



Blue Mountains Conservation Society Inc.

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Nature Conservation Saves for Tomorrow

6 August 2020

Dr Rosemary Dillon
Chief Executive Officer
Blue Mountains City Council
Katoomba NSW 2780

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

Dear Dr. Dillon,

Little Switzerland Drive, Wentworth Falls Improvements to Visitor Management

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.

Recent complaint

A resident of Hordern Road, Wentworth Falls contacted the Society. She was concerned about the state of the area surrounding Lincoln's Rock and of Little Switzerland Drive.

On Monday 3 August members of the Society visited the area and were able to confirm the substance of the complaint which was as follows:

'Tourists are leaving mounds of rubbish, including takeaway containers and smashed glass bottles, dumped furniture and human waste. There are no bins, the road is full of large potholes and as a local I just can't believe how little is being done, and how long this has gone on. We get up to 50 cars at a time at Hordern Road on weekends, and there are no facilities for rubbish...Myself and other residents have raised it with Councillor Hollywood who has responded but still nothing has been done.'

In October 2018 the Society made a submission to Council about its proposal to upgrade parking, access and other facilities in the area. So it would appear that while there have been plans for the area, the proposed works have not yet been undertaken, although we note that some earthworks have been done.

We would confirm that Little Switzerland Drive is now almost impassable for normal passenger vehicles and that there are significant quantities of litter and other waste indicating the high number of visits to the area.

It would not have escaped your notice that the number of Australian based visitors to the Blue Mountains has recently increased beyond expectation perhaps because the current pandemic prevents trips to more far flung destinations. While we understand the need to support tourism based industry in the Blue Mountains, we are concerned about the impacts of uncontrolled tourism on our very fragile natural areas like Lincolns Rock, not to mention the effect on residents' lives and amenity. We would add that the Casuarinas in the area are a source of food for the glossy black cockatoo. The inevitable degradation of those sites will surely only reduce their attractiveness and that of the Blue Mountains thus having a negative effect on tourism.

Summary

- The Society has received a complaint about the area around Lincoln's Rock and has been asked to communicate with Council about it
- Council has proposed works at the site but these have not yet been implemented
- For the sake of protecting natural areas in the Mountains from the negative effects of tourism we urge implementation of the above works and trust that the recommendations of our previous submission of October 2018 have been considered and will be included.
- Added here is a link to our previous submission about this site.
<https://www.bluemountains.org.au/documents/submissions/2018/bs181008-lincoln-rock-carpark.pdf>

We look forward to receiving your advice about Council's action to protect the Lincoln's Rock area as soon as possible.

Yours faithfully



Tara Cameron
President

cc. Cr Romola Hollywood (rhollywood@bmcc.nsw.gov.au)
cc. Cr Chris Van der Kley (cvanderkley@bmcc.nsw.gov.au)
cc. Cr Brent Hoare (bhoare@bmcc.nsw.gov.au)



