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The Hon Josh Frydenberg MP
Minister for the Environment and Energy
PO Box 6022
House of Representatives
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Thompson Square, Windsor – Emergency nomination for National Heritage Listing

The National Trust of Australia (NSW) strongly supports the nomination for Emergency National Heritage Listing of Thompson Square at Windsor. The archaeological investigations have now confirmed the presence of substantial remains of the pre-1820 Macquarie Period.

In 1975 the Trust listed on the National Trust Register the Thompson Square Precinct. This village square was planned by Governor Macquarie in 1811 when the town of Windsor was known as Greenhills. Governor Macquarie named the square in honour of Andrew Thompson, noted emancipist, Justice of the Peace and Principal Magistrate for the district who had taken up residence there in 1801. The Thompson Square Conservation Area was listed on the State Heritage Register in April, 1999 and now Thompson Square has been nominated for listing on the National Heritage List. As the site contains remains from the pre-Macquarie era settlement and since its 1975 listing of Thompson Square the Trust has looked forward to the re-routing of the highway around the town of Windsor.

In 2008 the NSW Government announced it had committed \$25 million to replace and raise Windsor Bridge. An Environmental Impact Statement was placed on public exhibition in December, 2012 and the National Trust, in a submission, expressed deep concern at the likely adverse impacts on Thompson Square.

The NSW Heritage Council has reiterated its prior view that Thompson Square is of crucial importance to the Heritage of the State and that the current road option is likely to have a long term irrevocable and negative impact on Windsor as a whole and Thompson Square in particular. The present road proposal does not adequately address the unique history and State heritage of this area.

The Trust believes Thompson Square and particularly its pre-Macquarie era settlement archaeology must be kept intact. The Trust is urging the construction of a Windsor by-pass as the adverse heritage impacts on Thompson Square, to the historic buildings to the north of the Square and to the archaeological heritage in the Square are unacceptable. The Trust does not believe that there is any firm evidence justifying the removal of the present bridge which the Trust believes should be retained for its heritage significance and to serve as an access way for local traffic, pedestrians and cycling.

The Trust urges that you approve the emergency National Heritage Listing of Thompson Square.

Your sincerely

Brian Powyer
President
The National Trust of Australia (NSW)

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