

MEDIA RELEASE

**The Hon Tony Kelly MLC
Minister for Primary Industries
Minister for Lands
Leader of the House in the Legislative Council
Deputy Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council**



Embargoed: 9am Thursday, 19 November 2009

LIVING DESERT DECLARED THE STATE'S 18TH STATE PARK

Minister for Lands, Tony Kelly, today announced the Living Desert Reserve at Broken Hill has been declared NSW's 18th state park and revealed a new \$90,000 investment in the site.

"The Living Desert Reserve comprises an area of about 2,480 hectares just north of Broken Hill and it's now the first state park in the western division.

"I am delighted to officially declare the formation of the Living Desert State Park that joins the network of 17 other state parks around New South Wales," Mr Kelly said.

Country Labor duty MLC Tony Catanzariti said that around 35,000 tourists visit this reserve annually which features attractions including 12 sandstone sculptures.

"The reserve features a flora and fauna sanctuary and a cultural walk trail that provides insight into the Aboriginal heritage of the park.

"It is a popular area which plays an important role of informing the community about the fragile and beautiful nature of semi-arid rangelands," Mr Catanzariti said.

Mr Kelly has approved new funds from Willyama Common Trust to develop primitive camping facilities on the Living Desert Reserve.

"These funds will help Broken Hill City Council as trust manager to continue improvements to ensure fun and affordable activities are available," Mr Kelly said.

"The Council has already undertaken a number of improvements including the sculpture symposium, access roads, car parking, barbeques, walking trails, arboretum, wildlife enclosure and picnic grounds.

Mr Kelly said the Rees Government is committed to protecting the environment and heritage in this spectacular part of New South Wales.

For more detail visit: www.stateparks.nsw.gov.au/home

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