



Private Members Statement

The Hon. Gabrielle Upton MP

HERMITAGE FORESHORE

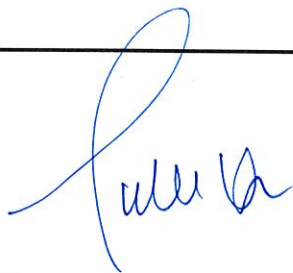
Ms GABRIELLE UPTON (Vaucluse) (23:44:52): The electorate of Vaucluse is home to some of Sydney's best national treasures. From Bondi Beach to South Head, Rose Bay and Darling Point—with their amazing views of Sydney Harbour, the coast and National Parks—we are blessed with beautiful and unique natural open spaces to enjoy. We are very protective of these spaces and we want to make sure that they continue to be enjoyed by our community and also by visitors who come to the local area. Many of these spaces contain important parts of the State's history with more than 30 State Heritage-listed items, despite the Vaucluse electorate being one of the smallest in New South Wales. I am gratified to have sponsored a number of those heritage listings, including South Head Cemetery and Wentworth Memorial Church in Vaucluse, Rose Bay Sea Wall, Strickland House Estate, Nielsen Park and the recently listed Rushcutters Bay Park and Yarranabbe Park in Darling Point.

On 28 August I was pleased to join local resident Olivia Babarczy and Woollahra History and Heritage Society President Peter Poland OAM on the Hermitage Foreshore track at Queens Avenue in Vaucluse to announce the State Heritage listing of the Hermitage Foreshore Reserve. On 18 June I presented a notice of motion calling for the Hermitage Foreshore Reserve to be listed on the State Heritage Register, so it was a good outcome when it was finally listed. I acknowledge the residents who wrote in support of the listing, including Peter Poland, Sydney Harbour Association Secretary Hylda Rolfe, John Ryrie, Rosemary Block and Lilian Walls. Community support is integral to these projects and the listing would not have been possible without it. The listing is so important because the Hermitage Foreshore Reserve and walk is an outstanding natural cultural landscape, home to a rich and diverse history dating from pre-European settlement.

The Reserve has unparalleled views across Sydney Harbour, reveals significant Aboriginal use and the occupation of the site includes rock shelters and middens from when it was used as a fishing and camping ground for our Indigenous Elders. The area became a part of the estate of the noted colonial pioneer and politician William Charles Wentworth, whose portrait is just above me on the wall in this Chamber. His

family built Greycliffe House in Nielsen Park and Carrara, which is today part of the adjacent Strickland House estate. Both buildings maintain their landscape setting and harbour view lines, and are rare examples of a surviving marine villa designed to be seen from the water. The Hermitage Foreshore Reserve is associated with one of the Wentworth estate's first subdivisions, and fronted a cottage at Hermitage Point built by silversmith Alexander Dick. Parts of the foreshore were first reserved for public use in 1905. Today both the Hermitage Foreshore Reserve and Nielsen Park form part of the Sydney Harbour National Park. Woollahra History and Heritage Society President Peter Poland shared a copy of the New South Wales gazettal notice with me, dated 1 May 1920, representing the formal transfer of the Hermitage Foreshore Reserve into public recreation land. Now, 108 years on, the Hermitage Foreshore Reserve State Heritage listing will ensure that its significance is protected for future generations.

I am proud to have helped to deliver a State Heritage listing for the five hectares of Strickland House Estate in Vaucluse in October 2018. That included Carrara, which is an 1850s marine villa with landscaped gardens. It is an important example of our early colonial architectural history. I am even more proud to have transferred the estate into our National Parks Estate in 2018, forever protecting the public's enjoyment of that area which now forms part of the Sydney Harbour National Park. Nielsen Park was State Heritage listed in September 2017 after local residents and I campaigned for it. It is also home to Greycliffe House, which has played an important role in infant health care for over 50 years as a hospital for babies and then as a Tresillian Mothercraft Home. Nielsen Park also includes Steele Point Battery, one of the most intact remaining 1871 harbour defences and is also home to two endangered plants—the sunshine wattle and the Nielsen Park She-oak, which is remarkably found nowhere else in the world but Nielsen Park. Nielsen Park is also home to the Nielsen Park Regulars, a group of local residents who swim at Shark Beach almost daily, led by Rose Bay Residents' Association Vice President Bruce Bland AM. They do an amazing job of bringing to life that historical area. I am so proud that the State Heritage listing of the Hermitage Foreshore has taken place. I commend my private member's statement to the House.



Gabrielle Upton MP
Member for Vaucluse
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