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Land swap considered

BY JESSICA MAHAR IN STATE PARLIAMENT
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A POTENTIAL land swap could see Wollondilly Council become the owner of the old Menangle School site.

The Education Department is waiting to hear whether the council is in favour of the plan. At the council's December meeting, councillors will vote on a land swap which would give the council the old Menangle School site in exchange for giving the Education Department a parcel of land in Dowle Street, Douglas Park.

Representatives from the Education Department and Wollondilly Council have met several times to discuss the proposal.

The State Government purchased the Menangle land from the Macarthur Family in the 1870s.

An Education Department spokeswoman said

the department had authorised council to enter the property and secure the building from further vandalism, pending its ultimate transfer to council. "If the proposal goes ahead, the old school site will be used for community purposes," she said.

At a recent budget estimates hearing, Education director general Michael Coutts-Trotter took a question on notice about where discussions were at with the sale/transfer.

"There has been ongoing vandalism and destruction at the site," Liberal MLC Robyn Parker said.

Councillors will vote on the land swap plan on December 15.

They will also decide whether council should buy other lots from the Department of Education in Coull Street, Picton.