



Blue Mountains Conservation Society Inc

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Nature Conservation Saves for Tomorrow

22 May 2015

Mr Robert Greenwood
General Manager
Blue Mountains City Council
Civic Place
KATOOMBA 2780

Dear Mr Greenwood,

Re: DRAFT OPERATIONAL PLAN 2015-2016

The Blue Mountains Conservation Society has considered the Draft Operational Plan and wishes to make the following comments about resourcing environmental programs and services.

It appears that the downward trend in the core budget for Natural Environmental Services is continuing even under Option 1. Since 2008-2009 there has been a decline in the budget until 2011-2012. Since that draft budget, it has been no longer possible to make comparisons, because of the lack of detailed information.

Council stopped providing program budgetary information on the core Environmental Budget after 2011-2012.

When Council introduced the environment levy in 2006-07, it promised to provide the community with detailed information on Council's Core Environmental Management budget. The Society received a letter from the General Manager dated 5 April 2005 (ref C00145 Pt5/357688) in which he stated "Council will commit to making the specific budgets for the Environmental area public each year. This will enable the community to enter into debate with the council if circumstances arise where budgetary changes are required."

Over 75% of the environmental budget is supplied by council core funding, the Environment Levy only provides about 25% (29% in 2011-12 when the core budget hit a low).

The Society asks if it is possible to receive a list of the programs and their budgetary allocations, which are covered by the heading 'Looking after the Environment'? We request that this be in a form that allows for comparisons with those programs listed between 2006-07 and 2011-12.

Thank you for considering this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Tara Cameron

Vice President

