

# Group disappointed with lack of action on plateau

Anti-TM development group, the Save Radiata Plateau Committee, has accused the NSW Minister for the Environment Mr Tim Moore at attempting to disarm opponents to the controversial proposal.

Opponents to the development have reportedly sent many hundreds of letters to the Minister and State member Mr Barry Morris claiming the TM development threatens the last remaining undeveloped peninsula-plateau on the upper southern escarpment.

But Mr Moore, in a form letter, told the opponents that the National Parks and Wildlife Service was looking into acquiring the land, and that he was passing the matter onto the Minister for Local Government and Planning Mr David Hay.

But the committee's Mr Glenn Humphries has described Mr Moore's letter misleading and contradictory.

"The National Parks is only looking into acquiring the land. There are no concrete steps to acquire the land. But he is admitting that it is an area of significance," Mr Humphries said.

"He said there is no threat to the plateau, but what do you call a 50-bed academy, with a proposal to expand further. I'd call that a threat.

"Mr response to the letter is that (Mr Moore) is trying to disarm us by creating the illusion that something is being done when it is not," Mr Humphries said.

He added that Mr Moore was simply trying to 'pass the buck'. Mr Humphries said Mr Moore had the power to place an interim protection order on the environmentally-sensitive plateau.

While critical of Mr Moore's reply, Mr Humphries said he welcomed any reply. He said many people were still waiting for just one reply from the office of Mr Barry Morris.

Mr Humphries said Mr Morris had remained silent — in any forum — on this important environmental issue.

At least 700 people have sent letters to either Mr Moore or Mr Morris or both. Others have signed petitions against the TM development.

"Many people are coming to us because they see Radiata Plateau as the tip of the iceberg in the overdevelopment of the Mountains," Mr Humphries said.

"Radiata Plateau has become the standard bearer for other environmental controversies like the golf resorts at Katoomba and Lawson," Mr Humphries said.

At the moment, the NSW Trades and Labour Council still has green ban in force on the site. However, there is some danger that may lapse if the Labor Council is not continually encouraged.

"It is essential that people ring Mr Alf Rankin at the Labor Council to maintain that green ban," Mr Humphries said.

The Save Radiata Plateau Committee will also be going to conservation groups in an effort to again enlist their support for the continued fight in the aftermath of council's approval for the development.

"The formation of all these groups like CORE, POWER and the Pulpit Hill group indicates that council is not performing to the needs of the residents and the community," Mr Humphries said.

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