



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

20 January 2011

### ST PATRICK'S SEMINARY RECEIVES STATE BLESSING

Australia's first national ecclesiastical training college for Catholic priests has been awarded NSW's highest heritage listing.

Minister for Planning, Tony Kelly, today placed the former **St Patrick's Seminary at Manly on the State Heritage Register**, and was joined for the occasion by Monsignor John Usher, Chancellor of the Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney.

"Designed by Catholic architects John Hennessy and Joseph Sheerin, St Patrick's is an iconic example of Victorian Gothic architecture located between Manly and North Head," Mr Kelly said.

"It is of tremendous heritage significance, particularly because of its role in the history of Australian Catholicism and the priesthood.

"It was the largest Catholic seminary in the southern hemisphere, the first national Catholic seminary, and located on one of the oldest and largest ecclesiastical estates in Australia at the time of its construction in the mid 1880s."

Mr Kelly said the impressive architecture of the many buildings on the Estate, such as the Archbishop's residence and the main seminary building, embodies then Cardinal Patrick Moran's vision for the development of Catholicism in this country.

"Some of Australia's most notable Catholic personalities and leaders, including writers **Thomas Keneally and Father Edmund Campion, as well four Cardinals – Gilroy, Freeman, Cassidy and Clancy - were seminary students at St Patrick's,**" Mr Kelly said.

Although the Church relocated its training facilities to Strathfield, as part of the Catholic Institute of Sydney in 1995, the former St Patrick's Seminary is still a place of learning with the International College of Management currently leasing part of the estate.

Mr Kelly said the conservation and adaptive reuse of St Patrick's remains a fine example in NSW.

"Today's listing on the State Heritage Register means the Heritage Council of NSW and Manly Council are the consent authorities for any future changes at the site," Mr Kelly said.

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