



# NEWS RELEASE

## Premier of New South Wales

### HERITAGE LISTING FOR SYDNEY'S LANDMARK WAR MEMORIAL

Friday 23 April, 2010

Sydney's ANZAC War Memorial in Hyde Park has been officially listed on the State Heritage Register – **the highest form of heritage recognition and protection in NSW.**

Premier Kristina Keneally today joined Minister for Planning Tony Kelly, Minister Assisting the Premier on Veterans' Affairs, Peter Primrose, Lord Mayor of Sydney, Clover Moore, and NSW RSL President, Don Rowe OAM, to officially declare the ANZAC Memorial a State heritage site.

The NSW Government's \$6 million upgrade for the Memorial was recently completed and the building reopened on its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary in November last year - the first substantial renovation of the building since it was completed in 1934.

"In the lead up to ANZAC Day, it is important we acknowledge the sacrifices of all Australian servicemen and women," Ms Keneally said.

"By listing the ANZAC Memorial we are preserving this significant reminder of our war history commemorating our fallen soldiers and paying tribute to their contribution to our nation.

"In 1916 on the first anniversary of ANZAC Day, the then Premier of NSW, William Holman, promised a pound for pound subsidy to match the money raised by the public for the construction of a memorial.

"I am pleased that almost a century on, the NSW Government is able to preserve this important part of our cultural history which has become a place of shared commemoration, particularly on ANZAC Day."

**The ANZAC Memorial was established following a design competition open only to Australian architects. The design winner Bruce Dellit and sculptor Rayner Hoff created one of the finest expressions of Art Deco architecture in Australia.**

It represents NSW's contribution to the group of 'national war memorials' developed for each State capital during the inter-war period. Construction began in 1932 and was completed in 1934.

Recognising World War I and II heritage in NSW is one of the four major themes for State Heritage Register listing during 2009-2011.

Further details of the State Heritage listing can be found on the Department of Planning's Heritage Branch website at [www.heritage.nsw.gov.au/listing](http://www.heritage.nsw.gov.au/listing).

Ms Keneally also announced the NSW Government will reform the ANZAC Memorial's governance and management procedures.

**The NSW Government will introduce changes to the ANZAC Memorial (Building) Act 1923 to build on the delivery of a robust, accountable and professional ANZAC Memorial Building Trust.**

Changes to the governance model of the Trust include:

- **Establish an Office for Veterans' Affairs** within the Department of Premier and Cabinet to facilitate greater accountability and a strategically focussed Trust with effective connections to the centre of Government, cultural and educational institutions;
- **Transfer of management responsibility** and secretariat functions to the Department of Premier and Cabinet;
- **The RSL President to become Deputy Chair** with the Minister Assisting the Premier on Veterans' Affairs to Chair in Premier's absence;
- **Trustee membership to broaden** to include the State Librarian, Director General of the Department of Education and Training, and NSW Government Architect;
- **Giving the Trust an increased role** in developing the Memorial's educational, curatorial and volunteer requirements; and
- **Legislative appointment of the RSL as Guardians of the Memorial** (similar to the Cenotaph model) which will give special honour to the RSL and its members, and a gatekeeper role in preserving the Memorial's appropriate use.

The Premier will continue as the Chair of the Trust (with the Minister Assisting the Premier on Veterans' Affairs to represent in the Premier's absence) and the non-partisan involvement of the Opposition Leader and Lord Mayor at a senior level will be retained.

"These changes will ensure families and in particular, school children will benefit from a greater understanding of Australia's military history and heritage," Ms Keneally said.

"It will ensure there is greater emphasis on educational displays and information for school students to encourage young people to visit the memorial and learn about our nation's war and cultural history."