



MEDIA RELEASE

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Old Government House now on World Heritage List

Old Government House and Parramatta Park, partly managed by the National Trust, has become one of 11 Australian convict sites now protected on the UNESCO World Heritage List.

The prestigious listing of the 11 convict sites was made early on Sunday morning Sydney time, when the United National World Heritage Council met in Brasilia, Brazil.

CEO of the National Trust, Mr Will Holmes a Court, says the world heritage listing of Old Government House confirms the global significance of the site, as well as the important role Australia's convict history plays in a global story.

"Old Government House dates back to 1799 and is Australia's oldest surviving public building. It was home to the first 10 governors, including Governor Lachlan Macquarie who extended the house in 1815," Mr Holmes a Court said.

"Convicts helped build this country, and the process of convicts being shipped over from Britain in the colonial era is part of global story of colonisation, slavery and humanity.

"The 11 convict sites around Australia which have been included on the world heritage list tell the story of the largest forced migration in global history.

"The world heritage listing will help ensure this important historical site is preserved for the benefit of future generations.

"When you visit Old Government House today, it's like stepping back to the 1820's, with the influence of Anglo and Indian design and colour evident in every room.

"The rooms are furnished with pieces of the National Trust's colonial furniture collection, the largest collection in Australia."

Old Government House sits in Parramatta Park, 37 hectares of which has also been included in the world heritage listing.

Early this year, archaeological footings were found at the Old Government House site while restoration works were being completed. These findings are believed to date circa 1793, and are thought to increase the historical significance of Old Government House.

Old Government House and surrounds were granted protection under on the national heritage list in 2007, and the NSW state heritage list in 1999.

For more information about Old Government House visit:
<http://www.nationaltrust.com.au/properties/ogh/default.asp>

Media enquiries – National Trust: 02 9258 0123