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Media Release

Government Owned Heritage Properties Need Protection

The National Trust is concerned about the preservation of heritage properties in State Government ownership and is interested to hear from communities that may have local concerns.

Many of our oldest public buildings are Government owned, and under section 120 of the Heritage Act 1977, assets of heritage significance, are required to be listed on Heritage and Conservation Registers to ensure ongoing conservation.

Most Government departments take a responsible approach to heritage conservation, however, the National Trust (NSW) is concerned that some Government owned heritage properties are at serious risk.

National Trust (NSW) Conservation Director, Graham Quint says the Trust has particular concerns about heritage protection in the **New England** area.

“In the Guyra Shire applications have been made to demolish an 1883 Georgian Police residence, the adjacent Police Station and the old timber Courthouse. Even though these Government owned buildings date back to the 1800s, they have not been listed on a Heritage and Conservation Register, and remain without proper heritage protection,” he said.

“In nearby Glen Innes Severn Council another application has been lodged to demolish the 1891 police stables and a timber portable lockup. Plans are also mooted to demolish the original police residence, which has been allowed to fall into a state of disrepair. The Trust believes the demolition of these buildings would be a significant loss to the New England community and to the history of the NSW Police.

“The National Trust calls on the NSW Planning Minister Kristina Keneally to remind all State Government departments of their responsibilities under the Heritage Act, so that Government owned heritage properties may be protected by appropriate conservation management plans.

“This is particularly important at a time when the State Government is tightening budgets and considering the disposal of assets,” Mr Quint said.

The National Trust is interested to hear from local communities with similar concerns about the conservation of Government owned heritage buildings.

Contact Mara Barnes Ph 9258 0123.

Media inquires Kathy Scott/ Annemarie Jonson Trust Communications Unit 9258 0123