



MEDIA RELEASE

The Hon Frank Sartor MP

Minister for Planning

Minister for Redfern Waterloo

Minister for the Arts

3 June 2008

OLD ADAMINABY GAINS STATE HERITAGE LISTING

Planning Minister Frank Sartor formally recognised the historical significance of old Adaminaby town today by having the remains of the former settlement listed on the NSW State Heritage Register.

Adaminaby was relocated when Lake Eucumbene was flooded in 1957 as part of the Snowy Hydro Scheme, and the former town has recently resurfaced due to low water levels in the lake.

Mr Sartor has gazetted the heritage listing over the entire lake bed to prevent removal of the town's remains and to recognise the importance to the history of the district and its former residents.

"The low water levels have revealed dozens of relics including building materials, remains of houses and other buildings, farm implements, streets, roads, the old Six Mile Bridge and household artefacts," he said.

"These remains have significant cultural interest as they demonstrate the lifestyles and customs of the families who lived in the original town of Adaminaby and the surrounding district.

Member for Monaro, Steve Whan said the original township represented more than a century of the district's pastoral, industrial, transport and township development.

"Heritage listing the old town not only provides important protection for the remains, but also formally recognises its significance in the hearts and minds of local residents.

"Its association with the Snowy Hydro Scheme – widely acknowledged as the largest and most complex engineering project of its kind in Australia's history – is also of important historic significance."

In June 2007, the Minister responded to community concerns at the unauthorised removal of objects from the lake bed by gazetting an Interim Heritage Order on the site.

A heritage assessment was then carried out to determine the best way to manage the ongoing conservation of the remains, and this assessment concluded that the entire bed of Lake Eucumbene is of State heritage significance.

The nomination for State listing came from Snowy River Shire Council.