

[HI-DEF IMAGES & BACKGROUNDERS AVAILABLE FOR DOWNLOAD](#)

MEDIA RELEASE DATE: 6 MAY 2024

RUM HOSPITAL RESTORATION REVEAL AT NSW PARLIAMENT HOUSE

Parliament's \$22 million critical maintenance and restoration work program is now complete.

The successful restoration of one of Australia's oldest public buildings, the Rum Hospital, marks a significant milestone in safeguarding an important piece of Australia's history and architectural heritage.

With its origins dating back to 1816, the Rum Hospital is recognised on the NSW State Heritage Register as a pivotal site in Australia's democratic history. Originally used as a hospital, in 1829 it was identified as a fitting location for Australia's first Parliament.

The restoration of the Rum Hospital saw significant structural repairs and conservation of historical features, including restoration of the heritage fabric and materials, remediation of dilapidated fabric and water ingress, and improvements to air quality and accessibility through important upgrades.

The Hon. Greg Piper MP, Speaker of the NSW Legislative Assembly, was pleased to see the work finalised ahead of schedule and on budget.

"The completion of the Rum Hospital restoration marks a significant milestone for all who cherish history and democracy."

"This project goes beyond preserving bricks and mortar; it breathes new life into key components of Australia's cultural heritage, ensuring NSW Parliament House can continue to be the people's house for generations to come," Mr Piper said.

The Hon. Ben Franklin MLC, President of the NSW Legislative Council, shared his thanks for all those who worked on the project and encourages the public to visit the Rum Hospital on a public tour.

"I'm grateful to everyone who worked on this project, and the many teams that ensured parliamentary business continued throughout the works."

"I invite you to join us for a free public tour of NSW Parliament House. It's a great opportunity to see the restoration firsthand," Mr Franklin said.

Lyndall Smith, Senior Program Manager Capital Works, Department of Parliamentary Services, is proud to have worked on a project of such historical importance.



"I'm grateful to all the stakeholders who contributed to this significant restoration, including heritage experts, engineers and tradespeople, and, of course, my colleagues," Ms Smith said.

"Despite the challenges when working on a heritage building of this scale and age, the reward is the satisfaction in seeing the work completed to such a high standard, ensuring the ongoing legacy of the Parliament's history."

Originally due for completion in July 2024, the comprehensive restoration effort has not only addressed the significant ongoing deterioration of the Rum Hospital but also the historical maintenance backlog, ensuring the parliamentary precinct will remain accessible for future generations of visitors, staff and members.

Visitors are welcome to visit the restored parts of the Rum Hospital, and other areas within Parliament House that are open to the public during a public tour. [Public tours](#) are available on Monday and Friday each week and every weekday during the school holidays.