

**Submission to the Transport Minister Gladys Berejiklian MP
Wentworth Falls Chamber of Commerce Inc.
Low Hird (Pres) and Bill McCabe (Vice Pres)**

RE: Request for access for persons with disabilities to the rail station at Wentworth Falls.

The request is based on the following:

- 1. 26.8% of the population of Wentworth Falls is aged 60 years plus relative to the Sydney Region average of 16.2% and 13.9% is aged 70 years and over relative to the Sydney Region average of 8.6% (see attached ABS figures 2006). Further, Hazelbrook rail station has disability access ramps under construction with a population of 65+ at 10.5% and a total population of 4447 relative to Wentworth Falls at 20.2% and a total population of 5555 (ABS 2006)**
- 2. there is a significant increase in the approvals and construction of SEPP 55 developments in Wentworth Falls**
- 3. the access to the rail station from Station Street requires the ascent of 20 steps. Ascent from the eastern car park requires an ascent of 44 steps. A descent of 36 steps is then required to the station.**
- 4. BMCC is currently undertaking an upgrade of Wentworth Falls Lake which includes a pathway for persons with disabilities. This will be only the second accessway for people with disabilities in the Blue Mountains which will provide access to a natural area. A rail station needs to be accessible for such persons and their carers to utilise facilities at Wentworth Falls Lake**
- 5. In 2013 to 2015 bicentennial celebrations will be conducted to coincide with the anniversary of the crossing of the mountains and the construction of Coxs road. A major event is scheduled for Wentworth falls at Pitt Park (accessible from the rail station). It is anticipated that in the order of 10,000 persons will be attending this event. Public transport by rail will be crucial hence accessibility for aged and persons with disabilities is a necessity**

Our submission seeks the following to address these issues by:

- A feasibility study and cost benefit analysis for construction of an access for persons with disabilities at Wentworth Falls rail station and covered walkways on all access points given the potential for wet weather and ice in winter**

- A timeline for the design and construction of an access for persons with disabilities at Wentworth Falls rail station to be completed to coincide with the bicentenary of the Crossing of the Blue Mountains and construction of Coxs Road (preferably) or the sesquicentenary of rail construction to Wentworth Falls in 2017.

AGE STRUCTURE

Wentworth Falls	2006		
	number	%	Sydney Region %
0 to 4	339	6.1	6.6
5 to 11	507	9.1	9.0
12 to 17	418	7.5	7.8
18 to 24	307	5.5	10.1
25 to 34	444	8.0	15.7
35 to 49	1,146	20.6	22.6
50 to 59	906	16.3	12.1
60 to 69	718	12.9	7.6
70 to 84	649	11.7	7.0
85 and over	121	2.2	1.6
Total	5,555	100.0	100.0

Source ABS Census 2006.



Ascent to rail station from Station St.



Ascent from eastern carpark



Descent to Station



Wentworth Falls Rail Station



Parking areas for persons with disabilities in the western Station St carpark.