

Email received 8.9.2017 from
Ministerial.Correspondence@environment.nsw.gov.au

MD 17/3223

Dear Ms Setchell

I refer to your letter to the Minister for the Environment, the Hon Gabrielle Upton MP, about "the Drip Gorge" and land transfers in and around The Drip feature. Thank you for your interest and engagement on this issue.

I appreciate the ongoing patience demonstrated by Mudgee District Environment Group and can assure you that the NSW Government remains committed to the future protection of The Drip and that land transfers are progressing.

The area of Crown land covering the visitor infrastructure area and part of the walking track is in the final stages of reservation as Goulburn River State Conservation Area. A request to reserve this land is currently with the Minister for the Environment.

The Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) and Moolarben Coal are working constructively towards the reservation of land owned by Moolarben Coal that surrounds The Drip feature either side of the river. Although the date for transfer specified in the deed has passed, the commitment to transfer the land still stands.

OEH and Moolarben Coal are progressing actions specified in the deed that must be completed prior to transfer. These actions include establishing the terms of an easement, delineating new lot boundaries and registering a deed of restriction on portions to be retained by Moolarben. Unfortunately, these matters have taken longer to complete than anticipated.

If you have any further questions about this issue, please contact Mr Todd Duffy, Senior Team Leader, Reserve Establishment, Conservation Branch, Park Programs, National Parks and Wildlife Service, on [02 6841 0937](tel:0268410937), or at todd.duffy@environment.nsw.gov.au.

RICHARD KINGSWOOD
Acting Director Conservation Branch
Park Programs
National Parks and Wildlife Service
8.9.2017