

16 November 2022

Australian Heritage Council +

Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water

To the Australian Heritage Council,

Re: Greater Blue Mountains Area – Support for adding areas to the Heritage Estate

The Australian Plants Society NSW Limited (APS NSW) is a community organisation with over 1500 members across NSW. We strongly advocate for the protection and conservation of our unique natural areas including bushland and waterways, and the incredibly diverse flora and fauna that inhabit these areas.

Our activities involve bushwalking as well as voluntary support for the scientific study and cultivation of our unique flora.

Our members strongly support the proposed inclusion of additional areas to the National Heritage Estate.

This Greater Blue Mountains is a unique Australian conservation area which provides habitat for a diverse array of ecological communities, flora and fauna. The variety of parks and reserves that comprise this estate have enormously high scientific and anthropogenic qualities, as well as providing invaluable ecosystem services and conserving biodiversity.

Areas such as Kanangra-Boyd National Park and Yerranderie State Conservation Area are areas of high botanical interest, with several rare and threatened species of plants known to occur. These areas also hold high biodiversity value, with several threatened fauna species known to inhabit these areas; species which are increasingly impacted due to living close to edges of highly-urban environments. These areas also hold significant cultural values for First Nations Peoples of Australia, mainly the Gundungurra and Dharawal Peoples. We support any additions to the Heritage Estate which have the full support and agreement of these Peoples.

We have recently written to both the NSW and Commonwealth Government to object the proposed raising of Warragamba Dam, due to effects on these World and National Heritage Areas. We hope the proposed addition of areas such as Burratorang and Nattai State Conservation Area, provides more evidence to stop this environmentally damaging proposal. These areas offer excellent opportunities for tourists as well as residents of western Sydney (amongst others) to appreciate our unique wilderness areas.

We fully support the Heritage Council in adding these areas to the Greater Blue Mountains Heritage Estate.

Yours Sincerely,

Dan Clarke (B.Sc – Hons)

Conservation Officer, on behalf of the Board of Australian Plants Society NSW.

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