

27 November 2016

MEDIA STATEMENT

National Trust welcomes lead role in Sunset Heritage Precinct future

National Trust of Western Australia Chairman Michael Murray AC QC has welcomed Premier Colin Barnett's endorsement of the National Trust as the manager of Sunset Heritage Precinct which was formally opened today to the community.

Mr Murray said he was delighted with the decision, which would strengthen Sunset Heritage Precinct's continuing transformation into a significant community space which provided creative arts and cultural facilities.

Built in 1904, the place was originally Claremont Old Men's Home and housed aged agricultural and pastoral workers as well as gold prospectors and former convicts. In 1941 it was named Sunset Hospital.

National Trust CEO Julian Donaldson said Sunset Heritage Precinct has extraordinary cultural heritage values and historically significant buildings connected to the wellbeing of many Western Australians.

"Its outstanding riverside location at Dalkeith means many more people will enjoy the health benefits of the extensive parklands and Swan River vistas into the future," Mr Donaldson said.

The collection of buildings over 7.9 hectares makes up one of the largest intact early twentieth century public health facilities in the State. Restoration work on the site will be funded through private organisations, collaboration and sponsorship arrangements.

"The National Trust has successfully completed many outstanding adaptive reuse projects in Perth including Gallop House, Wanslea Cancer Wellness Centre, Old Perth Boys' School and 57 Murray Street ensuring our state's historical past has a sustainable future," he said.

Interpretative plaques that tell the story of Sunset through its architecture, landmarks and the people who lived and worked on the site have been created for visitors to discover throughout the Precinct.

"The National Trust is well placed to lead the future stages of Sunset's transformation, ensuring the cultural heritage values of the place are not compromised while the Precinct is progressively restored."

"The Department of Finance will retain responsibility for the Sunset Heritage Precinct until the transfer to the National Trust of Western Australia occurs," Mr Donaldson said.

Contact Communication Officer Gina Pickering for more information on P 9321 6088 or M 0408 584 404.