

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**Wednesday 5 February 2014**

### **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.

Mid Western Regional Council, in a submission to the Moolarben Stage 2 proposal, requested a condition of approval '*that the riparian and escarpment area making up the Goulburn River Drip Gorge be transferred to and be included in the Goulburn River National Park as this area is of national significance, for its cultural, scientific, scenic, educational, tourism values.*'

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 announced late last year 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.'

**Contact: Bev Smiles 0428 817 282**

## **Background**

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 proposal of 700 ha in conservation agreements includes:

652 ha of land with underground mining approved. This land will enter an unspecified conservation agreement after 2028. It will be impacted by subsidence damage and mining surface infrastructure.

53 ha State Conservation Area. This tenure permits mining activity

0.75 ha directly on The Drip cliff face to be National Park, not connected to current Goulburn River National Park boundary.

The remainder of The Drip block containing groundwater systems that feed the drips is to remain freehold land owned by Moolarben. This block has no access.