



MEDIA RELEASE

Tuesday 10 August 2010

Historic Botany Market Gardens under threat

The proposed expansion of Botany Cemetery risks destroying the historical, state heritage protected Botany Market Gardens.

Graham Quint from the National Trust says such a move would be devastating to the heritage of the local area, as well as have a great impact on the social history of Chinese immigrants.

“The Botany Market Gardens have been occupied by the Chinese market gardeners since 1917, and it’s believed that gardens existed at the site right back to the nineteenth century,” Mr Quint said.

“The gardens have helped feed the Sydney people for almost two centuries, and the gardens have great cultural significance for Sydney’s Chinese community.

“The significance of the market gardens was formally recognized in 1999 when they were state heritage listed, and the Trust is considering listing the gardens on the Trust’s heritage register also.

“The Trust strongly believes that heritage sites should be protected for the benefit of future generations, and the idea to destroy this important historical site to expand a cemetery is ludicrous.

“These sorts of decisions should not be taken lightly. Once the area is destroyed, the decision cannot be reversed. We can never get back that piece of history once it is gone.

“Two years ago, while recognising the heritage significance of the site, the state government decided using the land as a cemetery would not be suitable. Nothing has changed in this time, and this land is still unsuitable to be used as a cemetery.”

In addition to the market gardens heritage importance, the area is a unique example of agricultural land use within the Sydney basin and the gardens help supply Sydney’s food needs.

Growing food in the metropolitan area reduces energy and transport impacts, with state government documents acknowledging farms like this play a vital role in contributing to a sustainable future for Sydney.

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