http://www.bluemountains.org.au

"Hands off our LEPs" campaign

Information Sheet – Blue Mountains World Heritage Area at risk

Did you know?

- The Blue Mountains' economy is totally dependent on local and international tourism and visitation generated by the Blue Mountains natural environment and status as a World Heritage Area.
- World Heritage Listing confers an obligation on the federal and NSW state governments to properly protect and manage this internationally recognised natural asset. This protection includes effective local and regional planning instruments in adjoining areas, such as the Blue Mountains Local Government Area. This is explicitly stated in the joint Commonwealth and NSW Strategic Plan for the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area.
- The new 'one size fits all' Standard Instrument Local Environmental Plan (SI LEP) that the NSW state government is imposing on the Blue Mountains will not allow the transfer of all of the environmental protections in our current plans. Our current LEP 2005 was designed to limit adverse impacts of development on the significant natural environment surrounding the urban areas and World Heritage Area.
- A statement issued by the Blue Mountains World Heritage Institute outlines their concerns about the wider environmental impacts on the World Heritage Area if the SI LEP is adopted in the Blue Mountains. One area of critical concern is that the new SI LEP could see the removal of existing provisions related to managing stormwater impacts from new development. The hanging swamps of the upper Mountains region are especially vulnerable to increased storm water and the resulting silt runoff. These swamps are critical to the biodiversity of the World Heritage Area and to the hydrological systems that feed into Sydney's drinking water catchment.
- The Environmental Defender's Office has provided legal advice to the Blue Mountains Conservation Society that there are grounds under the Commonwealth's *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act* for requesting Council, in conjunction with the Commonwealth government, to conduct a 'strategic assessment' of the impacts on the World Heritage Area of the proposed Standard Instrument LEP.

What you can do

- **Write/email** the federal minister for the environment, Tony Burke, requesting he initiate a 'strategic assessment' of the impact of the proposed LEP on a World Heritage Asset for the reasons above. Write to: PO Box 6022, House of Representatives, Parliament House, Canberra ACT 2600. Email: Tony.Burke.MP@aph.gov.au.
- **Write/email** Louise Markus, MP for Macquarie, requesting she make representations to Tony Burke on behalf of Blue Mountains' residents to initiate a 'strategic assessment' of the new LEP for the reasons above. Write to PO Box 855, Windsor NSW 2756.To email, go to http://www.louisemarkus.com.au/ContactLouise.aspx.