



MEDIA RELEASE

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\$2 MILLION FUNDING FOR OLD GOVERNMENT HOUSE

The Federal Government's decision to grant \$2 million from the Jobs Fund for the conservation and development of Old Government House as a cultural tourism asset has been welcomed by the National Trust of Australia (New South Wales).

Old Government House is Australia's oldest public residence, and has been shortlisted for World Heritage Listing.

This \$2 million in funding comes on the eve of Governor Lachlan Macquarie's Bicentenary, celebrating his appointment as colonial Governor in January 1810. The grant will enable important conservation work to be carried out at the Vice-Regal residence including the upgrading of visitor facilities and the restoration of Governor Macquarie's study.

National Trust Executive Director, John Neish says investment in our cultural heritage is a 'legacy project' for the Government.

"By granting this funding today, Federal Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts, Peter Garrett, is showing respect for our heritage and helping to ensure that future generations of Australians will be able to experience our rich history, first hand.

"In addition significant economic benefits will flow from investing the Stimulus Package money in cultural heritage asset development," Mr Neish said.

"Old Government House has become a major focus for tourism in Western Sydney and a great benefit for Parramatta's economy. This funding will enable the Trust to further develop Old Government House's historical interpretation and further enhance visitors' cultural experience.

"The funding will also provide a boost to local employment enabling the National Trust to establish 26 short term, and 40 longer term new jobs.

Julie Owens, Member for Parramatta said, "The funding for Old Government House represents a win-win situation for the people of Parramatta. We get one of our oldest landmarks restored to its former glory and also get over a dozen of new jobs for Parramatta residents."

"The National Trust is an independent charity responsible for the care and maintenance of over 30 historic properties across NSW. We look forward to working closely with the Government in the future, to further develop cultural heritage across NSW, and create more jobs in skilled trades and tourism," said Mr Neish, National Trust Executive Director.

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