



MEDIA RELEASE

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IS HERITAGE A POLITICAL HOT POTATO?

While the National Trust (NSW) fearlessly advocates for the conservation of our heritage what do the politicians really think about it? Is “heritage” a political hot-potato? What will they do, and say, come Election time?

On Wednesday April 29, three politicians – the Hon. Kristina Keneally, Minister for Planning, Brad Hazzard, MP, Shadow Minister for Planning, and Sylvia Hale, MLC, NSW Greens Spokesman on Planning and Heritage – will talk about the place “heritage” will play in their campaigns in the lead-up to the next State Election. This conversation will take place at the National Trust’s Corporate Breakfast at the Intercontinental in Sydney. The Breakfast will be chaired by Quentin Dempster (ABC TV’s *Stateline*).

“Our Corporate Breakfast will give our leading politicians a chance to set out their position on heritage as we begin to cast our eye towards the next State election,” said John Neish, Executive Director of The National Trust of Australia (New South Wales).

Each of the politicians has a different view on what “heritage” is. For Kristina Keneally, an immigrant to our shores, Australia’s early history and heritage helped her to understand how her adopted country evolved into “the dynamic, multicultural and democratic society it is today”.

“As Minister for Planning, I passionately believe that heritage should not mean that buildings and places become static and un-useable. Our heritage listings should be filled with people who are learning, enjoying, working, and building community. Our heritage assets should not be museum pieces, but part of everyday life.”

The Shadow Minister for Planning, Brad Hazzard, believes that the protection of the State’s heritage has been subverted and the sense of who we are as Australians, diluted. “Beyond legislative shortcomings – built and natural heritage has been under attack by a Government putsch. Preservation of our heritage is also pivotal to Australian’s perception of ourselves.”

For Sylvia Hale, MLC, the NSW planning system is rife with conflicts of interest. “It’s time to remember that the community values its heritage and its environment more than it values the profits made from unrestrained development.”

Tickets can be purchased by logging onto:

http://www.nsw.nationaltrust.org.au/events/corporatebreakfast/Committing_To_Our_Heritage/default.asp

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Protecting our Australian heritage through advocacy, conservation & education