



NEWS RELEASE
The Hon. Kristina Keneally MP
Member for Heffron
Minister for Planning
Minister for Redfern Waterloo

Friday 27 February, 2009

NEW APPROACH FOR HERITAGE LISTINGS

Planning Minister, Kristina Keneally, today officially launched a new Theme-based Listings program for items and places nominated for inclusion on the State Heritage Register.

A recent review of the NSW Heritage Act recommended a thematically-based program be established to provide a strategic and systematic framework for managing the listing processes.

Joined by the Heritage Council Chair, Gabrielle Kibble, Director of the Historic Houses Trust, Kate Clark, and the Director of the Heritage Branch, Petula Samios, Ms Keneally announced the State Heritage Register Thematic Listings program for 2009 – 2010 would focus on four key themes:

- Aboriginal Heritage,
- Convicts,
- Governor Macquarie; and
- First and Second World Wars.

Ms Keneally said the aim is to reflect the cultural richness and diversity of the history and heritage of New South Wales.

“The Thematic Listings initiative will help maintain a more balanced State Heritage Register that accurately records our state’s most significant places and objects and represents the breadth of the State’s heritage.

“The Heritage Branch will continue to prioritise places of State significance under immediate threat and will still receive nominations for heritage items and places that do not fall within the new themes.”

Ms Keneally also announced the Government would be forgiving 75 outstanding heritage loans totalling nearly \$2.5 million, the oldest of which was issued in 1982.

Ms Keneally said the majority of the outstanding heritage loans were situated in regional and rural NSW and scrapping them would help ease the financial pressure these owners face.

“The decision will assist private owners, local councils, church groups and community-based organisations which have received loans, to manage heritage listed properties in their local area,” Ms Keneally said.

“These heritage items range from family homes, country halls, historic homesteads, places of worship, government buildings, main street shops and tourism projects.”

For more information on heritage issues visit, www.heritage.nsw.gov.au.

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Page 1 of 1