

22 May 2013

Mr Peter Jackson
General Manager
Hawkesbury City Council
council@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au

Dear Sir

**Re: Road closure application in accordance with the Roads Act 1993.
Mt Irvine Road – Parish of Bilpin – County of Cook.**

For many years the Mt Wilson community relied heavily on Mt Irvine Road from the centre of Mt Wilson to Bilpin for access and egress from our isolated location. Much to the chagrin of the community, over the years the road has deteriorated significantly. However, the Blue Mountains City Council early this year repaired the road between Mt Irvine and the Bowen's Creek Bridge. Unfortunately that work was damaged by the heavy rain in February and now requires further repair work by BMCC. Nevertheless, the important fact is that BMCC allocated the necessary funds, major road making equipment and manpower to put Mt Irvine Road in the section the council is responsible for into good condition.

For the information of those copied on this letter I have attached a copy of Council's letter calling for submissions on the proposed closure of Mt Irvine Road in Hawkesbury.

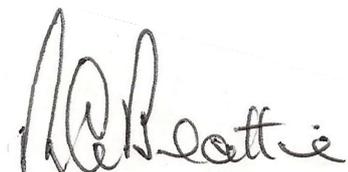
Rather than advocate the closure of that section of Mt Irvine Road within Hawkesbury Council's responsibility, the community of Mt Wilson urges Council to request the New South Wales Government to assist Hawkesbury Council restore and maintain the road in good condition. Following are key reasons for our position:

1. Mt Irvine Road between Mt Irvine and Bilpin is the only emergency response and escape route for the two mountain communities in the event Mt Wilson Road is closed.
2. The Rural Fire Service would be unable to bring additional vehicles and manpower to the mountains to support the three (3) fire trucks presently based at Mt Wilson and Mt Irvine. This is not an unrealistic scenario. As recently as July 2011 the two communities were isolated as the result of a sudden devastating wind storm that knocked down many large trees across local roads, including Mt Wilson Road. Had this event occurred under similar circumstances during a bushfire any closure of Mt Irvine Road in the Hawkesbury shire could have led to the most devastating consequences for human life and property.
3. Mt Irvine Road in Hawkesbury's jurisdiction also provides access for police and other emergency authorities in the event of incidents involving bushwalkers, canyoners and other people who find themselves in distress in the area. Indeed Police Rescue, NSW Ambulance Service, Rural Fire Service and SES all participated in a search and rescue earlier this year.

4. The road has been a wonderful regular bush run track for many years. The well-known Willy to Billy run using Mt Irvine Road has drawn thousands of runners over the years and raised important funds for the local RFS units, especially the Bilpin brigade.
5. Similarly the road continues to have an ongoing recreational use as walkers go from one end to the other.
6. Finally, the road has significant heritage status as being an important employment project during the Depression era and as being a major thoroughfare for the Mt Wilson and Mt Irvine primary producers taking their product to market.

For these reasons the people of Mt Wilson urge Council not to request the closure of Mt Irvine Road in its area of responsibility but to request the New South Wales Government to assist Council restore and maintain the road in good condition.

Yours sincerely



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 Mt Wilson Progress Association
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Hawkesbury City Council

13 May 2013

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Dear Sir/Madam

**Road Closing Application in accordance with the Roads Act 1993.
Mount Irvine Road – Parish of Bilpin – County of Cook.**

The Crown Lands Division of the NSW Department of Trade and Investment and Hawkesbury City Council, under a partnership agreement, hereby give notice that the Minister for regional Infrastructure and Services proposes to consider the closing of the road shown on the attached diagram 'A' and described in the attached copy of an advertisement which will appear in the Hawkesbury Gazette Newspaper on 15 May 2013.

All interested persons are invited to make submissions concerning the proposal to the General Manager, Hawkesbury City Council at the address shown on this letterhead, within 28 days of the date of the letter.

A copy of any objection lodged, may at the discretion of the Minister or his delegate be referred to the proposer.

Please acknowledge receipt of this letter and provide comment on the proposal within the specified 28 day period.

For further enquiries in this matter, please contact Nicole (Spies) Coorey, Senior Property Officer, on 4550 4482.

Yours faithfully

Abbey Rouse
Manager Corporate Services and Governance

Where people make the difference.

Document2/N

All communications to be addressed to the Clerk of Councils,
P.O. Box 148, Windsor NSW 2776
Website: www.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au
E-mail: council@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au
Hours: Monday to Friday 9:30am - 5:00pm