



MEDIA RELEASE

14 February 2009

Money for heritage - huge boost for jobs in New South Wales

The \$60 million secured for national heritage by the Greens as part of the Commonwealth's stimulus package has been hailed as a massive boost for jobs, heritage and Australian history by The National Trust of Australia (New South Wales).

The Australian Council of National Trusts (ACNT), with input from each of the National Trusts across the country, was proactive in discussing the need for heritage investment with the Green Party before the final stimulus package was agreed yesterday (Friday).

John Neish, Executive Director of The National Trust of Australia (New South Wales) said: "The benefits of this injection of money will be felt across Australia as we work to conserve our heritage. The National Trust in New South Wales has opportunities to begin works across all of our properties from Armidale to Yass, from Dubbo to Hunters Hill.

"This boost will allow us to create local jobs for local people at short notice and we are ready to respond once the details are known. We will be working with the Commonwealth to discuss how some of this heritage stimulus can be diverted to employ skilled and unskilled people to conserve our historic properties.

"The Greens must be congratulated on their effort in helping us continue to keep the fabric of Australian history alive and to create employment across the regions. As an independent charity we are mostly reliant on public donation. Through this Federal Government stimulus, conservation skills, heritage and our nation's history have been given a much needed lifeline."

Next week John Neish and the Trust's President Ian Carroll OAM will be meeting with State Premier Nathan Rees. Under discussion will be the Trust's desire and ability to progress heritage conservation education and training throughout the State.

John Neish continued: "We are losing skilled trades people in heritage restoration, such as stone masons and plasterers, all across metropolitan and regional New South Wales. The National Trust is well positioned to support the development of conservation skills and establish a training programme across the region for skilled and long term unemployed to assist with the restoration of State heritage assets, like historic showgrounds."

ENDS

Media enquiries: Victoria Walker 0422 957550 or 02 9258 0133