



Hon Tony Kelly MLC  
Minister for Planning  
Minister for Infrastructure  
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Deputy Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council  
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## MEDIA RELEASE

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### **WORLD WAR II RADAR STATION PROTECTED**

One of only a few remaining RAAF radar stations from World War II in NSW will be protected after being added to the State Heritage Register.

Minister for Planning, Tony Kelly, said the 131 Radar Station on Ash Island, north of Newcastle, has historical significance.

“During the Second World War, Newcastle produced bullet-proof steel, armoured vehicles, ammunition and other strategically important war supplies,” the Minister said.

“The 131 Radar Station was also based there, alerting authorities to potential attacks along the coast.

“Recognising World War I and II heritage in NSW is one of the four major themes for State Heritage Register listing during 2009-2011.”

Minister for the Hunter, Jodi McKay, welcomed the announcement.

“This listing ensures 131 Radar Station will be appropriately maintained so it remains a tangible reminder to the community of how World War II reached Australian shores,” Ms McKay said.

131 Radar Station is significant because it is:

- One of only a few remaining radar igloos surviving in NSW from World War II;
- Associated with and valuable to the RAAF and WAAAF officers who served at the station during its active service in World War II;
- A unique example of the technology used to detect and intercept enemy aircraft during World War II;
- A rare example of a surviving radar station built during World War II; and
- A representative example of a small RAAF station built along the NSW coast during World War II.

Hundreds of radar stations were built during World War II because of concerns of possible attack.

Initially a mobile unit, by late 1942, 131 Radar Station was operating 24 hours a day at full strength with two commanding officers, 25 RAAF and 22 WAAAF.

In 1943, construction began at a permanent site consisting of two igloos made from one foot thick concrete.

Officially disbanded in 1946, the station now operates as an interpretative centre as part of the Kooragang Wetland Rehabilitation Project, an educational centre illustrating the estuarine ecosystem and history of the island.

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