



The Heritage Council of NSW

'Heritage Council role and functions will be clearly understood'

Heritage Council Policy

OUR GOAL: the Heritage Council will have a clear position on the social, economic and environmental benefits of heritage conservation

Participating in National Forums

National Chairs and Officials of Australia and New Zealand

The annual meeting of the Heritage Chairs and Officials of Australia and New Zealand (HCOANZ) was held in Alice Springs in the Northern Territory in March 2005.

A number of key matters of national heritage interest were discussed. Agreement was reached to prepare a submission on behalf of HCOANZ to the Australian Government's Productivity Commission Inquiry into Historic Heritage. The Heritage Office is to manage this project.

Other matters covered at the meeting included:

- disposal of Commonwealth property;
- guideline for development applications;
- economic value of heritage;
- rural heritage;
- wind farms; and
- heritage tourism.

The next meeting will be held in Hobart in 2006.

Environment Protection and Heritage Council

The Director of the Heritage Office represents New South Wales on the Environmental Protection and Heritage Council, along with the Director-General of the Department of Environment and Conservation. The council received the *Making It Happen* report, which concerns available mechanisms and incentives to encourage the conservation of heritage places in Australia. A second *Going Places* report by the National Heritage Tourism Taskforce outlining achievements in integrating heritage into tourism opportunities and identifying areas for further investigation was also received and noted.

Heritage Council Decisions

OUR GOAL: the community will have access to and understand the decisions of the Heritage Council

Heritage Council Meetings

We are committed to giving the community access to the minutes from Heritage Council meetings to increase understanding and foster transparent decision making. This year we posted agendas on the Heritage Office website from all meetings of the full Heritage Council, the State Heritage Register Committee and the Approvals Committee. Minutes from these meetings were made available online once confirmed at the subsequent meeting.

Key strategies for next year

In 2005-06 we aim to:

- finalise a comprehensive policy document that clearly articulates the Heritage Council policies on appropriate change to heritage items;
- contribute to the *2006 NSW State of the Environment Report* produced by the Department of Environment and Conservation.

Opposite: NSW Heritage Office, Parramatta. Photograph by Nathanael Hughes.