



NATIONAL TRUST

WATSON ROAD
OBSERVATORY HILL

GPO Box 518
SYDNEY NSW 2001

www.nationaltrust.com.au

MEDIA RELEASE

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SYDNEY METRO'S NEW PLATFORM

The National Trust and Sydney Metro have reached agreement on a draft set of heritage principles that will ultimately form part of the contract to build the new metro stations. The draft heritage principles will now be tested in two design workshops to be held on 27 October and 10 November respectively.

Mr. Graham Quint, National Trust Advocacy Manager said: "Sydney Metro's acceptance of the nine draft heritage principles will establish a new platform for the proposed rail system. The National Trust has consistently sought a set of principles and guidelines to inform Sydney Metro and the winning consortia's involvement with Sydney's built heritage. While considerable attention had been given to Union Square, Pyrmont, the National Trust has always recognised that the Sydney Metro is going to have a greater impact, as the network expands. These principles will ensure that whatever form the Metro takes, the station designs and locations will respect the neighbourhood's heritage and sense of place."

The nine draft heritage principles provide a foundation for the conservation of existing heritage items and conservation areas, where feasible. And a design review panel consisting of eminent architects will have oversight of station design.

Mr. Quint said that: "Union Square and Rozelle offer an excellent opportunity to test the draft principles in consultation with leading architects and the community. These neighbourhoods possess a unique history which will create a set of challenges for the station designers in consultation with the community."

The design workshops to be held on 27 October and 10 November will first establish the opportunities and constraints of the site then seek to draw concept designs within the boundaries of the new heritage principles. The National Trust will host a breakfast on Thursday 3 December 2009 where the Minister for Transport will reveal the workshop designs and final heritage principles.

Mr. Quint said: "This is an opportunity for today's designers to make a positive contribution to Sydney's sense of place. Heritage did not end in 1901 but continues to be created and interpreted through successive generations. The National Trust looks to the future, learning from the lessons of the past."

ENDS

Media enquiries – National Trust:

Hansni Bhagani

02 9258 0131 or 0416 446 276

Draft Heritage Principles

- 1) Existing significant elements of listed heritage items or conservation areas will be conserved wherever feasible
- 2) Station structures and public domain areas will be sympathetic and in context to surrounding streetscapes
- 3) Design for new building or structures will be in context of significant heritage buildings or areas, responding to key proportions and materials
- 4) Historic views and vistas will be preserved wherever possible
- 5) Heritage will be considered at all phases of the project as follows:
 - a) Heritage specialists will be included in contract design documentation and construction
 - b) The Design Review Panel, consisting of eminent architects including the NSW Government Architect, will consider heritage in its oversight of architectural design
 - c) A suitably qualified heritage architect will be employed to assist in development of station and public areas designs
- 6) When a final design is proposed, a heritage impact assessment should be undertaken to clearly identify the nature and extent of any heritage impacts (either positive or negative)
- 7) Archival recording of affected sites will be undertaken
- 8) Heritage monitoring of works will be undertaken during construction
- 9) Ongoing consultation will be undertaken with the Heritage Council, the National Trust and peak bodies