Minister for Lands, Tony Kelly, saw the past meet the future today as he unveiled a unique and irreplaceable record of the early colony of New South Wales on DVD.

Mr Kelly said this exciting initiative will, for the first time, allow everyone an opportunity to explore the earliest and most valuable records of our nation’s history, while at the same time protecting them for future generations.

“These records provide a unique glimpse into our colonial past”, Mr Kelly said.

“These registers were the first place that people of the new colony were able to officially record their transactions.

“They tell part of the story of the colony’s early development and land history not only documenting land transactions but highlighting the social fabric of the early days of this state.

“They recorded domestic legal matters for NSW dating back to 1794 that in those days included Port Philip, Van Diemen’s Land, Norfolk Island and even New Zealand.

“The original paper records are now more than 200 years old and are in an extremely fragile state. Capturing them in the DVD format means we can make them available to everyone, including future generations of Australians.

Mr Kelly said the Department of Lands and State Records are publishing the Old Register and index in DVD format as part of a commitment to make and share old historical records with the public of NSW.

“The Old Register is made up of nine registers that contain records of NSW from 22 January 1794 to 15 May 1824.”

The DVD of the Old Register is available from NSW State Records at a cost of $125 (inclusive of GST).

Mr Kelly said all proceeds from the sale of the DVD will go towards the conservation of the registers to ensure this unique record of our nation’s history is preserved and available to all now and into the future.

Media Contact: Alex McGregor on 0404 015 556