

# Three Birroguins reflected in Aboriginal dreamtime

CAMDEN Haven's North Brother Mountain and the Dooragan National Park are steeped in Aboriginal history.

Environment minister Pam Allan said the area was a very prominent location which figured largely not only through European history but Aboriginal history as well.

North Brother Mountain is also known as Laurieton Mountain and Big Brother to the two nearby mountains of Middle Brother and South Brother, which are both contained within state forest land 15 and 10 kilometres away respectively.

"To local Aboriginal tribes, however, the mountains are known as the Three Birroguins and their creation is reflected in the dreamtime legend of the deaths and burials

of three brothers from the Birpai tribe," Ms Allan said.

"As legend has it, two elder brothers were killed during their initiation by a wicked witch woman and their remains were buried by their younger brother where North and Middle Brother Mountains stand today.

"The younger brother was so ashamed he had not saved them he killed himself at the site of South Brother Mountain.

"Despite the name of 'Big Brother', this mountain — measuring 487 metres — is the smallest of the three mountains but the use of this name makes affectionate reference to its role as protector of the local community from fierce storms and the area remains of immense significance to Aboriginals.

"Ironically, the three mountains were also sighted by Captain Cook who unwittingly also referred to them as the 'Three Brothers'.

"While most people are more familiar with the natural tourist icons 'The Three Sisters' in the Blue Mountains, this addition to Dooragan National Park will highlight the significance of their lesser known counterparts, 'The Three Brothers'.

"North Brother Mountain also gained further notoriety in 1975 when it became the site for the launch of an experimental hang gliding kite which, in turn, has launched an adventure industry and established world-wide fame among hang glider pilots in the process as the largest north-east facing hang gliding site in Australia."