



POSITION PAPER

MILLERS POINT - HERITAGE CONSERVATION

THE HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE OF MILLER'S POINT

The National Trust of Australia (NSW) is a community based heritage conservation organisation, formed in 1945. In 1978 the Trust listed on the National Trust Register 127 individual properties in Millers Point and the *Millers Point and The Rocks Urban Conservation Area*. Millers Point is the oldest surviving, continuously inhabited urban residential precinct in Australia's European settlement history.

The social significance of the community at Millers Point has been recognised by the State Government in its 2003 State Heritage Listing of the area - *"the whole place remains a living cultural landscape greatly valued by both its local residents and the people of New South Wales"* and *"A proportion of the existing population is descended from previous generations of Millers Point locals, and has fostered a strong and loyal sense of community and solidarity,"* and Millers Point *"is an intact residential and maritime precinct of outstanding State and National significance, containing buildings and civic spaces dating from the 1830s."*

In 2014, the National Trust listed the Sirius Building in the Rocks, noting its architectural and high social significance.

THE THREAT POSED TO MILLER'S POINT HERITAGE

On 19 March, 2014 the NSW Government announced its decision to sell 293 properties in Millers Point. The Board of the National Trust called for an immediate halt to Government Property NSW's call to *"register your interest in purchasing a Millers Point Property"* and for a halt to evictions until there was a proper consideration and determination of the impacts of the decision on all of the heritage values of Millers Point - historical, social, landmark, archaeological and rarity.

The Trust is also concerned that the majority of the housing is on less than ten individual lots making them more attractive to developers who may seek to redevelop despite the impacts on heritage values.

ACTION TO CONSERVE THE HERITAGE OF MILLERS POINT

The Trust is seeking specific commitments from the State Government: -

Large un-subdivided blocks of heritage buildings will not be sold off to developers for major re-development.

Long term residents who are descendants of the original waterside workers will be recognised for their contribution to the social significance of the State Heritage Listed Millers Point and not be compulsorily evicted. A community with diversity is generally a stronger community.

In view of the speed at which these properties are being disposed of, adequate numbers of suitably qualified staff will be employed from the proceeds of the sale to ensure proper monitoring of any renovations to ensure they are to proper heritage standards.

The Trust will also be urging its members and the community to support this position by contacting their local parliamentarians and expressing their concern.