

MEDIA RELEASE

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Mudgee environment group updates Council on Saving The Drip

Mudgee District Environment Group (MDEG) is giving an update to Mid Western Regional Council tonight on the latest proposal towards saving the Drip Gorge in the Goulburn River National Park.

Neighbours to the iconic natural feature have generously offered a block of private land to the NSW Government on the condition that the entire Drip block and land along the Goulburn River are included in an extension of the National Park.

'MDEG fully supports this proposal as the only way forward to Saving the Drip, a campaign that has been running for the last 8 years,' said MDEG spokesperson, Bev Smiles.

'Moolarben Coal announced a conservation package at the end of last year that will not help to protect the Drip Gorge or the groundwater systems that feed the drips.'

'The 700 ha of their proposed conservation area includes only 0.75 ha directly on the Drip cliff face that will be protected from mining impacts. Moolarben has not explained why they want to keep the rest of the area open for mining activity.'

The NSW Government formed an interagency committee last year, including Mid Western Regional Council, to consider the issues related to Saving the Drip.

'As far as MDEG understands there has been no agreement made within Government on this issue. The Moolarben proposal will not protect this significant and popular area from mining damage.'

MDEG believes that the National Park proposal recently submitted to Premier O'Farrell by the Imrie – Mullins family is the only way forward to Saving the Drip and protecting it into the future.

'We are eagerly awaiting a response from the NSW Government on this exciting proposal and trust that the generous offer to the people of NSW will be fully accepted.'

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