Interim heritage order placed on Warrawee residence

Minister for Planning, Tony Kelly MLC announced an emergency order to provide temporary protection against threatened demolition to a residential building in Warrawee, called ‘Peroomba’.

A Georgian residence, ‘Peroomba’ was designed by RAIA Gold Medal-winning architect, William Rae Laurie for Sir Victor and Lady Windeyer and is now protected from demolition for a period of 40 days under the State’s Heritage Act.

Mr Kelly said the emergency order allows time for an Interim Heritage Order to be gazetted.

“As ‘Peroomba’ was not listed on Ku-ring-gai Council’s heritage schedule, Council requested an Interim Heritage Order be placed on the property to allow assessment of its heritage significance,” Mr Kelly said.

“I have directed the Heritage Branch of the Department of Planning to work with Ku-ring-gai Council and the owner to consider options for the building and the site.”

“It may have local significance for its architectural merit and in relation to the Windeyer family.”

An Interim Heritage Order can last for up to 12 months and enables a full assessment of the heritage significance of the building.

Approval for the demolition of the building had been issued under the Environment Planning and Assessment Act.

‘Peroomba’ is considered to be a rare and noteworthy property that has been preserved in its original condition in its original setting. It was commissioned in 1938 to be built by William Rae Laurie, the brother-in-law of the original owner, Lady Windeyer.

William Laurie was a distinguished Australian architect who was responsible for the design and construction of a number of buildings on the North Shore of Sydney. In his career, he was the President of the RAIA from 1946 to 1948 and was awarded the RAIA Gold Medal for his work in 1966.

Until only recently, this residence was owned by the original family that commissioned the construction. Sir Victor and Lady Windeyer were part of a prominent Sydney family with a longstanding tradition in the legal profession, as well as with the University of Sydney and the Women’s College.