



MEDIA RELEASE

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Post Office closures

With post offices long defining the geographical and psychological centre of an Australian township, it is with regret that the National Trust learns of the proposed closure of 27 Australian Post outlets, some housed within heritage listed, purpose-built buildings.

Tony Brassil, advocacy officer at the National Trust, said that the Trust was particularly interested in the closure of Woollahra and Glebe Post Offices, as both are recognised heritage buildings in their respective local council heritage lists.

“These protected heritage buildings are both in good condition and may be conserved and adapted to new uses,” Mr Brassil said.

“The Trust supports adaptive reuse of the buildings, as has happened successfully at other former Australia Post sites, such as at Marrickville, Beecroft, Leura and Redfern.

“However, Australia Post isn’t a typical corporate organisation, and retains a cultural significance beyond the architectural qualities of their current premises.

“Town centres in Australia have long been defined the post office, and the existence of a post office is integral to Australian identity and its perception of civilisation.

“The closure of Australian Post outlets signals the loss of a local service provider which is highly valued, a value that stems from Australia Post’s central position in Australian society.

“As such, the National Trust would like to see Australia Post retain some level of retail in towns and suburbs around NSW and Australia where it is considering closure, as a highly valued government service provider.”

Glebe Post Office is a two-storey freestanding brick building that dates from the Victorian period. It is situated on a wide corner site that has retained its social context. Some original interiors remain and the building is in good condition. Having operated since 1880, the building is significant for its contribution to the streetscape and as a landmark corner building.

Woollahra Post Office is a two-storey brick building in Federation style, also situated on a prominent corner. It has distinguished architectural features, including a residence on the upper level and a corner tower over the ground floor public entrance. The building and its location provide a civic focus which remains integral to the Woollahra community. Built in 1905, its significance comes from its architecture and its cultural contribution to the town centre.

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