



NATIONAL TRUST

WATSON ROAD
OBSERVATORY HILL

GPO Box 518
SYDNEY NSW 2001

www.nationaltrust.com.au

MEDIA RELEASE

Monday 26 October

Ku-ring-gai Makes Top 10 of Australian Heritage Sites at Risk

Sydney's Ku-ring-gai town centres have featured in the National Trust's Top Ten 'Our Heritage at Risk' sites announced on Saturday at the Observatory Hotel, Sydney.

The National Trust Annual General Meeting was used to announce the ten locations around Australia that face the greatest risk of degradation or demolition.

Scott Woodcock, Director of Core Programmes at the National Trust of Australia (NSW) said: "The National Trust of Australia (NSW) believes that the inclusion of Ku-ring-gai on the Our Heritage at Risk Top 10 recognises the sheer scale of the threat to Sydney's cultural and natural environment. The new plan proposed for Ku-ring-gai will raze 79% of the National Trust's conservation areas, destroy nearly 700 homes of some heritage significance and further erode the remaining 5% of critically endangered Blue Gum High Forest."

Between one third and half of all Sydney's architect designed houses from 1930 to 1960 were built in Ku-ring-gai. The Jim McDougall House in Lindfield is one example of these highly significant buildings surrounded by critically endangered Blue Gum High Forest. The Jim McDougall House and its surrounding bushland are faced with imminent destruction from proposed six storey residential development should the plan be approved.

Mr. Woodcock said: "The National Trust has sought an immediate moratorium on all high-density development in the region and has offered several recommendations to the NSW Government which would ameliorate the unacceptable impact on Ku-ring-gai outstanding heritage values. This is a message to the NSW Minister for Planning. The proposed plan threatens not only Sydney's heritage but the nation's heritage. It is not for sale."

The latest State Government planning proposals put much of Ku-ring-gai's heritage under imminent threat of destruction. Listing as one of Australia's most endangered places will help focus national attention on the campaign by the local community and the Trust for a proper balance between development and heritage conservation.

ENDS

For more information on the 2009 Our Heritage at Risk lists, please visit www.heritageatrisk.org.au

Media enquiries:

Hansni Bhagani

P: 02 9258 0131

M: 0416 446 276