



# The Hon. Gabrielle Upton MP

## Member for Vaucluse



Friday, 28 August 2020

### HERMITAGE FORESHORE RESERVE JOINS STATE HERITAGE REGISTER

Gabrielle Upton MP Member for Vaucluse, today announced the State Heritage listing of the Hermitage Foreshore and important historical sites in Vaucluse at Nielsen Park.

Ms Upton said, "I'm gratified to today announce that the Hermitage Foreshore Reserve has been approved for listing on the State Heritage Register with Nielsen Park's Heritage Listing boundary expanded to include the walk.

"Nielsen Park and the Hermitage Foreshore are outstanding natural and cultural landscapes that demonstrate a rich and diverse range of uses spanning pre-European settlement to the present.

"On 18 June, I made a speech in NSW Parliament calling for the walk's state heritage listing and I'm delighted to today deliver that."

Minister responsible for Heritage and Aboriginal Affairs, Don Harwin, acknowledged the presence of significant Aboriginal use and occupation of the site including art, shelters and middens across the site showing pre-colonial use of the place as a fishing and camping ground.

"I am delighted to announce the inclusion of the Hermitage Foreshore on the State Register, and guarantee the protection of this important area featuring examples of Sydney's Indigenous and European history," Mr Harwin said.

The area became part of the estate of the noted colonial family of William Charles Wentworth, which built both Greycliffe House in Nielsen Park and Carrara (today Strickland House). Both maintain their landscape settings and harbour view lines, rare as early surviving 'marine villas' designed to be seen from the water.

The Hermitage Foreshore Reserve is associated with one of the Wentworth Estates' first subdivisions, and fronted a cottage at Hermit Point, built by silversmith, Alexander Dick, which later became an important harbourside villa of the late Victorian era for the Hon. Edward Mason Hunt MLC.

Parts of this foreshore were first reserved for public use in 1905, and today, both Hermitage Foreshore Reserve and Nielsen Park forms part of the Sydney Harbour National Park.

Listing will ensure that the park and foreshore's significance will be protected for future generations, with any major changes now requiring the approval of the Heritage Council of NSW.

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