



Private Members Statement

The Hon. Gabrielle Upton MP

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VAUCLUSE ELECTORATE PARKLANDS STATE HERITAGE LISTING

Ms GABRIELLE UPTON (Vaucluse) (18:00:30): The community in my electorate loves its green, open spaces. From Bondi Beach to South Head to our inner city harbour, we are so lucky to have a beautiful and historical natural environment around us. Rushcutters Bay Park and Yarranabbe Park in Darling Point are just two of the spaces that we are so fortunate to have close to the centre of our busy city. They are culturally and historically significant, and loved by residents and visitors alike. They are two harbour parks that continue to be used for both passive and active recreation. We want to—and must—protect these green, open spaces and celebrate their significance.

Both parks were established in 1878 as part of the second wave of Sydney municipal park creation, which was a response to strong community advocacy for public recreational land. The structure and layout of the parks has retained a historic character. Rushcutters Bay Park was designed by engineer Frederick Augustus Franklin, who also designed the National and State heritage-listed Centennial Park. Both parks reflect the influence of James Jones—Overseer for the Domain, as he was called—who laid out Victoria Park and Wentworth Park. The parks are edged by distinctive late nineteenth century sandstone seawalls and decorated with rows of Moreton Bay fig trees.

Both Rushcutters Bay Park and Yarranabbe Park have played central roles in leisure and sport activity over the past 150 years. Since 1945 they have hosted the iconic Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race, run by the Cruising Yacht Club of Australia [CYCA]. Each year we share the parks with thousands of local and international visitors and sailors who come to see the famous race. The CYCA was established in 1944—just before the race—and is often called upon for other international sailing events. I acknowledge the leadership of the club, including Commodore Paul Billingham, Vice Commodore Noel Cornish AM, Rear Commodore Janey Treleaven and Dr Sam Haynes, and Treasurer Arthur Lane. On the western side of the stormwater canal in

Rushcutters Bay Park is Reg Bartley Oval and its historical grandstand, which together have functioned as an important recreational facility since 1984.

Yarranabbe Park has a strong naval history. It is adjacent to the local heritage-listed Sir David Martin Reserve drill hall, formerly known as HMAS *Rushcutter*. The drill hall holds much history itself and was the original headquarters of the NSW Naval Brigade and Naval Artillery from 1901. In September 2018, as the then New South Wales Heritage Minister, I was pleased to award \$100,000 to Woollahra Council for the external restoration and conservation of the Drill Hall. The grounds are also home to the Royal Australian Navy Sailing Association (RANSA) clubhouse and RANSA itself, a wonderful local sailing organisation that was first established in 1947. In 1966 it launched as RANSA, as it is still known, to encourage sailing within the Navy. Although membership was originally for service personnel, it has opened its arms to the general community. Under the leadership of Commodore Dave Giddings it embraces anyone with a passion for sailing.

Over time there have been strong calls to acknowledge and protect the beauty, history and value of Rushcutters Bay Park and Yarranabbe Park. In recognition of this, on 25 January 2019 the Office of Environment and Heritage placed an interim heritage order on both parks so that an assessment could be made as to whether they should be State heritage listed. On 4 December 2019 the Heritage Council of NSW resolved to recommend that both parks be listed on the New South Wales State Heritage Register. I was delighted to announce last week that Rushcutters Bay Park and Yarranabbe Park have been formally approved for listing on the State Heritage Register. I acknowledge the 84 submissions that were made in support of the State heritage listing, including those from the land managers, Woollahra Municipal Council and City of Sydney Council.

Securing the State heritage listing took a strong community effort. I thank and acknowledge the community for its support and tireless advocacy. In particular I thank the Darling Point Society, especially President Charlotte Feldman. Charlotte joined me on site last week to celebrate the good news, along with residents Colleen "Chickey" Bray and John Beville. I also thank the residents of Potts Point, Rushcutters Bay and Kings Cross who lent their support. Every day people of all ages appreciate the serenity, grassland and beautiful water views of Rushcutters Bay Park and Yarranabbe Park. There is no doubt that they are significant places in New South Wales and that is now finally acknowledged by the State heritage listing.



Gabrielle Upton MP
Member for Vacluse
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