



Blue Mountains Conservation Society Inc

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Nature Conservation Saves for Tomorrow

09 July 2019

Mr Mark Greenhill
Mayor
Blue Mountains City Council
Blue Mountains Councillors
Locked Bag 1005
Katoomba NSW 2780

Via email: mgreenhill@bmcc.nsw.gov.au

Dear Mayor Greenhill and Blue Mountains City Councillors

URGENT Purchase of Radiata Plateau – the missing piece in the Blue Mountains World Heritage Area

The Blue Mountains Conservation Society (BMCS) is a community based volunteer organisation with over 800 members. It is the oldest continuing environmental organisation in the Blue Mountains. The goal of the Society is to promote the conservation of the environment in the Greater Blue Mountains region.

The Society and the Blue Mountains community are calling on the NSW Minister for Energy and Environment Matt Kean to make a landmark conservation decision and purchase Radiata Plateau for inclusion in the Blue Mountains National Park. A copy of the letter to Minister Kean is attached.

The Plateau is privately owned and has just been listed for sale on the open market. Urgent action is required - the time to act is now before the opportunity to purchase the Plateau is lost forever.

As you know the community, including the Society, have been actively campaigning for over 35 years for the Plateau to be protected and purchased by the NSW Government to become part of the national park system. The Blue Mountains City Council have also consistently supported the campaign, with all Councillors - Liberal, Labor, Independent and Greens – voting in August 2017 to support acquisition by the NSW Government and inclusion of the Plateau into the Blue Mountains National Park.

To demonstrate the community's commitment to the conservation of the Plateau, the Blue Mountains Conservation Society coordinated a full page Open Letter (copy attached) addressed to the previous NSW Minister for Environment, published in the Blue Mountains Gazette in December 2018. The Open Letter asked the NSW Government to commit to purchasing the Plateau for inclusion in the Blue Mountains National Park and, ultimately, incorporation into the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area. Signatories included local environmental, heritage and Aboriginal groups, local community leaders and state wide

environmental groups (including the NSW Nature Conservation Council, Colong Foundation for Wilderness, Total Environment Centre, and National Parks Association). Blue Mountains City Councillors also signed the Open Letter

The coming together of such a diverse range of local community groups and leaders was historic and unprecedented. It clearly demonstrates the widespread and sustained community support for this valuable part of the Blue Mountains to be protected forever.

The Society and the Blue Mountains community are making an urgent plea that you as Mayor as well as your fellow Councillors uphold the commitment made in 2017 and help us to conserve the Plateau, including making representations on the community's behalf to Minister Kean. The Plateau is available to purchase now, and there is a willing vendor whose preference is to sell to the NSW Government for the area to be reserved for conservation. This maybe the last chance to acquire the Plateau – we urge you to assist us in ensuring a lasting legacy for the NSW community.

We request an urgent meeting with you to discuss the Plateau and its future. Please contact me on the number below to arrange a meeting.

Yours sincerely



Lachlan Garland
President
Blue Mountains Conservation Society
mobile 0415 317 078 or email president@bluemountains.org.au