

## Reference links

<https://yoursay.bmcc.nsw.gov.au/southern-escarpment-masterplan>

[Southern Escarpment Masterplan Frequently Asked Questions](https://yoursay.bmcc.nsw.gov.au/64971/widgets/336016/documents/202090)

<https://yoursay.bmcc.nsw.gov.au/64971/widgets/336016/documents/202090>

[Southern Escarpment Masterplan SITES -](https://yoursay.bmcc.nsw.gov.au/64971/widgets/336016/documents/202091)

<https://yoursay.bmcc.nsw.gov.au/64971/widgets/336016/documents/202091>

Advice for climbers to send submissions:

Provide an email submission to.... ( list email address)

Points :

- I am a resident/ rate payer in the BMCC area or I am a regular visitor to the Blue mountains region
- I support the improvement in infrastructure
- Important to maintain nature based recreation access
- As a climber this means: ( list general comments above)

Here is an example email submission should anyone want to use part of it:

Blue Mountains City Council  
Locked Bag 1005  
Katoomba NSW 2780

Dear Mr Mortensen and Mr Johnson,

I write to submit preliminary input into preparation of the Southern Escarpment Management Plan. I am a local Blackheath resident and ratepayer. I am a rock climber and environmentalist and I frequently use the areas included in the proposed plan as parking and access points to the many world-class climbing areas in Katoomba and Leura. The main areas covered in the proposed Plan that I use are Sublime Point, Echo Point, Boars Head and the Landslide area.

The key issue for me and the many other people I know who are rock climbers is preservation of access to rock climbing areas. The Blue Mountains and the areas covered in the proposed Plan are unique and internationally recognized climbing destinations which include some of the best climbing in Australia. Climbing has a long history in the Blue Mountains which are one of the first places that modern rock climbing began in Australia in the 1930 to 1950s. Many of the routes in the areas covered by the draft plan are historic climbs from that period. Climbing is an important outdoor activity that also contributes to the local economy in the Blue Mountains through accommodation, food, and gear purchases from local business and climbing tour operators. The Blue Mountains are also recognised as a major rock climbing destination by the general public and climbing is part of the attraction for many non-climbers. The sport and its profile are growing through recent Oscar-winning films and its inclusion in the Olympic Games. The importance of nature-based recreation activities like rock climbing for mental health have been highlighted in the pandemic and the need to protect access to local places such as those in the proposed Plan is clear.

Related to the areas in the plan, an important issue is the availability of free, unlimited parking. Climbing is usually an all-day activity so any time-limited or pay parking is a major limitation and would reduce the attractiveness of the Blue Mountains as a climbing destination. An improvement to the current restrictions at Echo Point would support improved climbing access. Environmental impacts are also my concern, mainly due to the large number of tourists who use the lookouts - generating both litter and human waste which impacts the local environment. The Plan could improve that situation by installing public toilets at Sublime Point, the Landslide and Boars Head, and better signage and enforcement related to littering. Some public walking tracks, also used to access climbing areas, need upgrading to avoid further erosion such as the Copeland Pass track at Sublime Point.

I look forward to reviewing the draft when completed and thank you for the opportunity to comment,

Kind regards,