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14th June 2009

Hon. Kristina Keneally
Minister for Planning
Level 35, Governor Macquarie Tower
1 Farrer Place
Sydney NSW 2000

Re: Conservation Land Transfers in the Green Corridor

Dear Minister,

The Green Corridor Coalition is concerned by recent challenges to the validity of some Memorandums of Understanding (MOU) signed by the State Government and large land owners in the Lower Hunter. We confine our concerns with those MOUs relating to the Green Corridor. Those Green Corridor MOUs are pivotal in the transfer of identified conservation lands to public ownership within the National Parks estate.

In particular the MOU that exists with Coal & Allied Limited is instrumental in the transfer of conservation lands to complete the Watagans to Stockton Bight Green Corridor. Failure to achieve these transfers will destroy all our efforts to secure this essential connectivity across the landscape. The C&A land identified in the MOU includes the Tank Paddock at Minmi that has recently been rezoned to 7(b) Environmental Protection in the Newcastle LEP Amendment 4.

Similarly, the MOUs that identify the transfer of land for conservation at West Wallsend (ex BHP lands) and Ash Island (RLMC) are critical to the functioning of the Green Corridor. Please find enclosed a map showing all lands to be transferred under the MOUs and other agreements. All these transfers being between government agencies, except the Coal & Allied MOU.

The Green Corridor Coalition has resolved to fully support the State Government in honouring these MOUs (not limited to just those above) to ensure the ongoing completion of the Green Corridor and requests that The Minister confirms the State Government's commitment to them.

Yours faithfully

Tom Clarke
Secretary,
Green Corridor Coalition