

National park a bonus

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THE NSW Government can be truly proud of its record in dedicating national parks, according to Keith Muir director of the Colong Foundation for Wilderness.

Mr Muir said the acquisition of the 800th National Park, the 2800 hectare Capertee National Park, creates a haven for endangered woodland birds.

“It will also be a fantastic holiday destination when opened to the public in a few months time.

“The Capertee National Park is just north of a soon-to-be-announced State Conservation Area over the Airly-Genowlan Mesa.

“The planned dedication of the Airly reserve would protect a contiguous forest blanket over a key part of the Capertee Valley by joining with the million hectare Greater Blue Mountains reserve system.

“While Capertee has the biodiversity, Airly has the superlative natural beauty and together they will create a truly great addition to the reserve system”, he said.

“The grassy woodlands of Capertee Valley were poorly represented in existing reserves.

“When added to the existing Blue Mountains Parks, the new National Park will greatly increase the chances of survival for woodland bird species.”

“The nationally endangered Regent Honeyeater will benefit from the protection of 12 kilometres of prime breeding habitat along the Capertee River,” Ms Tara Cameron, president of The Blue Mountains Conservation Society, said.

“The property has 17 different vegetation communities, including Yellow Box Blakely’s Red Gum Woodland and Grassy White Box Woodlands that are Endangered Ecological Communities,” she said.

“The adjoining Crown lands on the Airly and Genowlan Mountains are spectacular areas that can now be reserved after a campaign lasting stretching back to 1985.

“Airly-Genowlan area is also natural history wonderland that will be a prime attraction to the area.

“It is essential that these mountains are reserved and managed in harmony with the new Capertee National Park before its spectacular scenic features are degraded through neglect,” Ms Cameron said.