



# **Policy: Council**

## **APPROVALS PROCESS FOR EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES: ECHO POINT LOOKOUT**



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### Document Status and Version Control

#### Ownership and Version Control

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<b>Scope:</b>	<i>Applications for Events and Activities at Echo Point Lookout</i>

#### Version History

Version	Adoption Date	Reason for Change

### **Related Documents**

This document should be read in conjunction with:

- *Blue Mountains City Council Event Application Form* Updated 2 July 2014
- *Plan of Management for Echo Point Crown Reserve*, September 2000
- *Policy for the Blue Mountains City Council Aboriginal Cultural Protocols 2010*
- *Aboriginal Cultural Protocols* Blue Mountains City Council 2010
- *Local Approvals Policy* Blue Mountains City Council 3 April 2012
- *Blue Mountains City Council Filming Guidelines*
- *Draft Public Art Policy* Blue Mountains City Council (currently under review)

### **Related Legislation:**

- Environment and Protection Act 1979
- Crown Lands Act 1989
- Local Government Act 1993
- Roads Act 1993
- Blue Mountains Local Environment Plan 2005
- Draft Blue Mountains Local Environment Plan 2013

## PURPOSE

This policy provides guidance for approvals of activities and events proposed for Echo Point Lookout which is part of the Echo Point Reserve (see Map 2).

This Policy does not apply to Emergency Services Responses and Emergency Services Training which are conducted by NSW Police and Emergency Services, and State Emergency Services.

## OBJECTIVES

1. To outline a clear and practical approval process for activities and events at Echo Point Lookout.
2. To maintain the primary purpose of Echo Point Lookout as providing full public access at all times to viewing experiences supported by interpretation.
3. To ensure events and activities undertaken on Echo Point Lookout are respectful of, and appropriate to, the special significance for Aboriginal people of the place and the adjoining *Three Sisters Aboriginal Place*.

## DEFINITIONS

**SIGNIFICANT CIVIC EVENT:** a non-commercial Council led event which celebrates or commemorates a person or event or achievement of major significance to the Blue Mountains community, and which is adopted as a Significant Civic Event by resolution of the Council. It is noted that Significant Civic Events are uncommon in occurrence, and that Charity related community events will not be considered Significant Civic Events for the purpose of this policy.

**UNEXPECTED SIGNIFICANT CIVIC EVENT:** in certain circumstances there may be a need to consider approvals for an unexpected event to celebrate or commemorate a person or event or achievement of major significance to the Blue Mountains Community. In these circumstances event approvals are delegated to the Mayor and the General Manager.

**OFFICIAL VISIT:** Major visit by Head of State, Head of Government and guests of Government as coordinated by the NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet.

**ICONIC EVENT:** a non-commercial event which has Council, and NSW Government and/or Australian Government support, as well as support from Blue Mountains Lithgow and Oberon Tourism (BMLOT), Blue Mountains Accommodation and Tourism Association, and Blue Mountains Economic Enterprise (BMEE). Iconic Events, for the purpose of this Policy, are considered to be those which demonstrate the unique qualities of the Blue Mountains region; respect the significant cultural values of the location; positively raise the profile of the Blue Mountains both nationally and internationally; occur infrequently; and are able to be staged while maintaining access to the viewing platform for casual visitors. Charity related community events will not be considered to be Iconic Events for the purpose of this policy.

## **BACKGROUND**

Echo Point is an iconic place of international significance and is one of the most visited sites in Australia. Also, as a location with a high international profile, it is regularly sought as a venue to stage both public and private events, to conduct activities such as promotion and advertising, and for installation and display of artworks and performances. However, the scenic and accessible experience provided to visitors at the site ensures a retained quality reputation, equitable (non-exclusive) access, and contribution to the broader tourism economy for the City.

### STATUS OF RESERVE:

Echo Point Lookout is part of the Echo Point Crown Reserve (R 10028680) reserved for Public Recreation and Tourist Facilities and Services as defined under the Crown Lands Act 1989 (See Map 2). The purpose of the reserve is defined as being primarily for tourism use, with a lesser use for recreation. The entire reserve is made up of Echo Point Lookout and Lilianfels Park (See Map 2). Blue Mountains City Council is the Trust Manager.

### KEY APPLICABLE LEGISLATION AND POLICY:

This Policy has been prepared to be respectful and respond to Council's *Aboriginal Cultural Protocol*, and to be consistent with applicable policies and legislation including LEP 2005, Draft LEP 2013, and the Plan of Management for Echo Point Crown Reserves adopted in September 2000.

1. Echo Point is recognised as a place of special significance for Aboriginal people, and provides a viewing platform and public entry to the adjoining *Three Sisters Aboriginal Place* as declared on 17 January 2014 under the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974. As such it is important that the role of the traditional owners is recognised and respected in any Civic Event or activity undertaken at Echo Point.
2. Under *Blue Mountains Local Environmental Plan 2005*:  
Echo Point Reserve is zoned variously Recreation - Open Space; Environmental Protection - Open Space; and *unzoned Road* (see Map 1 below). Under LEP 2005 *temporary uses including* events and activities outlined in this Policy are permissible with approval on that part of the reserves zoned Recreation – Open Space, and the unzoned road, as shown on Map 1.
3. Under *Draft LEP 2013*:  
Echo Point Lookout is proposed to be wholly zoned RE1: Public Recreation and *temporary uses including* events and activities outlined in this Policy would be permissible with approval throughout the Lookout Platform. It is expected that LEP 2013 will be gazetted later in 2015.

### PRINCIPLES FOR MANAGEMENT:

The Plan of Management for Echo Point Reserve (PoM) identifies that “*Echo Point cannot be all things to all people*”. The PoM specifies that the lookout area is to be managed primarily to provide a spectacular viewing experience which is supported by meaningful and enjoyable interpretation. The key facilities to be provided in this precinct are the lookout platform, the Visitor Information Centre, and supporting amenities and parking.

The PoM states:

*“The lookout area near the escarpment is to be kept free of signs, buskers and non-essential facilities so that people can enjoy the vistas uninterrupted.” Secondary tourism experiences are to be catered to in adjoining areas, for example with provision of walking trails into the Blue Mountains National Park, and picnic and rest facilities in Lilianfels Park.*

The declaration in 2014 of the *Three Sisters Aboriginal Place* which recognises the significance of the area for Aboriginal people reinforces the need to maintain the site for its primary purposes.

This policy seeks to maintain unrestricted access for visitors to the viewing platform both day and night, and permits a small number of infrequently occurring **Significant Civic Events**, **Iconic Events** and **Official Visits** to be held on the site. The policy also restricts facilities and activities permitted on the site.

## POLICY STATEMENT

Assessment of applications for events and activities at Echo Point will be guided by the procedures and provisions outlined below. This Policy complements and operates in conjunction with other Blue Mountains City Council Policies being the *Local Approvals Policy*, *Local Environmental Plan 2005*, *Draft Local Environmental Plan 2013* and *Blue Mountains City Council Filming Guidelines*.

## **PROCEDURES**

Upon receipt of an application for an event or activity (\*excluding filming) at Echo Point, the following process is to be followed:

1. Check the nature of the event or activity and determine whether or not it complies with the permissible activities outlined below in this Policy.
2. If the application does not comply with these conditions, approval will not be considered.
3. If activities are permissible, as outlined in this Policy, refer event and/or activity application to the representatives of the Gundungurra Tribal Council and Gundungurra Aboriginal Heritage Association seeking approval in principle. There is a critical timeframe of **1 calendar week** for turnaround of these approvals. Should no reply be received from either party within this timeframe, and after 1 email and 1 phone call follow up, the application will be proceed to assessment under regular Council processes.
4. If the event meets the definition of a **Significant Civic Event** or an **Iconic Event**, a report is to be prepared by the Director of City and Community Outcomes and submitted to a meeting of the Council outlining the reason for the event, how the event qualifies as a Significant Civic Event or an Iconic Event, and seeking a resolution of the Council supporting its adoption as a Significant Civic Event or Iconic Event.
5. For an **Official Visit**, as coordinated by the NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet, or for an **Unexpected Significant Civic Event**, the Council delegates power for approval of the event to the Mayor and the General Manager.
6. Refer event /activity application through regular Council event and/or activity approval processes.

\*N.B. Applications for filming will be considered under *Blue Mountains City Council Filming Guidelines*.

## PERMISSIBLE ACTIVITIES

It is recognised that Echo Point is a high visitation *Crown Reserve for Recreation and Tourism Facilities* and that exclusive use of an area within the Echo Point Lookout will not be granted for an event or activity/ except for the following:

- A. Subject to the applicable Council approvals the following activities are permissible at Echo Point:
  1. Filming (N.B. this includes activities such as documentary coverage for promotion of the region, and planned outside broadcasts);
  2. Research activities such as visitor surveys by recognised research bodies;
  3. Significant Civic Events, Iconic Events and Official Visits.
  
- B. Subject to detailed Council event approval the following activities may be permitted for inclusion in a **Significant Civic Event, Iconic Event** and **Official Visit** held at Echo Point:
  1. Filming;
  2. Photography;
  3. Dance;
  4. Music;
  5. Set up or operate a loudspeaker or sound amplifying device;
  6. Direct or procure theatrical, musical or other entertainment for the public;
  7. Construct a temporary portable stage and/or enclosure for the purpose of entertainment;
  8. Deliver a public address.
  
- C. Newscasts or news broadcasting for radio or television do not require formal approval if they occur on the day of the news item transmission, follow Council's Aboriginal Cultural Protocols, and do not interfere with public access to the area.

Every effort should be undertaken to maintain safe access to the general public to views from the viewing platform.

It should be noted that preparations for setup and pull down of any Significant Civic Event, Iconic Event or Official Visit will increase the period of occupation of the site, and should be addressed within any approvals.

## PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES

Activities, excluding those included in a Significant Civic Event, Iconic Event or an Official Visit, which have been deemed inappropriate and therefore are not permissible at Echo Point include:

1. Street stalls and rallies for fundraising and/or Political and/or Religious Purposes.
2. Installation of Public Art, in addition to that already in place.
3. Busking or street theatre including painting.

4. Consumption of alcohol.
5. Set up or operate a loudspeaker or sound amplifying device.
6. Construct a temporary portable stage and/or enclosure for the purpose of entertainment.
7. Direct or procure a theatrical, musical or other entertainment for the public.
8. Preaching.
9. Weddings and other private ceremonies.
10. Scattering of cremation ashes.
11. Prohibitions already in place (attaching climbing ropes, and no smoking).

N.B. this prohibition does not apply to activities which are approved as part of a Significant Civic Event, Iconic Event or Official Visit, or which are conducted with permission of the Council within the Visitor Information Centre building.

#### PROVISIONS WITHIN ANY APPROVAL

In recognition of the significance of the area to the Aboriginal people special provisions will be included with any approvals granted for events and activities at Echo Point as follows:

1. A Welcome to Country Ceremony must be included at the beginning of any Significant Civic Event, Iconic Event or Official Visit at Echo Point. All Welcome to Country ceremonies should be held in accordance with the provisions in the *Policy for the Blue Mountains City Council Aboriginal Cultural Protocols 2010*. It is expected that the Welcome to Country ceremony will be performed by the appropriate Elder(s) or representative(s) from the Darug and Gundungurra peoples as directed in that policy and associated *Blue Mountains City Council (BMCC) Aboriginal Cultural Protocols 2010*.
2. It is essential that all activity approvals require that permission is sought from the appropriate individual or group in accordance with the Aboriginal Cultural protocols when accessing or using any Aboriginal cultural information.

**Map 1: Zoning map of Echo Point and surrounding area (LEP 2005)**



<b>ZONE LEGEND:</b>		
<b>LEP 2005</b>		<b>LEP 1991</b>
	LIVING - CONSERVATION	 RESIDENTIAL BUSHLAND CONSERVATION (CONSOLIDATION)
	LIVING - BUSHLAND CONSERVATION	 RESIDENTIAL BUSHLAND CONSERVATION (NO SUBDIVISION)
	RECREATION - OPEN SPACE	 RECREATION - ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
	ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION - OPEN SPACE	 ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
		 NATIONAL PARK
		 ECHO POINT RESERVE

**Map 2: Echo Point Reserve showing Lilianfels Park and Echo Point Lookout**



 ECHO POINT RESERVE

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