

# Luke Foley promises to protect our local heritage

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**Heritage in Concord, Hunters Hill, Lane Cove and Ryde will be protected by a five point plan if Labor is elected to government next year.**



*Opposition leader Luke Foley has proposed a plan to protect heritage in Concord, Hunters Hill, Lane Cove and Ryde. TWT on-the-spot PHOTO*

NSW Opposition Leader Luke Foley announced the five point plan to coincide with the recent World Heritage Day, which he boasts will be the State's first ever State Heritage Strategy.

The Foley plan will remove the ability of the State Government to use the economic hardship provision of the Heritage Act to refuse a building heritage protection.

It will also stop a Heritage Minister ignoring out of hand a recommendation from the Heritage Council to protect a particular place, by introducing a public hearing to allow the advocates for preservation another opportunity to make their case.

The plan further aims to restore the Office of Heritage within the Department of Premier and Cabinet so that heritage issues are at the centre of government decision-making.

In the City, the plan will relocate the Office of the Premier and the Cabinet room to one of Sydney's pre-eminent historic public buildings, the Chief Secretary's building on the corner of Bridge and Macquarie streets.

Mr Foley also read his heritage plan at the Colonial era New South Wales Parliament House on the 40th anniversary of the NSW Heritage Act.

“Under the current Coalition Government, driven by a development at all costs mindset, heritage issues have been pushed into the background, neglected, often belittled and denigrated,” he said.

“I believe that the preservation of our significant heritage and the development of our state are not incompatible.

“A government led by me will once again treasure and conserve important heritage buildings, items and places.

“As a statement of our commitment to the preservation of our heritage, the Premier’s office and the Cabinet room will be housed in one of Sydney’s pre-eminent buildings, the Chief Secretary’s building.

“The centre of the administration of the government of the state should be that great public building of the Victorian age, the building Sir Henry Parkes ran the administration of the colony from, not some rented office space in a B grade building somewhere else in the city.”

The Shadow Minister for the Environment and Heritage Penny Sharpe said Mr Foley’s promise is in stark contrast to the Berejiklian Government’s position on heritage.

“The Coalition Government displays a reckless hostility to the preservation of our precious environmental and cultural heritage,” Ms Sharpe said.

“The historic sandstone Department of Education and Department of Lands buildings in Bridge Street have been flogged off and will be turned into a luxury hotel.

“Our 100 year old heritage trees on Anzac Parade, planted during World War One as a tribute to the original Anzacs, are being chopped down.”

The Weekly Times acknowledges the heritage commitment of Lane Cove MP Anthony Roberts, who led the campaign to Save Gladesville Hospital.

<http://www.weeklytimes.com.au/luke-foley-promises-to-protect-our-local-heritage/>