



Blue Mountains Conservation Society Inc

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Nature Conservation Saves for Tomorrow

Richard Kingswood
Area Manager
National Parks and Wildlife Service
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Dear Mr. Kingswood

Fairmont Resort's Segway Track on Isobel Bowden Ridge

Blue Mountain Conservation Society (BMCS) with currently over 800 members was formed in 1961 as the Katoomba and District Wildlife Preservation Society. This society then split into Upper and Lower Mountains Conservation Society and finally became the Society we know today.

Miss Isobel Kendall Bowden was a founding member of the original society. She was a natural and gifted teacher and a self taught botanist. She gave over 30 years of her life to botanical research and conservation. In 1963 Miss Bowden created a self-guided walk, with signs and notes for walkers called "the Nature Track" at Wentworth Falls.

In 1985 Miss Bowden was awarded the Order of Australia in recognition of her botanical and conservation work.

In 1998 BMCS applied to have an unnamed ridge to the south of the current Fairmont Resort, within the Blue Mountains National Park, named "Isobel Bowden Ridge". The Geographical Names Board of NSW assigned the name in 1999.

Recently a member of the Society was appalled to find that the Fairmont Resort or their subsidiary/lessee has built a constructed track on Isobel Bowden Ridge, to facilitate the riding of Segways.

The Society is totally opposed to the track existing on this ridge, which is of great significance to conservation in the Blue Mountains. We request that the track be closed immediately and rehabilitated to its original condition. We expect local bush regenerators with previous experience in track rehabilitation will do the work.

With regard to Segways in general, the Society believes they should not be allowed within National Parks and certainly not in Parks on the Blue Mountains Region.

Segways are motorized entertainment vehicles and have no place within a national park. Should they be allowed, it may set a precedent, which could see quad bikes and the like, being mooted as suitable vehicles for use not only in Blue Mountains national parks but within other parks in the state.

The photo gallery in the Segway Blue Mountains website (<http://www.segwaytoursbluemountains.com.au/>) shows their use in bush land. This bush land may be the Isobel Bowden Ridge.

In addition to this specific issue, we believe other encroachments into the National Park by the Fairmont Resort also exist. The Society feels these should also be addressed and rehabilitation undertaken.

Please advise the Society of the actions the National Parks Service intend to take to rid the Park of these vehicles and the actions to close and rehabilitate the track on Isobel Bowden Ridge. The Society believes the cost of the rehabilitation should be borne by the Fairmont Resort or their subsidiary/lessee.

Yours sincerely



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