



Blue Mountains Conservation Society Inc

ABN 38 686 119 087

PO Box 29 Wentworth Falls NSW 2782

Phone: (02) 4757 1872 - E-Mail: bmc@bluemountains.org.au

Web Site: www.bluemountains.org.au

Nature Conservation Saves for Tomorrow

28 March 2012

Mr Barry O'Farrell
Premier of NSW
GPO Box 5341
Sydney, NSW 2001

Dear Mr O'Farrell,

Members of the Blue Mountains Conservation Society attended the Community Cabinet Meeting and public forum held at Springwood on Monday 19th March. Although we commend the NSW government for holding this series of community consultations, we have serious concerns about the Western Sydney Regional Action Plan Community Discussion Paper which was the subject of the community consultation at the meeting.

The Western Sydney Regional Action Plan Community Discussion Paper purports to cover the western Sydney region including the Blue Mountains LGA. However, the content of the Discussion Paper refers only to the areas on 'the plains': the Hawkesbury-Nepean towns and LGAs eastwards to Parramatta. The Blue Mountains is specifically mentioned once, with regard to the Great Western Highway upgrade. The omission of the Blue Mountains from the Plan is most obvious in the section on 'local environment and communities' where the Priority Actions relate solely to the Hawkesbury-Nepean River, a nature reserve in Cranebrook and 'green' initiatives on the plains.

The omission of the Blue Mountains from a Regional Action Plan that claims to include it is a serious oversight. It means that the Community Discussion Paper fails to recognise that the Blue Mountains LGA is very different in its geography and natural environment to the other western Sydney LGAs cited in the document. There is no recognition in the document of the unique environmental, economic and social issues and priorities, including limits to growth, that flow from the Blue Mountains LGA's unique location as a city within a national park and World Heritage area.

Accordingly, the Society is strongly of the view that the Blue Mountains should be the subject of a separate regional action plan that recognises the unique character of the Blue Mountains LGA and therefore its unique environmental, economic and social issues and priorities. In particular, the NSW government should be making a strong commitment, in a Blue Mountains Regional Action Plan, to protect the Blue Mountains and surrounding national parks and World Heritage values.

The Society would appreciate receiving your prompt response to our concerns about the Western Sydney Regional Action Plan and inform us about what actions you intend to take.

Yours Sincerely,

Lachlan Garland
President
M: 0415 317 078
E: lachlan.a.garland@bigpond.com

cc. Roza Sage, Member for Blue Mountains; Stuart Ayres, Member for Penrith; Daniel Myles, Mayor, Blue Mountains City Council; Blue Mountains City Councillors David Clark, Fiona Creed, Eleanor Gibbs, Mark Greenhill, Terri Hamilton, Brendan Luchetti, Janet Mays, Howard McCallum, Alison McLaren, Adam Searle, Chris Van Der Kley.