



MEDIA RELEASE

Tuesday, 23 June 2009

Metro Must Respect Sydney's Heritage

The National Trust calls on the Sydney Metro Authority to respect and conserve heritage and not to proceed with any demolition prior to final approval and full funding for the project.

The National Trust was pleased to hear that the planned CBD Metro route would no longer require demolition of the historic former meeting place of the Australasian Federation League, in Pitt Street, Sydney. However, the fate of other significant buildings and precincts remains in doubt.

Threatened with possible demolition is the rare apartment building at 7 Elizabeth Street, Sydney, designed by noted architect Emil Sodersten in 1940. It is the only block of flats constructed in the City of Sydney during the 1930s to have survived and still operate as a residential building. The building's interiors were the work of interior designer Marion Hall Best and some apartments are still intact.

Another area of concern to the Trust is the group of historic shops in Union Square at Pyrmont which are proposed for demolition.

Trust Executive Director, John Neish says the Trust "questions why the alternative site within the Sydney Casino redevelopment area is being rejected?"

"The incorporation of a Metro station within a new development, leaving Union Square intact would appear to be a better solution in line with the re-think opposite Sydney Town Hall. The Trust raised concerns several months ago with the former Sydney Metro Chief Executive, Mr Les Wielinga, and was assured there would be minimal demolition and development would proceed in an environmentally appropriate and sustainable manner.

"The Trust calls on Sydney Metro to ensure that these principles are followed and that an alternative to the demolition of historically significant buildings is properly considered", Mr Neish said.

Note to Editor

Sydney Metro is the NSW Government agency responsible for planning, delivering and commissioning the CBD Metro and any potential future extensions. Sydney Metro operates under is Part 6A of the [Transport Administration Act 1988](#).

http://www.sydneymetro.nsw.gov.au/who/sydney_metro/

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Media inquiries Victoria Walker 0422 957 550 or Kathy Scott 9258 0131