ABORIGINAL HERITAGE PROJECTS RECEIVE A $120,000 BOOST

Nine Aboriginal heritage projects will share in more than $120,000 in funding under the latest round of the NSW Heritage Grants program.

Minister for Planning, Tony Kelly, said the grants would enhance Aboriginal expertise for eight North Shore councils, support a re-enactment of a milestone event more than 45 years ago, protect Aboriginal heritage in central western NSW and promote traditional indigenous use of plants for food and remedies.

“This year we have seen applications for a range of projects that will protect and promote indigenous heritage covering an area from metropolitan Sydney to Cowra in the central west and Brewarrina in the north-west of the State,” the Minister said.

The grants are:

- **$49,350** to Youth Connections Incorporated to involve around 30 high school students in a re-enactment of the 1965 Freedom Ride bus tour of western and coastal NSW towns. This will include the production of a DVD documentary and live chat-sessions with students on the internet. The original Freedom Ride in February 1965 was organised by a group of University of Sydney students to draw public attention to Aboriginal health, education and housing issues and to fight discrimination;

- **$33,500** for the final year of a five-year project involving Ku-ring-gai, Lane Cove, Manly, North Sydney, Pittwater, Ryde, Warringah and Willoughby councils. The funding will be shared by six separate projects to enhance Aboriginal heritage identification, protection, education and training;

- **$20,000** towards identifying and protecting known and potential Aboriginal heritage sites in the Cowra Peace Precinct; and

- **$20,000** for the Brewarrina Aboriginal Cultural Museum Traditional Garden Project. A series of gardens beds will be created to become a living record of indigenous knowledge about the use of various plants for food, medicines, shelter and other traditional uses.

“I congratulate all the successful applicants and look forward to seeing these exciting projects completed,” the Minister said.