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MEDIA RELEASE

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COLONIAL SETTLEMENT STATE HERITAGE LISTED

One of the earliest sites of European habitation west of the Blue Mountains has been listed on the State Heritage Register, to protect it for future generations

NSW Minister for Planning, Tony Kelly, said the former military station and burial site at Glenroy, near the junction of the Cox's and Lett Rivers, is the location of a number of significant firsts in the colonial history of the State.

"The site was the location where Governor Macquarie and his party stopped to rest after crossing the Blue Mountains on his first and subsequent tours west following the opening of Cox's Road," the Minister said.

"The establishment of a Government Provision Depot with cattle pen, stockyard and huts in 1815, is representative of early policy to prevent settlement taking place outside of Government control.

"As such, it is an example of some of the earliest European incursions into, and claims over, the land west of the Blue Mountains for the extension of pastoralism.

"It was also the location of the first Divine (Anglican) Service west of the mountains during Macquarie's first stay in April 1815.

"Sadly, it also sits in the historical record as one of the earliest, and perhaps first, sites of conflict between Europeans and Aborigines west of the Blue Mountains.

"The 1816 raid on the provision depot by Aborigines from the other side of the Blue Mountains resulted in one of only four recorded violent incidents during the relatively peaceful period in the region between 1815 and 1822.

"After the raid, Macquarie sent soldiers to the depot to protect stockmen and travellers and it became a military station, but by 1837 the military presence had been withdrawn and the station closed."

Member for Bathurst, Gerard Martin, said the location was also an inspiration to explorers and other visitors to the station, including well-known Government surveyors such as James Meehan and John Oxley and some early French explorers.

"The curtilage of the site's listing recognises this aspect of its importance by seeking to preserve the views to and from the river," Mr Martin said.

The buildings themselves no longer exist, but remaining features of the site include:

- The grave of Eliza Rodd, daughter of career soldier James Rodd who was stationed at Glenroy between 1829 and 1832;
- River crossings and building platforms in the location of the military station buildings; and
- Fragments of china and other deposits which regularly appear on the surface.

Today's listing means any major works at the site would be subject to decisions or advice from the Heritage Council of NSW.
