

Margaret D. Combs

Lithgow City Council

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The General Manager
Lithgow City Council
PO Box 19
LITHGOW NSW 2790

Attention: Mrs. Sherilyn Hanrahan

Dear Sir

Re: Lithgow Local Heritage Advisory Committee

I would like to apply for consideration for appointment to the above Committee as advertised in the Lithgow Mercury on 7 July last.

Attached for your information is a list of my environmental and heritage experience through my roles on various committees both within the District and Statewide.

Having been born in this area I have a deep understanding and love of this region and have been active in managing areas to conserve for future. This region has areas of wonderful beauty which needs to be cared for in order that future generations have the same opportunity to enjoy them.

I would welcome the opportunity to work with likeminded people to ensure that every aspect of the local area is assessed for its environmental and heritage conservation with a view to their protection.

If you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards



MARGARET D. COMBS OAM

10 July, 2017

MARGARET D COMBS

HARTLEY VALE MOUNT BLAXLAND RESERVE TRUST

- Secretary/Treasurer for the Crown Reserve since the formation of this reserve approximately 1987. Includes contact with relative organizations i.e. National Trust, Heritage Office, Cemetery Committee, Department of Lands, etc.
- Preparation of Management Plan and grant applications for heritage maintenance and restoration work at the Hartley Vale Historic Cemetery; as well as for the protection of the natural environment and the threatened species of *Eucalyptus pulverulenta* at the surrounds of Mount Blaxland.

HARTLEY HISTORIC SITE (NPWS)

- Secretary since 1978 including part of special committees to look at Business Plan, Plan of Management, Marketing Plan, Back to Hartley Celebrations and other liaison work.
- Member of the PCG Committee which is overseeing the project work being completed at the Historic Site and has included site inspections and discussions pertaining to heritage items. There is a representative from the Heritage Council on this committee.

NSW NPWS ADVISORY COUNCIL TO MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT

- Appointed by Cabinet to Minister for Environment's State Advisory Council for NPWS from 1996 – 2004 my position on the Council was in the heritage field.
- Part of the special committee that visited the Thredbo disaster looking at both the environmental and the heritage aspects for reporting to the Minister with our recommendations.
- Part of the special committee that overseen the development and passing into law of the NSW Aboriginal Land Act.
- Part of the delegation that overseen and was present at the Mutawintji National Park handback to the traditional owners. Also worked with Indigenous Groups concerning handback of Arakwal National Park to traditional owners and was privileged to be invited to visit a Woman's only site.

- Was a member of the Plan of Management Subcommittee that visited National Parks each month and assessed all aspects of the Plan in line with public consultation to ensure that areas of conserved natural beauty and both European and Indigenous heritage were recognised and conserved.
- Member of the Acquisition and reservation Subcommittee that looked at areas of the state in need of conserving, often inspecting and ascertaining priorities, in line with budgetary constraints.
- Part of the special committee authorised by the Minister to look at political issues i.e. culling horses in Kosciuszko National Park; cabins in Royal National Park and wilderness areas (Wollemi) that had caused widespread concern by the public.
- Members of the special committees included people like Rob Pallin (renown naturalist from Paddy Pallin dynasty) and Meredith Walker (who wrote the ICOMOS Charter) part of our role was to ensure that members of the general public were able to visit and enjoy the beauty of National Parks whilst at the same time balancing the environmental constraints, ensuring that our heritage was conserved. Issues often arose from 4 Wheel Drive and horse users which, necessitated looking at the park area to define areas for each specific groups activities thereby ensuring that the Park was conserved and that park users had areas to enjoy.
- Travelled to South America to inspect heritage areas (Machu Pichu, Easter Island) to analyse how they manage visitor numbers and the impact on the sites from the visitors; as well as to looking at environmental changes occurring with rainforest regrowth following extensive logging in areas like Iguazu and the Biosphere Region of the Amazon River at Manu National Park reporting back to the Director General of NPWS Mr. Brian Gilligan on my findings.