



## POSITION PAPER

### Bondi Surf Pavilion

#### NATIONAL TRUST INVOLVEMENT

In September, 1977 the *Surf Pavilion* at Bondi was listed on the Register of the National Trust as one of the best known features of Sydney's beach improvement schemes. The Listing Report noted that within the context of the Bondi townscape the structure is an important and significant element. The Surf Pavilion had been listed on the Royal Australian Institute of Architects 1973 Interim List of 20th Century Buildings of Significance. The design of the pavilion was the work of noted architectural firm Robertson and Marks with L. McCredie in 1930.

In February, 1985 the *Bondi Beach Urban Conservation Area* was listed on the National Trust Register including the Bondi Surf Pavilion as a rare 1920s urban landscape within the context of any city in the world. The Listing noted -

“The overall original design of Bondi Park with the central siting of the Pavilion and other distinctive urban design elements lend a unity to the open space between the beach and the buildings. The two arched pedestrian bridges with their ornamental lamps are particularly significant.”

In May, 2008 the *Bondi Beach Cultural Landscape* was listed on the State Heritage Register. The Statement of Significance noted -

“Bondi Beach, Bondi Park, Bondi Surf Pavilion, and the Bondi Surf Bathers Life Saving Club building form a cultural landscape of State significance as an iconic representation of the Australian beach experience. The place is historically significant as the site of many ‘firsts’ and other significant events in surf lifesaving, and as the largest beach improvement scheme to be carried out in the interwar years. The place demonstrates the rapid increase in popularity of beach-going once restrictions on surf bathing were eased in the early 20th century.

The place is of social and aesthetic significance as a landmark, recognised internationally as a symbol of Australia's popular beach culture. While the Bondi Surf Pavilion has been modified over time, the relationship of the building to the promenade and beach, as well as the park and its intact features (including two concrete pedestrian bridges with standard lamps, the promenade, and numerous pathways in original locations), retains its integrity to the 1928 beach improvement design.”

In January 2008, Bondi Beach was added to the National Heritage List. The Listing -

“Bondi Beach is significant because of its special associations for Australians, having a central place in the development of beach culture in Australia. Bondi Beach is one of the world's most famous beaches. With its golden sands, parks, and blue waters framed within rocky headlands, it has come to be seen both nationally and internationally as part of the Australian way of life and leisure. It is where Australians meet nature's challenge in the surf and is strongly associated with the Bronzed Aussie myth of easygoing hedonism and endeavour balanced with relaxation.”

#### NATIONAL TRUST POSITION

- The Trust believes that the long-standing community access to the Bondi Surf Pavilion must be maintained.
- The Trust calls for the cultural and social values of the Bondi Surf Pavilion to the community to be fully recognised as set out in National Trust Register, State and National Listings.
- Any Development Proposal for this building and its adjoining landscape must respect and not degrade those heritage values.
- The Trust calls for full and genuine community consultation and engagement in any plans for the restoration or development of the Bondi Surf Pavilion.

#### ACTION TO PROMOTE THE TRUST'S POSITION

The Trust will promote its views on this issue with heritage professionals, the Heritage Division of the Department of Environment & Heritage, the Federal Department of the Environment, the Australian Institute of Architects, local government authorities and parliamentary planning and heritage representatives and the media.