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MEDIA RELEASE

DECISION TO REFUSE HERITAGE LISTING FOR THE SIRIUS TOWER - ROYAL AUSTRALIAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY MAINTAINS ITS SUPPORT FOR EXPERT HERITAGE COUNCIL

The Royal Australian Historical Society is dismayed to learn of the State government's refusal to list the historic Sirius Tower in The Rocks on the State Heritage Register, in spite of the recommendations of the NSW Heritage Council.

The Royal Australian Historical Society will continue to support the NSW Heritage Council. The Council was established in 1978 in response to community concerns that its heritage was being destroyed. The Council is an expert body, composed of a diverse range of interests including historians, that has accumulated its expertise over nearly 40 years. The Council is supported by experienced and professional staff in making heritage assessments and evaluations in an independent manner. The Council is widely respected around Australia and overseas for its expertise and knowledge in heritage assessments and heritage management. The Council's recommendations should be respected and not simply dismissed for commercial advantage.

The Royal Australian Historical Society looks forward to seeing future decisions of the Heritage Council treated properly. It remains troubled by the prospect that the Sirius decision will be used as a precedent to further compromise or unravel the heritage system, a prospect about which it remains deeply concerned.

For further information, contact admin@rahs.org.au.