



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

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HMAS SYDNEY MAST & BRADLEYS HEAD FORT HERITAGE LISTED

The historic and ceremonial importance of the former mast of *HMAS Sydney I*, located on the Sydney Harbour foreshore at Bradleys Head, has been given formal recognition by the NSW Government through State heritage listing.

The nearby military forts, which were constructed on the headland in the nineteenth century as part of a series of defence sites around the harbour, have also been included in the listing.

Planning Minister Tony Kelly said listing on the State Heritage Register represented the highest form of heritage recognition in New South Wales.

“These items carry enormous significance in Australia’s military history and their place in our national consciousness continues to this day,” Mr Kelly said.

“The mast of the former *HMAS Sydney I* is the only monument in Australia to which all Australian and foreign naval vessels must render ceremonial honours when entering Sydney Harbour.

“This honour is equivalent to that accorded to the famous British naval ship *HMS Victory*, the world’s oldest commissioned ship, which is located in Portsmouth.

“*HMAS Sydney I* and her crew became a symbol of national pride and strength, particularly during World War I, due to its distinguished service and battle success.

“For current Australian naval personnel, the mast is an important reminder of the tradition in which they serve and of those who have served before them.

“It also forms part of a memorial erected in 1934 and dedicated to the memory of the ship’s crew who were killed in November 1914 in a battle against the Germans.

“The mast was rededicated in 1964 and now serves as an official memorial to those who served in the Royal Australian Navy and the nineteen naval ships lost in service.”

Mr Kelly said the nearby nineteenth century forts are also of exceptional significance as one of a series of fortifications around Sydney demonstrating the evolution of government policies towards defending Sydney and its harbour.

“The original fort, which is still standing, was constructed in 1840 and is the only one completed out of three which were proposed as a result of increased concerns about the colony’s vulnerability to attack.

“Another fort was then built in 1871 with a firing wall and defensive ditch, all of which are still intact to this day.

“Together they are representative of a series of visible defensive structures developed around Sydney Harbour from as early as the 1790s until the end of World War II.



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“Their combined listing with the mast of *HMAS Sydney I* provides a clear and important link between Australia’s modern naval traditions and its colonial military past.”

A number of nearby monuments to other naval ships lost at sea, which form a precinct of memorials on Bradleys Head within the Sydney Harbour National Park, are also included within the heritage listing curtilage.

Listing on the State Heritage Register means that any major works on the site would be subject to decisions or advice from the Heritage Council of NSW and that the site will be required to be maintained to minimum standards of repair.

The listing was proposed by the Heritage Branch of the NSW Department of Planning as part of its thematic listings program, which currently includes a particular focus on former World War I and II sites.