



# **Robyn Parker MP**

## **Minister for the Environment**

## **Minister for Heritage**

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### **MEDIA RELEASE**

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Friday, 12 July 2013

#### **ST CLAIR ABORIGINAL MISSION STATION SITES DECLARED ABORIGINAL PLACES**

Two sites within St. Clair Aboriginal Mission Station, south of Singleton, have been formally declared Aboriginal Places, Environment and Heritage Minister Robyn Parker announced today.

Ms Parker said the Mission Church School and the Corroboree Ground at St. Clair Aboriginal Mission Station have been recognised for their special cultural, spiritual, social and historic significance to the Aboriginal communities in the Hunter Valley.

“The Wonnarua Aboriginal Nations Corporation nominated these two areas for declaration to ensure recognition and protection as places of special significance to Aboriginal culture,” Ms Parker said.

“St. Clair Aboriginal Mission Station is a heritage homeland for many Aboriginal children who had been taken there, many of whom cannot trace their heritage back any further.

“These children who are now adults come from not only the Hunter region but from all areas of NSW.

“The St Clair Aboriginal Mission Church School site is a memorial to the Stolen Generations, with hundreds of children passing through its doors.

“It is the only childhood home known to many of the children who were sent there.

“The residents of the St Clair Aboriginal Mission Station become family to one another and those links remain strong with the residents children and grandchildren.”

St Clair Aboriginal Mission Station and its Corroboree Ground have strong cultural meaning and connection for the Wonnarua, the Awabakal, the Worimi and the Darkinjung peoples and their descendants from across the State.

Ms Parker has reaffirmed the NSW Government’s commitment to the recognition and protection of Aboriginal cultural heritage.

“When Aboriginal Places are protected, there are benefits for both the Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities,” Ms Parker said.

“Aboriginal Places tell us a lot about the history of Aboriginal people in NSW and can protect both contemporary and traditional cultural heritage values.”

**Media: Jacqueline Cope-Williams 0438 759 650**