



Blue Mountains Conservation Society Inc

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Nature Conservation Saves for Tomorrow

14 July 2025

The Hon. John Graham, MLC
Minister for Transport NSW
52 Martin Place
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Hon John Graham,

Destructive impacts of environmental weeds located in Transport NSW transport corridor Blue Mountains

I am writing to you on behalf of the Blue Mountains Conservation Society (The Society). The Society is comprised of over 900 members and seeks to protect, conserve and advocate for the natural environment of the Greater Blue Mountains.

As you may be aware, the Transport NSW highway and railway corridor that crosses the Blue Mountains is located in close proximity to Blue Mountains National Park and the internationally significant Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area.

The Society wrote to your department on 12 June 2024, expressing its concern that extensive sections of the transport corridor are overrun with environmental weeds of state significance. They include Blackberry, Pampas Grass and various species of Broom, and many other environmental weed species. Environmental weeds have potential to invade streams and protected ecological communities, and sensitive ecosystems located in the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area.

In its reply, the department did not reveal a timeframe for the remediation of this problem.

The Society is deeply concerned that extensive sections of the Blue Mountains transport corridor are still grossly overrun with environmental weeds, and that the department has not acted on this matter.

Furthermore, the inaction of the department renders ineffectual the constant, hard work that numerous local bushcare volunteers and residents undertake to remove environmental weeds from bushland and their gardens, and undermines campaigns by the Society to raise community awareness about the impacts of environmental

weeds. Indeed, correspondence in local print media has referred to the department's lack of action and the environmentally debilitating consequences.

State government departments, such as Transport NSW, have a responsibility under the *Biosecurity Act 2015* (NSW) to effectively manage biosecurity threats, including weeds. The Society therefore requests that Transport NSW immediately devise a vegetation management plan (VMT) and weed management strategy for its Blue Mountains transport corridor, with particular emphasis on identifying weed infested sections of the corridor that pose a biosecurity threat to sensitive ecosystems, such as streams and protected ecological communities.

It is imperative that the department immediately implements its VMT, as the onset of spring 2025 will provide suitable conditions for environmental weed seed production and germination within the transport corridor, and distribution throughout the national park and world heritage area.

The Society would be pleased to answer any enquiries concerning this matter, and looks forward to receiving your constructive response to the Society's proposals. If you have any questions in regard to this letter, please contact me on my email at president@bluemountains.org.au

Yours sincerely,



Mrs Annette Cam
President
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cc:

Hon. Trish Doyle MP Member for Blue Mountains
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