

STANDING COMMITTEE ON CLIMATE CHANGE, ENVIRONMENT AND
WATER

Public Hearing
Thursday 17 May 2012

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

Hansard Pg 13

<http://www.hansard.act.gov.au/hansard/2009/comms/climate29.pdf#page=1>

MR SESELJA : Asked the Minister for Tourism, Sport and Recreation

“You mentioned Ginninderra Falls. Are you able to give us an update on the status? I have had questions occasionally from people about Ginninderra Falls and where that is up to. That used to be quite a destination but it has been closed, I understand—I have not been there for some time—and remains closed. Is that the case?

Mr Hill: I will have to take that one on notice to get more detail, to be honest. It is not something that is at the forefront with us at the moment.

MR BARR: The answer to the Member’s question is as follows:

The Chief Minister and Cabinet Directorate has advised that the Ginninderra Falls Association is a community organisation advocating for the establishment of the Murrumbidgee-Ginninderra Gorges National Parks, which proposes to incorporate the Ginninderra Falls.

As the proposed National Park is predominately located with NSW it is not a matter the ACT Government can progress. Following a recent meeting with representatives from the Ginninderra Falls Association, the Chief Minister wrote to the NSW Premier, the Mayor of Yass Valley Council and the Member for Burrinjuck, Ms Katrina Hodgkinson MP.

The Chief Minister has sought from Premier O’Farrell the NSW Government’s views on the proposal, and to consider establishing a working group to explore options for the establishment of the Park. The Chief Minister highlighted the benefits the National Park would provide NSW and the ACT and the willingness of the ACT Government to explore opportunities to make the proposal a reality.

The Chief Minister also acknowledged that various cross-border issues would need to be discussed, including future urban development, infrastructure and use of services associated with the proposal.

It is understood that the Ginninderra Falls Association has also met with officials from the Yass Valley Council, and that there were positive indications from the council.

Approved for circulation to the Member and incorporation into Hansard.

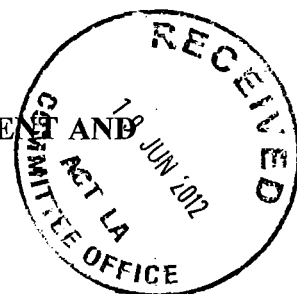

Andrew Barr MLA

Minister for Tourism, Sport and Recreation

Date: 18.6.12



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MS HUNTER : Asked the Minister for Tourism, Sport and Recreation

[in relation to Ginninderra Falls] “Probably the latest question on that would be where the discussions are up to between the Chief Minister, the newly formed Ginninderra park group and the New South Wales government.

Mr Dawes: I was going to suggest that we would take that on notice and ask for some inquiries from TAMS.

THE CHAIR: That would be great. I believe there was going to be some sort of meeting and follow-up.”

MR BARR: The answer to the Member’s question is as follows:

The Chief Minister and Cabinet Directorate (CMCD) advised that on 29 May 2012, the Chief Minister met with the representatives from the Ginninderra Falls Association, who are advocating the establishment of the Murrumbidgee-Ginninderra Gorges National Park. The Chief Minister advised the Association that, as the National Park areas is predominately located within NSW, it was not a matter the ACT Government could progress. The Chief Minister has subsequently written to the NSW Premier seeking the NSW Government’s views on the proposal, and to consider establishing a working group to explore options for the establishment of a national park at the proposed location. The Chief Minister highlighted the benefits the National Park would provide NSW and the ACT and the willingness of the ACT Government to explore opportunities to make the proposal a reality.

The Chief Minister also acknowledged that various cross-border issues would need to be discussed, including future urban development, infrastructure and use of services associated with the proposal.

The Chief Minister has previously advised the group that, due to the proximity of the area to the ACT, it would be beneficial to the Territory in terms of educational and recreational opportunities, and that the proposed National Park’s natural and cultural values are indeed significant.

Approved for circulation to the Member and incorporation into Hansard.

Andrew Barr MLA

Minister for Tourism, Sport and Recreation

Date: 18.6.12.....