



## POSITION PAPER

### HARBOUR CONTROL TOWER

#### HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE HARBOUR CONTROL TOWER

The Harbour Control Tower (Sydney Port Operations and Communications Centre) at Millers Point was listed on the Register of the National Trust in May, 2010. The Control Tower was listed as an Item of Environmental Heritage on the Heritage Register of Sydney Ports before transfer of its ownership to the Barangaroo Delivery Authority. The Barangaroo Delivery Authority did not maintain a Heritage Register, a requirement of NSW Heritage legislation and the BDA didn't acknowledge the heritage significance and listing of the tower.

On 2 June, 2014 the National Trust nominated the tower for listing on the State Heritage Register and at its meeting of 2 July, 2014 the Heritage Council of NSW gave notice of its intention to consider listing of the Tower on the State Heritage Register in acknowledgement of its significance to the people of NSW. It is of potential state significance for its pre-eminent role in the history and maritime operation of the Port of Sydney - the primary commercial port of Australia - and for its capacity to demonstrate a tangible link to Sydney's long maritime history.

#### THE THREAT POSED TO THE HARBOUR CONTROL TOWER

On 1 May 2014 the National Trust received notice from the Department of Planning & Infrastructure of an application by the Barangaroo Delivery Authority to demolish the Harbour Control Tower. On 19 June, 2014 the National Trust put in a submission on the demolition proposal finding the proposal's Statement of Heritage Impact to be inadequate and its conclusions unsupportable.

The Barangaroo Delivery Authority notified the National Trust on 29 July, 2014 that it intended to proceed with the demolition despite objections and the Heritage Council's intention to list the tower on the State Heritage Register.

#### NATIONAL TRUST POSITION

The Trust opposes the demolition of the Harbour Control Tower and has responded to the Barangaroo Delivery Authority's demolition notice emphasising the total inadequacy of the Authority's response and handling of this issue which strikes at the heart of heritage protection in NSW. If one of the last state significant historic remnants of Sydney's port operations cannot be saved then the Authority is highlighting the current failure of the NSW planning system to protect our most important heritage when State Significant Development is allowed to totally override heritage protection.

#### ACTION TO CONSERVE THE HARBOUR CONTROL TOWER

The Trust calls on its members and the concerned public to contact the NSW Ministers for Planning & Heritage, the Premier and the Heritage Council of NSW supporting the proposed listing of the Harbour Control Tower on the State Heritage Register and opposing the Barangaroo Delivery Authority's demolition proposal.