



Blue Mountains Conservation Society Inc

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Nature Conservation Saves for Tomorrow

The Hon. Melinda Pavey, MP
Minister for Water, Property and Housing
GPO Box 5341
SYDNEY NSW 2001
oxley@parliament.nsw.gov.au

cc. The Hon. Rob Stokes, MP. Minister for Planning and Public Spaces
pittwater@parliament.nsw.gov.au

cc. The Hon. Matt Kean, MP. Minister for Energy and Environment
hornsby@parliament.nsw.gov.au

cc. Trish Doyle MP, Member for Blue Mountains
bluemountains@parliament.nsw.gov.au

12 November 2020

Dear Minister

RE: KATOOMBA AIRFIELD

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 and we are greatly concerned about the procedural fairness of a review that's currently being conducted by the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment regarding a proposed lease over Katoomba Airfield.

On 13 January 2020, a decision was made by the Department to not award a lease over Katoomba Airfield to the company, FlyBlue, under the Crown Lands Management Act (2016), due to "overwhelming community opposition".

Surprisingly, in response to pressure from the developer there has been a review into the decision. It has been reported (Blue Mountains Gazette, 10 Aug 2020) that the Crown Lands Division is conducting a further evaluation of the lease application and that the community would not be permitted any additional input, yet the proponents of the lease would be invited to make "further submissions".

Community opposition to the proposed venture was resounding. If the goal posts are moved and community voice ignored to satiate the desire of the lease proponents, the flaws in the process will undermine public confidence in the Crown Lands Division.

The Society is calling on you to intervene to ensure that the original decision is honoured and that the Department doesn't bend to pressure from well-connected developers.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "T. Cameron". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Tara Cameron

President

Blue Mountains Conservation Society

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