



I N L A N D  
R I V E R S  
N E T W O R K

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Monday 13 March 2017

Heritage Council of NSW  
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**Support for Proposed listing on the State Heritage Register of:  
Cliefden Caves Area – Limestone Group and Palaeontological Site**

The Inland Rivers Network (“IRN”) is a coalition of environment groups and individuals that has been advocating for healthy rivers, wetlands and groundwater in the Murray-Darling Basin since 1991.

IRN fully supports the proposed listing of Cliefden Caves Area – Limestone Group and Palaeontological Site on the State Heritage Register as a site of heritage significance to the people of NSW.

The Cliefden Caves Limestone Group is the subject of current, ongoing research in the areas of palaeontology, karst processes, climate change, geology, hydrology and archaeology. It is an outstanding resource with the potential for research in all these areas of study to contribute to an understanding of the natural history of NSW.

IRN is particularly interested in the need for ongoing research into the hydrology of this significant karst system. The connectivity in the landscape with groundwater and surface water sources is essential knowledge to inform policy and decision-making in regard to improved management of water use into the future.

The protection through listing on the State Heritage Register will enable this research to be undertaken and thus improve our understanding of the movement of water through the landscape and through timescales.

We consider that the *Statement of Significance* lodged with the intention to list provides full and clear evidence of the importance of including the Cliefden Caves area on the register.

Many of the criteria for listing are met because of the significant state, national and international heritage values of area.

We note that The Cliefden Caves area had been listed on the Register of the National Estate prior to its closure in 2007.

IRN commends the Heritage Council for the intention to list Cliefden Caves Area – Limestone Group and Palaeontological Site on the State Heritage Register.

We fully support this proposal and eagerly await an announcement that the process has been finalised.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "B. Smiles". The letters are cursive and fluid.

President