



NATIONAL TRUST

MEDIA RELEASE

NSW receives boost in national heritage struggle

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EMBARGOED UNTIL 11am Saturday 3 November

The National Trust of Australia today announced its inaugural 'Our Heritage at Risk' national top 10 list in Hobart, Tasmania.

The final list was derived from over 60 'Our Heritage at Risk' places throughout Australia, identified by the various Trusts earlier this year.

New South Wales had two heritage listings in the top 10, with the Hammerhead Crane and the Eveleigh Railway workshops both being short listed.

Ku – ring – gai's Blue Gum High Forest narrowly missed out on gaining a place in the top 10, but on October 24 the local council received a \$350,000 pledge from the Federal Government to help preserve the area.

This is an important step by the Federal Government on the issue of heritage and shows that progress is being made in the bid by National Trusts around Australia to raise the awareness of our nation's heritage.

The Hammerhead Crane has been a prominent figure of Sydney's landscape since it was built in 1951, at the time making it the largest crane in the Southern Hemisphere.

It was built to lift up to 250 tonnes and was one of a series of cranes built around the world to service the British Navy Fleet. It demonstrates Australia's rich past as a member of the former British Empire.

It has now been out of use for over 10 years and has become more degraded with the passing of time. The crane is threatened with demolition.

The Eveleigh Railway Workshops are some of the finest historic railway workshops in the world, containing one of the most complete late 19th century and early 20th century forge installations, and an excellent collection of cranes and power systems.

Various buildings within the facility have already been redeveloped and adapted to a range of non-railway uses but several significant buildings have been rezoned for multi-storey development.

Government policy at this stage appears primarily directed towards the commercial redevelopment of this historic site, with rail heritage consigned to remote facilities, unlikely to have the resources to

properly present and conserve these historic trains.

The other sites across Australia that made the 2007 list:

Adelaide Parklands, SA
Belconnen Naval Transmitting Station, ACT
Cameron Offices, ACT
Dampier Rock Art, WA
HMVS Cerberus, Vic
Holy Trinity Church, Hobart, Tas
Northbank Precinct, Brisbane, QLD
Port Adelaide, SA

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