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MEDIA RELEASE

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AUSTRALIAN MILITARY COLLECTION PRESERVED

The unique museum collection of Australia's oldest and most highly decorated regiment, the 1st/15th Royal NSW Lancers, has been listed on the State Heritage Register.

Minister for Planning, Tony Kelly, said the 6000-piece collection, housed at historic Parramatta Barracks, has been listed for its historical and cultural significance.

"Reading through the items listed in this collection is a fascinating journey through a huge part of Australia's military history since 1885," the Minister said.

"From the draft poems written by Banjo Patterson when he was a war correspondent in South Africa, to a complete World War I Light Horse uniform and the Balikpapan Matilda Tank, this collection brings to life the active, ceremonial and peacetime service history of the Regiment from 1885 to the present day."

Member for Parramatta, Tanya Gadiel, welcomed the announcement.

"Placing the collection on the Register recognises its unique value to the State and secures its existence for future generations," Ms Gadiel said.

The 1st/15th Royal NSW Lancers Memorial Museum Collection is significant because:

- It documents the complete and continuous history of Australia's oldest and most highly decorated regiment, from its inception through to the present day.
- It interprets major themes in Australia's history, including the role played by Australian troops in the Boer War and First and Second World Wars.
- Of its relationship to historic Parramatta Barracks (the barracks being the oldest surviving mainland military barracks in Australia). The Barracks have served as the regimental headquarters for the Royal NSW Lancers since 1897. The collection is important in the interpretation of the Barracks.
- It comprises more than 6,000 items that trace the active, ceremonial and peacetime service history of the Regiment. The collection has over 50 items identified as being of national significance and some of international significance.
- It is unique as there is no other collection covering the entire 125 year history of Australia's oldest surviving regiment. There are also no other Light Horse or cavalry museums in Australia with as comprehensive collection as the Royal NSW Lancers either in terms of the size and extent of the collection or the periods covered.

Mr Kelly said the collection will now be legally protected under the NSW Heritage Act 1977 and continue to be looked after by serving and retired members of the Regiment.

"A total of 33 Lancers are currently serving in the Solomon Islands in support of the regular army," the Minister said.