



NEW SOUTH WALES

MEDIA RELEASE

The Hon Frank Sartor MP

Minister for Planning

Minister for Redfern Waterloo

Minister for the Arts

23 May 2008

SOUTH WEST ROCKS PILOT STATION ON HERITAGE REGISTER

Planning Minister Frank Sartor has approved the State Heritage Listing of South West Rocks Pilot Station complex, one of the few remaining coastal pilot stations in NSW.

“The South West Rocks station – established in 1902 - is a fine example of the facilities built for piloting services in New South Wales in the 19th and early 20th centuries,” Mr Sartor said.

“Only in Kiama do we find a similar Pilot’s residence with a comparable array of associated buildings, making these buildings a rare example of an important period of our maritime history.

“It was customary to have a Pilot with the necessary knowledge of the local waters to be stationed at each coastal port to guide ships safely into and out of the harbour.

“The first pilot station in Australia was established at Watson’s Bay Sydney Harbour in 1792. Subsequent Pilot Stations developed in pace with the extension of settlement north and south of Sydney during the 19th Century.

“At the height of its service, a total of 21 pilot stations stretched along the NSW coastline from the Queensland border to Eden. This service was central to the development of coastal transportation in this state and therefore the expansion of commerce, industry and migration.

“The South West Rocks complex of buildings is substantially intact, in its geographic setting and as a result retains a strong representation of this form of maritime precinct.

“The complex to be listed consists of four cottages which once housed the pilot and his four crewmen and was positioned to offer uninterrupted views of the movement of vessels at Macleay River to the northwest and Trial Bay to the east.”

“The State Heritage listing will protect this important example of NSW historical development for future generations.”