

# Goulburn River Landscape Conservation Area National Trust Register Listing Proposal

The National Trust is seeking to save a scenic and historic section of the Goulburn River, north-east of Mudgee from the likely adverse impacts of longwall coal mining which is proposed close to the site. The Trust is supporting local residents who are urging that a one kilometre buffer zone be established around the area known as “The Drip” or “The Great Dripping Wall.”

The area is also of great significance to the local Aboriginal people and the following description and images are from a talk presented by Julia Imrie of Ulan at a recent Gulgong/Mudgee/Rylstone National Trust Branch Dinner.

The Goulburn River Gorge is an outstanding natural area north of Mudgee which is an important part of our natural heritage with a combination of cultural & scenic values. The area is under pressure from the expansion of coal mining around Ulan

Drip Gorge – The most well known feature is ‘The Drip’ or ‘Great Dripping Wall’, a sandstone cliff face where spring water fed by nearby aquifers seeps through crevices in the rock face, supporting unusual weeping grasses, ferns & bottlebrush

The area is a popular family picnic area and remains a hidden treasure with a cathedral atmosphere 15 minutes walk from the Ulan road, perfect for family outings

The Goulburn River National Park is to the east and the site includes a designated public Recreational Reserve. It is surrounded by crown leases and covered by Mool-arben exploration coal lease.



The Area is currently cared for by the local aboriginal community who regard the river corridor and surrounding escarpments as a whole, making up the cultural landscape.

Local aboriginal leader David Maynard has extensively surveyed along the Goulburn River and this area and found an abundance of artefacts and artwork. He regards the area as part of the Dreaming with spiritual significance



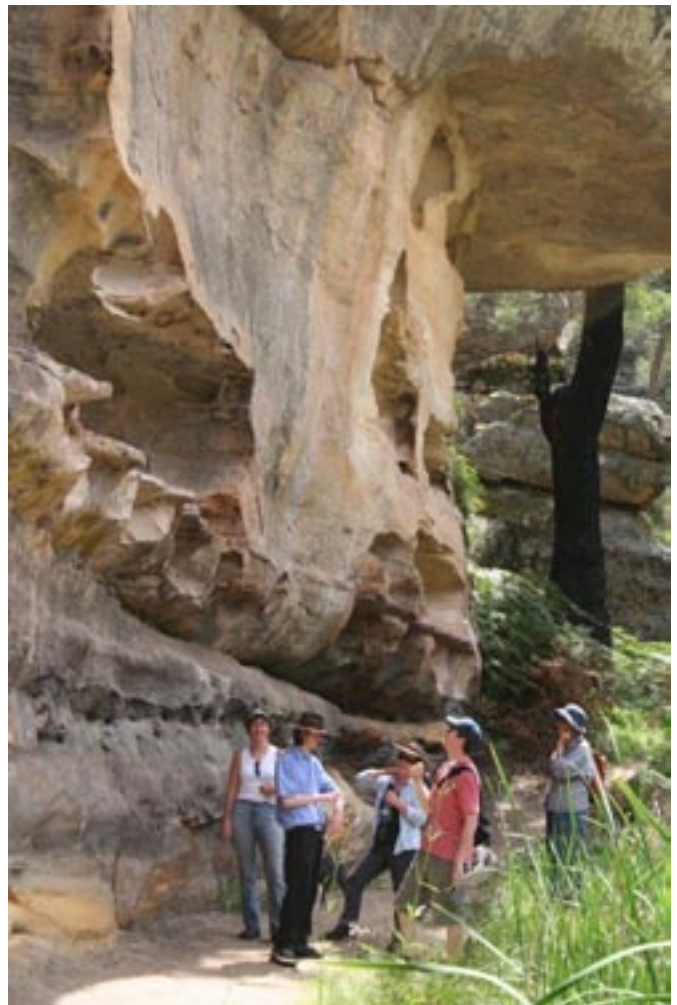
The area is a meeting place where tribes had ceremonial links with their neighbours -Wiradjuri from the west, Wonnarua and Darkinung from the east and Kamilaroi from the north.

The infamous Jimmy Governor was very familiar with this area.

Accessibility from the Ulan-Cassilis road allows families to have a 'wilderness experience' on a par to walks in the Blue Mountains Heritage Area and similar gorges in the Northern Territory.

We are lucky to have our own Kathryn Gorge and the opportunity to appreciate a significant aboriginal cultural site.

The area's high value means that it is used regularly as an educational site. It is used by both indigenous and European families as a recreational & spiritual place.





The area is unique and fascinating for many reasons.

It sits on the lowest point of the Great Dividing Range – where east meets west and supports a high diversity of flora and fauna including species typical of both inland and coastal environments. peregrine falcon, glossy black cockatoo, emus and lyrebirds.

It is the geological western-most lip of the Sydney sandstone basin and is made up of dissected Triassic sedimentary rocks formed 200 million years ago – an ancient landscape that forms the visually dramatic sandstone cliffs and gorges.

About 15 million years ago it was covered by an outpouring of volcanic lava which formed basalt caps that have eroded away over time uncovering this ancient landscape as well as palaeochannels.

Iron from the basalt leaching through the sandstone strata formed hard ironstone bands, visually dramatic colours along the river.

This red cliff face is over one of the proposed long wall coal mining corridors and is under threat of collapse.

This area is the jewel in Mudgee's tourism crown.

It richly complements the very diverse attributes offered in this region and allows families to enjoy and appreciate aboriginal culture outside a museum– a rare resource in this area as not many sites remain.

There is an urgent need to recognise and protect this outstanding area for current and future generations.

