



Blue Mountains Conservation Society Inc

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Nature Conservation Saves for Tomorrow

7 December 2018

Ms Trish Doyle MP
Blue Mountains
Via email: bluemountains@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Dear Trish

Katoomba Airfield, Medlow Bath

The Blue Mountains Conservation Society is a community-based volunteer organisation with over 800 members. Our mission is to help conserve the natural environment of the Greater Blue Mountains region.

The Society has recently written to the NSW Department of Industry – Crown Lands and Water (the Department) in relation to recent advice received from them regarding the future of the Katoomba Airfield (copy attached). The Department advised the following:

In 2017, following the surrender of an expired Special Lease of the property, the Department conducted an Expressions-of-Interest campaign to assist in determining the future of the site...As a consequence (of the EOI process), a new Licence, conferring on Derek and Floyd Larsen a right of non-exclusive occupation of the site, for Aerodrome and Land Management Purposes, commenced on 1 February 2018. The Licence is terminable at will, and represents an interim tenure while conditions of a future lease are under negotiation.

As you can see from our attached letter, the Society has serious concerns in regard to the process the Department has undertaken to date, including the apparent lack of community consultation prior to the issuing of the current licence to Derek and Floyd Larsen. We also have a number of concerns in regard to the proposed community consultation to be undertaken prior to the issuing of any long term lease.

We are looking to you to provide support and advocacy in relation to this issue including the Society's request, as outlined in the attached letter, that given the long term community interest in the site and the significant environmental issues associated with the site, the Department adopt a "participate" level of community engagement prior to the issuing of any long term lease.

Also attached for your information is a copy of our letter to the Office of Environment and Heritage which raises national park management issues in relation to a possible lease over Katoomba Airfield.

Your assistance in this matter would be much appreciated. Please contact me if you have further questions in relation to this letter.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Madi Maclean". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'M' and a long, sweeping underline.

Madi Maclean
President
Blue Mountains Conservation Society
mobile 0412 428 202 or email president@bluemountains.org.au