



**The Hon. Robyn Parker MP**  
Minister for the Environment  
Minister for Heritage

MD13/516

The Hon Brad Hazzard MP  
Minister for Planning and Infrastructure  
Minister Assisting the Premier on Infrastructure  
1 Farrer Place  
SYDNEY NSW 2000

  
Dear Minister

Thank you for your letter regarding the Department of Planning and Infrastructure's assessment of the Coalpac Consolidation Project and the Gardens of Stone Stage 2 reservation proposal.

The Gardens of Stone Stage 2 proposal by both local community and state wide environment groups identifies areas within the western Blue Mountains considered of significant conservation value worthy of addition to the public reserve system. Three main areas that have been identified are the Mt Airly-Genowlan Plateau, Ben Bullen/Wolgan State Forests and the Newnes Plateau. Part of this area was progressed to reservation by the former Government. The remaining aspects of the proposal relate to the Ben Bullen/Wolgan area and the Newnes Plateau and have not been formally agreed to by the O'Farrell Government.

The Office of Environment and Heritage has been evaluating the Gardens of Stone Stage 2 proposal and liaising with other government agencies about potential, future options for this land under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*. The Coalpac Consolidation Project area has not been included in discussions with the Department of Investment and Trade, Regional Infrastructure and Services, noting that it is subject to a separate planning process that needs to first run its course.

While the remaining areas subject to the proposal may be worthy additions to the public reserve system, any potential reservation of Gardens of Stone Stage 2 will be complex and will take time to consider, including consideration of the various mining, forestry, recreation, tourism and Aboriginal community interests.

Accordingly, the further exploration of potential reservation options by the Office of Environment and Heritage will await the final decision on the Coalpac Consolidation Project.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely



**Robyn Parker MP**  
**Minister for the Environment**

21/2/13

26 FEB 2013