



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

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**MARTIN PLACE CENOTAPH MEMORIAL TO BE STATE HERITAGE PROTECTED**

The NSW Government will place Sydney's Martin Place Cenotaph on the State Heritage Register, ensuring the protection of an important monument to our nation's history.

"In the lead up to the 91<sup>st</sup> anniversary of the end of World War One, it is timely that we permanently protect this important part of our State's heritage", said Planning Minister, Kristina Keneally.

"This listing will guarantee the preservation of a valuable part of NSW history, to act as a reminder to future generations of the great sacrifices on which our nation was built."

Ms Keneally said for over 80 years the Cenotaph has been a focal point of the ANZAC Day Dawn Service, as NSW stops to honour the men and women who have died in the service of their country.

"On 25 April 1927, five returned servicemen saw an elderly woman lay a wreath at the then incomplete Cenotaph on ANZAC Day. That day the veterans resolved to hold the Dawn Service at this sacred site," Ms Keneally said.

"From the inaugural service held on 25 April 1928 the numbers have steadily grown and now tens of thousands of people gather in darkness every year to pay their respects.

"The Cenotaph was erected specifically as a place of commemoration for the people of Sydney and was the first memorial to the fallen of the Great War established outside a suburb or town.

"Unlike other war memorials which venerate the members of a town or community, section of the defence force, or a particular battle or event, the Cenotaph is a rare example of a universal memorial.

"The Cenotaph is compelling evidence of the impact of World War One on the people of New South Wales and embodies both their wartime contribution and collective grief."

Ms Keneally said that unusual for the period, the construction of the Cenotaph was organised by the Government rather than by a voluntary organisation.

**Media Contact: Phil McCall 9228 5811 or 0438 619 987**