



19 August 2019

The Hon Melinda Pavey, MP
Minister for Water, Property and Housing
GPO Box 5341
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Dear Minister Pavey,

Completion of Wolli Creek Regional Park

We are seeking Ministerial intervention to ensure that completion of this Park occurs as soon as possible.

The Wolli Creek Preservation Society (WCPS; www.wollicreek.org.au; 350 members) has been working since the late 1980s to see the completion of the Wolli Creek Regional Park and the protection of the popular Two Valley Trail (TVT); over 4000 walkers per month; see www.wollicreek.org.au/tvt/index.htm that passes through it.

The creation of the Park was promised by the then Coalition Minister for the Environment, Tim Moore, in 1988. We now seek action by present Coalition ministers to finalise the Park and have it formally launched as a landmark natural area of regional significance in the inner suburbs of South-West Sydney.

To complete its intended 50 hectares, there are only a few lots, of the original 120 or so, where agreement to transfer the land to National Parks and Wildlife Service management has yet to be reached. A key one of these is currently owned by Sydney Water (Lot K in the attached cadastral map) and it is its transfer into the Park that this letter addresses.

Sydney Water's Odour Control Unit (OCU)

- Responding to a small number of complaints (under five) from local residents, Sydney Water (SW) is planning to install an OCU to treat gases emanating from the adjacent South-West Ocean Outfall Sewer (SWOOS). The odours can be unpleasant at times, but are not health-threatening.
- The OCU is expected to comprise two large vertical tanks through which the gases will pass and significant associated pipework. It would need to sit on a concrete slab projected to be 13m x14m.

Location of the OCU

- The SW plan had been to install the OCU on Lot K, which lies to the west of the SWOOS.
- WCPS has proposed an alternative location of Lot A, to the east of the SWOOS, to free Lot K for inclusion in the Park. Lot K links the Park to its easternmost point (labelled 17 Sec D of DP4709 on the cadastral map) and offers a route up to the lookout point of Wolli Bluff on this latter lot. WCPS volunteers have for many years undertaken bush restoration work, under licence to SW, to restore and enhance the natural beauty of Lot K and the adjacent Wolli Bluff.
- Lot A is currently owned by the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE). Its sale, along with that of other blocks in the immediate area, are, we understand, to provide the funding to enable the purchase of private lands to complete the Regional Park.

WCPS Concerns

We have been consulted in some depth by Sydney Water staff and appreciate the careful and professional way in which this has been done. However, a number of concerns remain, which go to the need for a political decision.

- SW staff have acknowledged that Lot A would make installation of the OCU easier and cheaper and the ongoing maintenance easier because of the street access provided.
- However, the owner of Lot B has, perhaps understandably, objections to the installation in close proximity to his house (and no doubt to the loss of amenity from his current unauthorised use of the publicly-owned Lot A).
- Installation of the OCU on Lot K would require extensive cutting into the rock base of Wollli Bluff marring its natural formation and destroying a fair bit of restored native bushland vegetation.
- It would also result in the start of the regionally significant Two Valley Trail being dominated by a sheer rock wall on one side of a narrow passage, and the slab, tanks and pipework on the other.
- This would affect the enjoyment of many hundreds of walkers from all over the Sydney Basin and beyond, for generations to come.
- The inclusion of Lot K in the Park would increase green-space to go with the anticipated increase in population in a region where such space is very limited, whereas Lot A cannot usefully serve this role.
- Unlike Lot K, Lot A is disconnected from the Regional Park lands and, having been extensively taken over by the owner of the adjacent Lot B, does not contain reasonably recoverable bushland (see aerial photograph of the area involved).

WCPS believes that there is a strong case for over-riding the concerns of a single owner in favour of the benefits accruing to current and future generations of Park users. We ask that you use your ministerial role to assist by ensuring that this happens and that any OCU is installed on Lot A, rather than Lot K.

Yours sincerely,

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