parks, competing with the restaurants, cafes, guesthouses and other tourist facilities in Blue Mountains townships.

For commercial developments in national parks, the new law:

- Allows more tourist accommodation, resorts and facilities
- Expands the types of commercial developments, allowing the building of conference and function centres, private sporting and recreational facilities, galleries and museums.
- Allows leases for unlimited periods, even for 50 years or more.
- Fails to transparently ensure commercial operators comply with environmental standards

Environment Minister, Frank Sartor, stated to Parliament that the new law “improves the *National Parks and Wildlife Act*” and seeks to “uphold[ing] the absolute primacy of nature conservation.”

Blue Mountains Conservation Society is confident that the new law does not do this.



In the absence of stronger legislation, we will campaign with the community against each and every new commercial development that the NPWS and developers advance.

For more information or to join the Blue Mountains Conservation Society, go to

www.bluemountains.org.au