

252 Bathurst Road
Katoomba NSW 2780

29th July 1991

Environmental Management Unit
MWS&DB Building,
115-123 Bathurst St
Sydney, 2001

ATTENTION: Mr. Phil Straw

Dear Mr. Straw,

Following our telephone conversation of Monday 30th July, I am writing to let you know about the Friends of Katoomba Falls Creeks Valley and our aims and the current task we have set ourselves.

The Friends were established (Dec.1989) in order to promote the appropriate recognition and management of a major hanging valley catchment and urban bushland in the middle of Katoomba (see attached map). There is a large body of public land in the valley which is divided into three or four parcels and managed in different ways for different purposes. Our group is concerned that the piecemeal approach to management will continue to result in the degradation of the native vegetation units present, and water quality in the valley streams and swamps. This catchment is the feeder for Katoomba Falls and consists of urban run-off from the crests, springs and drainage from the vegetated side slopes, and large swamps and small creeks at the valley base and side gullies.

The Friends have undertaken to raise funds for and oversee the preparation of an environmental study which we will present to Blue Mountains City Council, and other concerned authorities, to be used as the basis for development of management guidelines for the valley as a whole.

The Board has a major sewer carrier running the entire length of the valley, in some places through swamps, which services a large section of south Katoomba. The Friends, many of whom are residents of this section of the town, have observed the results of manhole covers blowing their lids during or after heavy rain, and have seen evidence of leaky sewer pipes in at least the upper reaches of the valley, and ask the Board to contribute to the cost of the Study. The Friends have won a grant of \$5000 from the National Estates grants program, which we have to match dollar for dollar. We have begun raising money for this purpose, but are also requesting involved bodies for contributions. To this end, some time has been spent formulating a brief which meets the approval of Blue Mountains City Council, which is a potential contributor.

I include a copy of the Brief, which is now complete and has been forwarded to the NSW Department of Planning (the supervising authority for the grants program).

Please note that hydrology has been singled out as an area requiring research and field work within the study. This section, which I have highlighted, is on page 7.

We will compile a list of well-known environmental consultants and ask them to outline the services they can provide within the terms of the brief, and given the budgetary constraint (\$10,000). We will choose a consultant who we feel can give best value for money, while providing an authoritative document which can be used as the basis for long term management guidelines for the valley as a whole unit. The terms of the grant dictate that the study must be complete and with the Department by the end of January, 1992.

We hope that the Board can help in this matter, which we think is an extremely worthy cause.

Yours Sincerely,

Susan Barrett
for the Friends of
Katoomba Falls Creek
Valley

