

The Hon. Robyn Parker MP
Minister for Environment and Heritage
Department of Premier and Cabinet
Governor Macquarie Tower
Level 32, 1 Farrer Place
Sydney NSW 2000

3 April 2013

To the Minister

RE: Proposed sale of vacant land (60-70 Bournemouth Street, Bundeena) adjoining Royal National Park.

I am writing to you on behalf of the Sutherland Group of the Australian Plants Society. The Australian Plants Society is an active community organisation which aims to foster support for and promote the preservation and conservation of Australian native plants. Sutherland Group is a long-established, active community group with members committed to conserving Australian native plants in the Sutherland Shire.

Members of Sutherland Group are concerned about the future of the vacant land owned by the Scouts Association of NSW, located adjoining the residential area of Bundeena and the Royal National Park. The land is 5.6 ha in size and located in what is known as Spring Gully. The land is currently covered by native vegetation, a proportion of which is reported to be Sydney Freshwater Wetlands, a listed endangered ecological community under the NSW Threatened Species Conservation Act, 1995. The land is reported to contain significant habitat for fauna and flora, as well as, several aboriginal sites. There are only small areas of freshwater wetlands currently recognised in the Royal National Park, some of which have been degraded by impacts such as feral deer (NSW Scientific Committee Final Determination for Sydney Freshwater Wetlands).

Due to any potential development on the land being heavily constrained by a variety of issues (such as bushfire, creekline protection and endangered ecological communities), we ask the NSW Government to acquire the land and add it to the Royal National Park. This will secure the conservation value of the land and provide an additional buffer of protection to the inner Royal lands, against any impacts associated with the urban development of Bundeena.

We implore you to make every effort to conserve this land for the benefit of native flora and fauna biodiversity, water catchment security and aboriginal heritage.

Yours sincerely,

Dan Clarke (B.Sc.)
Conservation Officer
Australian Plants Society, Sutherland Group

Email: sutherland@austplants.com.au