



# Blue Mountains Conservation Society Inc

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**Nature Conservation Saves for Tomorrow**

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14 February 2021

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## **Supplementary submission: South Lawson Park Draft Plan of Management and revised Masterplan**

The Blue Mountains Conservation Society (the Society) is a community-based volunteer organization with over 850 members. Its mission is to help conserve the natural environment of the Greater Blue Mountains, and to increase awareness of the natural environment in general.

The Society has already made a submission on the South Lawson Draft Plan of Management and revised Masterplan in relation to the clubhouse and its possible community use for the Society as a not for profit community nursery.

We wish to lodge a supplementary submission to re-affirm the Society's position as outlined in previous submissions (April 2018 and December 2019) to the South Lawson Park Plan of Management process.

### **Re-vegetation of the site**

The BMCS strongly supports re-vegetation proposals for the site, particularly the widened riparian buffer and additional planting in the old seepage and drain lines to the creek.

The Society believes the creek and riparian planting need to be fenced or otherwise managed to keep dogs who are off-leash outside the designated area (as well as people and bikes) out of the riparian areas.

The BMCS continues to support an arboretum and botanical walk planted with indigenous flora species, as previously proposed.

## **Fenced dog off-leash area**

The BMCS strongly supports the fenced dog off-leash area on public safety and environmental protection grounds. Dogs off-leash outside of the designated fenced area disturb wildlife, defecate in bushland areas, impact native vegetation and creek lines, and can disturb other users such as bushwalkers and people using the site for passive recreation (eg picnics). The proposed off-leash area has been expanded and is more than adequate to cater for this recreation use. Dogs off-leash must be restricted to the proposed fenced off-leash area at all times. Outside of the fenced off-leash area dogs must be leashed at all times.

The BMCS supports water play and provision of water within the dog off-leash area. This will help deter dog owners from allowing their dogs to go off-leash into the creek. Dogs and owners have done considerable damage at the creek crossing above Adelina Falls, denuding the creek banks and cutting trails through an adjoining swamp.

The Society notes that relevant Native Title Owners have signed an Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA) with the NSW Government and Blue Mountains City Council over Crown lands within the Blue Mountains, and the agreement provides for Native Title Owner input into how these Crown Lands are managed. The Society understands that the Native Title Owners have expressed deep concerns about dogs off-leash at the South Lawson Crown Lands. The Society acknowledges and respects the views of the Native Title Owners, which reinforces the Society's position that dogs off-leash must be restricted to the proposed fenced off-leash area at all times, and that outside of the fenced off-leash area, dogs must be leashed at all times.

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission

Yours sincerely,



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