

22/04/05
Lord Mayor Alex Darling
Wollongong City Council,
Locked Bag 8821,
South Coast Mail Centre,
NSW 2521

Dear Mr Darling,

I am writing to urge you to accept the *Draft Illawarra Escarpment Management Plan* (IEMP).

The Plan (IEMP) was completed at the end of 2003 after extensive, effective community consultation, has withstood comprehensive review and assessment by independent consultants, and is a strong step in improved protection and conservation of the regions' most iconic and valuable feature, the escarpment.

You should finalise the Draft plan for its major points of preservation, heritage and scenic significance. The points include maps showing zoning boundaries; high conservation core area 10(a) and the 10(b) Interface buffer zone; the 50m contour dividing coastal and escarpment ecosystems; recognition of the Yallah-Calderwood corridor as a major corridor for protection. Other important aspects of the Draft plan include the continuation of the Commission of Inquiry Moratorium until finalisation of the Draft plan, and the establishment of a Government-funded Illawarra Escarpment Authority.

The finalisation of the Draft Illawarra Escarpment Management Plan is a vital step in the protection of the Illawarra Escarpment for the health of the economy, people and environment of the area. The future of the Illawarra's environment rests with this plan.

I ask that you support the adoption of the IEMP on May 2nd for the good of the entire region.

Regards,

Ben Grounds
Community Environmental Health Officer