



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

## MEDIA RELEASE

8 October, 2010

### **LAND AROUND COLONIAL HOMESTEAD GIVEN HERITAGE LISTING**

The original setting and views from Western Sydney's Cox's Cottage – the State's oldest inhabited house – will be protected for future generations.

Minister for Planning, Tony Kelly, has today approved an extension to the State heritage listing boundary around the 200-year-old Mulgoa cottage, to include a 10 hectare parcel of farmland.

“The listing boundary extension to the north of the cottage will ensure this land is never developed for housing or industry in the future, protecting the cottage's status,” the Minister said.

“This decision will protect the peaceful green views and original colonial landscape of the cottage, along with remnants of the cottage's first vineyard.

“The 10 hectare parcel of land was in private hands in the 1980s and subject of redevelopment proposals, but now this type of development can be ruled out.”

Mr Kelly said the land was part of the original grant to William Cox who supervised 30 convicts building the first road over the Blue Mountains.

“The cottage dated from 1810 and was listed in 1982 on the State Heritage Register but the land to the north is also special, it's an integral part of the setting and worthy of heritage listing,” the Minister said.

“The cottage is without question the oldest weatherboard house and oldest continually occupied residence in NSW and quite possibly Australia.

“Other houses like Elizabeth Farm in Parramatta may be older but they are generally run as museums – not residences.

Mr Kelly said the land had historical significance through several generations of the Cox family who were important in the development of agricultural and pastoral industries in the colony of NSW.

The land is also important for the archaeological relevance of its early 19<sup>th</sup> century vineyard with remnants of some of the earliest vineyards ever planted in Australia,” the Minister said.

The cottage has been restored by its owner, Dr James Broadbent, a prominent historian and conservator and run as a pastoral farm.

It is part of a colonial landscape with St Thomas' Anglican Church and the State heritage listed Fernhill mansion nearby.

It is also one of the last remaining Sydney farmhouses of the period still in its original setting.

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