



22 October 2008

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **National Trust Congratulates Planning Minister on Callan Park Decision**

The National Trust of Australia (NSW) welcomes the announcement by NSW Planning Minister Kristina Keneally that the State Government will hand over control and management of the Callan Park site to Leichhardt Council under a 99-year lease.

The Trust strongly supported the original Callan Park Act intended to permanently conserve these historic parklands and had expressed concerns at development proposals that would have required amendments to this legislation.

This decision is in keeping with the overwhelming majority of submissions opposing the draft land use plan and the Trust notes the Minister's recognition that the development proposal "would not have delivered an outcome the community could support".

This decision goes to the heart of the Trust's objections to the use of Part 3(A) of the planning legislation which removes so many planning decisions from the control of local councils and limits community input into these important issues.

The Trust calls on Planning Minister Kristina Keneally to match the commitment of the Shadow Minister, Brad Hazzard, to scrap part 3(A), a position which is also supported by the NSW Greens and Sydney Lord Mayor Clover Moore.

Addressing a 1000 strong crowd which rallied in Sydney at the weekend to call for planning law reform, Mr Hazzard said the Liberals would "institute a full public review of planning laws and Part 3A would be repealed".

National Trust Executive Director, John Neish, who also spoke at the Rally, urged the new Planning Minister Kristina Keneally to seize the historic opportunity presented by her appointment "to restore public confidence in the planning system".

“The Rally represented people from across the state outraged by laws that block communities and councils from having a say in local planning decisions. There is also deep discontent about the Ministerial powers that allow fast-tracking of inappropriate development which threatens to decimate places of heritage and environmental sensitivity such as Catherine Hill Bay, the heritage villages of Kuringgai, and Currawong on Pittwater.

“If we are to have any regard for future generations then heritage and environmental protection must be a core tenet of planning policy in NSW, not just economic return,” Mr Neish said.

“We look forward to the opportunity to work with Ms Keneally to ensure our planning laws facilitate viable development in NSW that protects heritage and the environment.”

ENDS

Media inquiries: Annemarie Jonson, National Trust NSW Communications Unit  
9258 0123 / 0428 278 880