



Friday 15 May, 2026

The Hon. Paul Scully, MP
Minister for Planning and Public Spaces
Parliament House
Macquarie St
Sydney NSW 2000

Dear Minister Scully,

Procedural fairness: Emirates Wolgan Valley Resort, Mod 4 (MP06_0310)

Wilderness Australia requests that you ensure the necessary steps are taken to require this proposal be withdrawn and resubmitted as a designated development. If this is not possible, we ask that your Department significantly extend the exhibition period to enable those potentially affected in the Blue Mountains to make considered submissions.

The modification report is on exhibition from 5 May to 18 May 2026. However, the modification documents were not available on the department's website until the afternoon of 5 May.

This modification would increase the originally approved number of trips from four a week to 15 a day (30 total flights/day). This flight frequency is obviously a significant departure from the original development consent provisions.

The proposal is effectively turning a helipad into a private heliport for the exclusive use of Wolgan Valley Resort patrons. While planning regulations do not specify designated development for such proposals, they should be applied in this circumstance.

The proposed 30 flights a day may have unknown and unassessed noise impacts on communities and the World Heritage-listed national park in the lower Blue Mountains, significantly degrading the acoustic amenity of the region. The rising terrain between Glenbrook and Springwood, combined with the legal maximum flying height for helicopters to avoid commercial flight paths, could cause an intensified noise footprint under the controlled airspace for Western Sydney International Airport.

Frequent helicopter flights (more than two an hour during daylight hours) would add to the noise of commercial jet operations in the lower Blue Mountains. These potential impacts were not considered in the modification report.

Furthermore, the controversial glamping resorts under consideration by Intrepid Travel could be adversely affected by helicopter noise. It is unlikely Intrepid would have been officially notified of this

proposal, even though they could suffer financial disadvantage. Other tourism operators in the Blue Mountains may also be materially affected by the increase in helicopter noise.

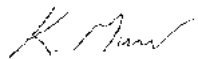
Your government's \$50 million investment in visitor facilities in this new park would also be compromised. Unlike residents, future visitors to the Gardens of Stone State Conservation Area cannot install double-glazing to block out rotor noise.

Given the limited public notification processes and the lack of time, Wilderness Australia has helped people in the Blue Mountains make submissions during the last few days of the exhibition period via webform and email. We did this because many potentially affected people did not know of this proposal until the final days of the exhibition.

I trust that these emailed submissions will be accepted, as they comply with the requirements of a formal submission by containing: a political donations declaration; personal details; a declaration of the type of submission (support or objection); details of the submission; and a signature.

I have facilitated these representations to ensure those concerned with the potential impacts of this helicopter proposal can register their concern before the exhibition period closes. Although this practice is outside normal submission protocols, I hope you ensure these submissions will be accepted by your Department.

Yours sincerely,



Keith Muir
Honorary Projects
Officer Wilderness Australia

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