



# 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](mailto:bmcs@bluemountains.org.au) Web Site: [www.bluemountains.org.au](http://www.bluemountains.org.au)

## Nature Conservation Saves for Tomorrow

31 August 2020

Mr Jim Betts,  
Secretary,  
Department of Planning, Industry and Environment,  
Locked Bag 5022,  
Parramatta NSW 2124

Dear Mr Betts,

### KATOOMBA AIRFIELD

The Blue Mountains Conservation Society (the 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

We are writing regarding the Department's actions to review its decision on 13 January 2020 to not award a lease over Katoomba Airfield to the company, FlyBlue, under the *Crown Lands Management Act (2016)*. The Society made a submission regarding the lease proposal in July 2019. The Society believes that the Katoomba Airfield land should be added to the Blue Mountains National Park and that this land transfer should have happened once the previous lease ended as was committed to previously.

The Society is surprised to see that there are now a series of reviews into the department's decision in January. The Crown Lands Commissioner has reviewed the community consultation for the above lease application. We ask the Department to clarify Crown Lands Division's proposed actions following the release of the Commissioner's review in May 2020. In particular, can you set out what are the steps that the Department and its Crown Lands Division will take and the reasons for doing so. We are very concerned to read (as reported in the Blue Mountains Gazette) that the Crown Lands Division would take "further submissions" from the proponents. We would like to know why the Department considers this is necessary and if this is the case, why no "further submissions" are possible from any other parties.

Yours sincerely

Tara Cameron  
President  
Blue Mountains Conservation Society  
mobile 0419 824 974 or email [president@bluemountains.org.au](mailto:president@bluemountains.org.au)

cc, Minister for Water, Property and Housing, Melissa Pavey  
Member for Blue Mountains, Trish Doyle