

Tom Duncan  
Clerk  
ACT Legislative Assembly

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Our ref: 25/4986

Dear Mr Clerk

Thank you for your letter regarding petitions E-PET-020-25 and PET-074-25, lodged by Ms Jo Clay MLA which calls on the ACT Government to work with the New South Wales (NSW) Government and the future landowner of the Ginninderra Falls, to develop a five-to-ten-year plan to establish a national park to include Ginninderra Falls as well as the Murrumbidgee and Ginninderra gorges, facilitate public access and ensure ecological and heritage protection.

Ginninderra Falls is located on privately owned land within Lot 61 Deposit Plan 801234 in NSW. The Ginninderra Falls site was listed for private sale via an Expression of Interest (EOI) process in late 2024, with EOI submissions due in early 2025. The EOI occurred during the ACT election caretaker period and the ACT Government did not make a submission. However, the ACT Government understands that Riverview Developments (the private developer participant in the Ginninderry Joint Venture) and Ginninderry Conservation Trust made a submission. It is understood that the EOI process has not yet concluded.

The ACT Government has no authority to require the existing or future landowner to ensure that Ginninderra Falls is made publicly accessible. This is at the sole discretion of the landowner and out of the jurisdiction of the ACT Government.

In 2020, the NSW Parkwood Planning Proposal facilitated the rezoning of land surrounding the southern side of the Ginninderra Falls as C2 environmental conservation land. This is only one zoning level below C1 which applies to National Parks and Nature Reserves.

The Commonwealth Department of Energy, the Environment, Climate Change and Water revised the Ginninderry Joint Venture's *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conversation Act 1999* development approval conditions in December 2024. The development condition relating to a legally binding mechanism for securing the conservation of the NSW Conservation Corridor land, is currently considered as met based on the 2020 Parkwood rezoning process which protects the Ginninderra Falls area.

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**Yvette Berry MLA**

Deputy Chief Minister

Minister for Education and Early Childhood

Minister for Homes, Homelessness and New Suburbs

Minister for Sport and Recreation

Member for Ginninderra

The ACT Government is confident that this rezoning ensures the conservation of Ginninderra Falls and surrounding land in perpetuity, regardless of future ownership.

Yours sincerely

A blue ink handwritten signature, appearing to be "YB", written in a cursive style.

Yvette Berry MLA

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