



Hon Tony Kelly MLC
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MEDIA RELEASE

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STATE PROTECTION FOR CONVICT HERITAGE AT LIVERPOOL

One of the earliest surviving stone weirs built in Australia has been listed on the State Heritage Register.

NSW Minister for Planning, Tony Kelly, said Liverpool Weir is a rare legacy of an important period in our State's history.

"I am pleased to announce its significance to the State has been formally recognised," the Minister said.

The weir spans the width of the George's River, located around 40 kilometres upstream of the river mouth near Liverpool Railway Station.

Mr Kelly said the structure was designed by David Lennox, the State's first major bridge builder, and constructed in 1836 by chained convict gangs.

"The weir demonstrates the operation of the convict system of NSW, specifically the harsher regime introduced by the British Government from the 1820s," the Minister said.

"The authorities used fear of transportation to the then colony of Australia and this form of construction work as a form of punishment, to try and maintain law and order.

Member for Menai, Alison Megarrity, welcomed today's announcement.

"More than 170 years after it was constructed, the weir underwent extensive repairs and remediation works in 2007-08 to address years of flood damage," Ms Megarrity said.

"The weir is today used by locals and visitors for recreational activities such as boating and fishing.

"Today's listing does not affect those activities from continuing and importantly protects a piece of heritage for future generations to enjoy."

State heritage listing means:

- Any major works for the site would be subject to decisions or advice from the Heritage Council of NSW as well as Liverpool City Council;
- The item must be maintained to a certain standard; and
- The landowner (Land and Property Management Authority and Liverpool City Council) will now have increased access to State Government heritage funding.

The item was nominated for listing by the Engineering Heritage Committee of Engineers Australia.
