Robyn Parker MP
Minister for the Environment
Minister for Heritage

MEDIA RELEASE

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FUNDING FOR THIRLMERE LAKES MONITORING

The NSW Government will establish a new monitoring program to provide real time information on water levels in the Thirlmere Lakes, Environment Minister Robyn Parker announced today.

Ms Parker visited the lakes with Wollondilly MP Jai Rowell to release the final report from the Thirlmere Lakes Inquiry, after a review by NSW Chief Scientist and Engineer, Professor Mary O'Kane.

"The report made nine recommendations, all of which the NSW Government supports and intends to act upon," Ms Parker said.

"The report states that natural climate variability can lead to large fluctuations in the lake level and did not find any evidence of a direct impact of mining on lake levels.

"However, the report is unable to definitively rule out an effect of mining activity, due to insufficient local monitoring.

"Therefore I have authorised for $200,000 to be spent on installing a monitoring network to fill data gaps identified in the report.

"This will also provide the community with near real time information on the level of water in the lakes and the climatic conditions in the park.

"A team of scientists will undertake a detailed design of the monitoring program and consider further research that might be required to better understand the causes of fluctuating water levels in the lakes."

Mr Rowell said he welcomed the Government's support for further understanding of the issues and protecting the lakes.

"Thirlmere Lakes are incredibly important to our local community, who campaigned long and hard for answers to why they seem to be disappearing," Mr Rowell said.

"We will not back-down on our commitment to find answers for the community."

The final Thirlmere Lakes Inquiry Report, the Chief Scientist and Engineer's Review and a companion "easy to read" guide to the findings are available at www.environment.nsw.gov.au/water/ThirlmereLakesInquiry.htm

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