18 December 2015

**Character and environment key considerations in final Local Environmental Plan**

The Department of Planning and Environment has approved the draft Blue Mountains Local Environmental Plan, ensuring the unique heritage and character of the Blue Mountains and the National Park are maintained.

The Department has been working closely with Blue Mountains City Council to ensure the final plan responded to the issues raised by the community in submissions.

At the start of the process Council requested that seven key provisions be inserted into the plan, including:

- threshold tests for planning rules
- flexibility to enable certain types of work to be done in areas adjoining places where Environmental Conservation rules apply
- a high threshold test for stormwater
- period housing
- precinct controls for the villages
- schedule of unmapped vegetation
- proposed new R6 Residential Character zone.

By working together the Department and the Council have included all provisions except the proposed new Character zone. The Council has deferred this proposal for further consideration in the future.

A spokesperson for the Department said the final Plan was the result of consultation and recognised the unique position the Blue Mountains holds in NSW.

“The Blue Mountains community is rightly proud of its historic towns and villages, its local environment, all living amidst a world-heritage listed National Park,” the spokesperson said.

“This plan provides direction for the future of the area, while protecting the historic atmosphere and environment that local people love.”

The Department thanked the Council for the co-operative approach taken to preparing the Plan.

The Blue Mountains City Council Local Environmental Plan is the final plan to be standardised under the Department’s Standard Instrument program.

All Local Environmental Plans are now standardised across NSW, as part of the Department’s efforts to simplify the planning system.

**Department of Planning and Environment media contact:** (02) 9228 6128