



Lithgow Mercury
Saturday 10/10/2009
Page: 4
Section: General News
Region: Lithgow NSW
Type: Regional
Size: 221.50 sq.cms.
Frequency: -T-T-S-

Lookout's not so great view

The coordinator of the Capertee Valley Tourism Action Group, Donna Upton, is calling on Lithgow City Council and the Roads and Traffic Authority to act on the state of the popular Pearson's Lookout.

On the Castlereagh Highway just south of the village of Capertee, the iconic lookout is known to the majority of travellers on this road for magnificent views of prominent Pantoneys Crown, Capertee Valley, the Gardens of Stone National Park, and the Wollemi National Park.

All features are part of the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area.

"Tourists to the district regularly traverse the currently unsafe, rough access track to the vehicle to experience the wonderful views over the widest canyon in the World," Mrs Upton said.

"However, once they arrive at the lookout they find, much to our group's dismay, a damaged obelisk, guard rails covered with graffiti and an overflowing garbage bin.

"The lookout is presently a disgrace to the residents and authorities who manage it.

"What was once a loved site has become a neglected eyesore."

Mrs Upton said that for years the Capertee

Valley Tourism Action Group, backed by visitor comments, has been asking Lithgow City Council, Local Member of Parliament Gerard Martin and The Roads and Traffic Authority to do something about this site.

"To date there have been no results," she said.

"In October the Lithgow and Mudgee regions is host to the Orienteering Championships, which is part of the Sydney 2009 World Masters Games.

"Thousands of international visitors will experience our wonderful area and ... our shame if they visit this wonderful vantage point to look out over our beautiful valley.

"This is not the image the people of the Capertee Valley want to present to these visitors."

Mrs Upton said that bed and breakfast accommodation in the valley is heavily booked with overseas visitors while the orienteering championships are being held at Clandulla.

"I know there are bookings for people from Belgium, Russia and many other countries and I hope by going public that the various authorities will do something to upgrade Pearson's lookout before these visitors arrive," she said.



FILLED AN OVERFLOWING: The spillage from the overflowing rubbish bin at Pearson's Lookout
Photo: BRUCE UPTON