



Blue Mountains Conservation Society Inc

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Nature Conservation Saves for Tomorrow

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21 June 2019

The Hon Sussan Ley MP
Minister for the Environment
Parliament House Canberra ACT 2600
Via: Contact your Minister

Dear Minister

The Blue Mountains Conservation Society is a community based volunteer organisation with over 800 members. Its mission is to help conserve the natural environment of the Greater Blue Mountains, and to increase awareness of the natural environment in general.

I am writing to you regarding two issues, which require the involvement of the Commonwealth if continued satisfactory outcomes for the environment of the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area (GBMWA) and its surrounds are to be achieved.

The GBMWA consists of a chain of eight connected conservation areas, being the Wollemi, Yengo, Gardens of Stone, Blue Mountains, Kanangra-Boyd, Nattai and Thirlmere Lakes national parks and Jenolan Caves Karst Conservation Reserve. These areas cover 10,000 square kms and extend 220 km from the Southern Highlands to the Hunter Valley and from western Sydney to the farming tablelands of the Great Divide. It is Australia's most accessible World Heritage Area.

The Society's first concern is that since the listing of the GBMWA in the year 2000, almost twenty years ago, a significant number of additions with World Heritage values have been made to the national park estate by acquisition and rationalisation. Further, certain other lands, outside but adjacent to the GBMWA, such as the Wolgan, Ben Bullen and Newnes State Forests, have similar values. The initiative to include these areas on the National Heritage List and within a future World Heritage boundary adjustment lies with the Commonwealth. The Society seeks your assistance to achieve this outcome.

A second and associated issue relates to the World Heritage values these areas possess. The GBMWA was granted listing for its biodiversity and the diversity of its Eucalyptus species. However, additional criteria of cultural heritage, geodiversity and scenic splendour that these areas possess are not currently recognised and are thus under protected and under valued. A current example concerns the threat posed by the proposed flooding of the Burraborang Valley which will destroy significant Aboriginal

cultural heritage sites. Again, action on the part of the Commonwealth is needed to obtain inclusion of these additional values, possibly in time for the twentieth anniversary of the original listing in 2000.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lachlan Garland', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Lachlan Garland
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CC. Ms Terri Butler MLA, Shadow Minister for Environment and Water
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Ms Susan Templeman MLA, Member for Macquarie
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