



Blue Mountains Conservation Society Inc

ABN 38 686 119 087

PO Box 29 Wentworth Falls NSW 2782

Phone: (02) 4757 1872

E-Mail: bmcs@bluemountains.org.au Web Site: www.bluemountains.org.au

Nature Conservation Saves for Tomorrow

The Hon. Rob Stokes MP,
Minister for Planning and Public Spaces
GPO Box 5341
SYDNEY NSW 2001

15 June 2020

Katoomba Airfield

Dear Minister Stokes,

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

The society with a strong coalition of local community groups and individuals has campaigned for many years to have the Katoomba Airfield site incorporated in the Blue Mountains National Park. The airfield is a Crown land inholding of the Blue Mountains National Park.

The society welcomed the January 2020 decision of the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment to decline an application for a lease of Katoomba Airfield as a recreational aviation hub. The Department acknowledged that this was in response to community feedback which saw over 85% of the 1,582 submissions opposing the application

Another major part of the campaign was a petition with over 12,000 signatures presented to state parliament and discussed on 1 August 2019. The petition asked –

“to incorporate the Katoomba Airfield into the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area to be managed by the National Parks and Wildlife Service as an emergency airfield.”

The NSW Rural Fire Service has recently stated that the area is not required for aerial firefighting operations. This announcement has removed a major roadblock to the land becoming part of the National Park. Importantly, in emergencies, essential services operators would still be able to access the land if required.

The Society and the broader community supports this outcome and would welcome the incorporation of the Katoomba Airfield site into the Blue Mountains National Park.

Tara Cameron
President
Blue Mountains Conservation Society
mobile 0419 824 974 or email president@bluemountains.org.au