



Robyn Parker MP

Minister for the Environment

Minister for Heritage

MEDIA RELEASE

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NSW GOVERNMENT PRIORITISES WORLD HERITAGE LISTING OF ROYAL NATIONAL PARK

Environment Minister Robyn Parker today announced the NSW Government was moving to nominate Royal National Park, Heathcote National Park and the Garawarra State Conservation Area for World Heritage listing.

“Royal National Park was the first national park to be declared in Australia in 1879, only the second in the world and is the most visited national park in NSW,” Ms Parker said.

“The park was added to Australia’s National Heritage list in 2006 and the NSW Government is excited to start the process of nomination for World Heritage listing.

“Nominating areas for World Heritage listing is a collaborative process between the Australian Government and the states, and I have approached the new Australian Minister for the Environment, Greg Hunt, to seek his support.

“There is tremendous public support for World Heritage listing and the NSW Government will be asking for Commonwealth assistance to prepare a nomination.”

Liberal candidate for Miranda, Brett Thomas, said the Royal National Park was one of the Sutherland Shire’s greatest assets.

“World Heritage listing and the prestige that comes with it would be a worthy recognition for this important area and the NSW Government is keen to move towards nomination,” Mr Thomas said.

“On top of that, these areas are on the doorstep of Sydney and Wollongong and provide not only our community but interstate or international visitors with a place to relax and enjoy the natural environment.”

Heathcote MP Lee Evans said Heathcote National Park and the Garawarra State Conservation Area are rich in biodiversity and in Aboriginal and historical heritage.

“I’m proud to support this nomination for the incredible park that covers a landscape of 16,000 hectares with a wide variety of habitats that support hundreds of plant and animal species.”

“The Dharawal people lived in the area for thousands of years and there are many Aboriginal sites and artefacts including the Jibbon rock engravings. This nomination will help to promote the park and drive tourism to this special place.”

Cronulla MP Mark Speakman said the park is a great spot for bushwalking, picnics, surfing, whale watching or for those who love getting outdoors.

“For over 130 years ‘the Royal’ has been our community’s biggest playground, offering internationally significant natural and cultural heritage.

“It’s time that our oldest national park received was truly recognised on the world stage.”

Menai MP Melanie Gibbons said the park offers locals and visitors a unique natural experience full of natural and cultural history.

“Four millions visitors to the park last year can’t be wrong – the Royal National Park is NSW’s most popular national park and deserves this recognition,” Ms Gibbons said.