



***Dharriwaa (“common meeting place”) Elders Group***

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**a program of the Walgett Aboriginal Medical Service Co-operative Ltd NSW**

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I only learnt about your considerations of plants, animals and other living things for scheduling in the NSW Threatened Species Act today.

I fully support your proposal to schedule Coolabah – Black Box woodlands of our region as an endangered ecological community. My support is given for many reasons. I am very pleased that yourselves and the NSW government are attempting to protect our valuable native plants and animals from unchecked development. Our Elders Group often finds itself a lone voice in these Aboriginal cultural heritage / natural resource matters. I believe that the scheduling of these woodlands is important for our local Aboriginal cultural heritage and Australia's.

Please include us on your mailing lists for notifications of proposals for scheduling in the future. We could not find the proposed lists on the www, only the final determinations. We were not aware of your media advertisements which is why I was unable to respond earlier.

I would also like to encourage more projects on the ground in our region which assess, value and monitor our natural resources. I believe a lot is missed because government workers never spend enough time here on the ground.

Yours sincerely

George Rose OAM

**Speaker Dharriwaa Elders Group**

*The Dharriwaa Elders Group was born at its first meeting 20 November 2002. It is a project of the Walgett Aboriginal Medical Service and includes:*

- *Supporting elders to resume leadership roles in the community*
- *Promotion of local Aboriginal cultural and language knowledge*
- *Community development in particular the development of local Aboriginal cultural heritage and natural resource management*
- *Recording of cultural knowledge of the elderly*
- *Culture and language camps for elders and youth*

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