



# **Robyn Parker MP**

## **Minister for the Environment**

## **Minister for Heritage**

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### **MEDIA RELEASE**

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Tuesday, 1 October 2013

#### **NEW VISION AT DHARAWAL NATIONAL PARK**

Environment Minister, Robyn Parker today opened O'Hares Creek Lookout, delivering another milestone in \$1 million worth of improvements and protection for Dharawal National Park.

Dharawal National Park was reserved on 26 March, 2012, fulfilling a key election commitment of the NSW Government.

Ms Parker said that after strong community consultation O'Hares Creek Lookout and other improvements were becoming a reality.

"This new lookout gives spectacular views of O'Hares Creek gorge and delivers the calibre of visitor facilities the community expects in national parks." Ms Parker said.

Ms Parker was joined by Wollondilly MP, Jai Rowell, Campbelltown MP, Bryan Doyle, Camden MP, Chris Patterson, Heathcote MP, Lee Evans and Oatley MP, Mark Coure.

Mr Rowell said O'Hares Creek Lookout is located in the Wedderburn precinct of Dharawal National Park and is accessed from Victoria Road, Wedderburn.

"A bicycle rack has been installed near the lookout to encourage families and cycling enthusiasts to explore this beautiful park by bicycle." Mr Rowell said.

Mr Doyle said residents in the Macarthur and Wollondilly region will enjoy O'Hares Creek Lookout, as will visitors to this beautiful area.

Mr Patterson said a new wheelchair accessible entryway and seating along the walking track provides people with all levels of mobility the opportunity to enjoy Dharawal's bushland and views.

Mr Evans said in the next two years NPWS will build a new car park, picnic tables, a toilet, and interpretive signage that will inform visitors as they journey to O'Hares Creek Lookout.

Mr Coure said Dharawal National Park is significant for many reasons, including its natural beauty, significant Aboriginal cultural values, and important koala habitat, and I encourage everyone to plan a visit.

## FACT SHEET

Visitor infrastructure upgrades so far at Dharawal National Park:

- Installation of new park boundary signage at key entry points to the park, including two substantial entry signs incorporating Aboriginal imagery;
- Installation of new interpretive signage and interpretive shelters at Maddens Falls and at the Wedderburn entrance to the park;
- Upgrade of the O'Hares Creek Crossing;
- Upgrade of the car park, boardwalk and lookout at Maddens Falls, including the construction of approximately 20 metres of new boardwalk;
- Construction of O'Hares Creek Lookout, a new 120 square metre raised lookout with a 200 metre accessible track; and
- Seating along the walking track; wheelchair accessible entryway; directional signage along the track; and bicycle rack near the O'Hares Creek Lookout for visitors wishing to cycle along the sealed management trail to the start of the O'Hares Creek Lookout walking track.

Planned visitor infrastructure over the next two years:

- New car park, picnic tables and toilet near Victoria Road, Wedderburn (for 2013/14)
- New interpretation along the trail to O'Hares Creek Lookout (progressively over 2013/14 and 2014/15)
- New walking track and viewing platform overlooking the beautiful Minerva Pool on Stokes Creek (for 2014/15).