

31 July 2017

The Hon Gabrielle Upton MP
Minister for Heritage
NSW Parliament
GPO Box 5341
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Dear Minister

Sirius Building, The Rocks

I write to support calls from the local community, National Trust NSW, Australian Institute of Architects NSW, and the Heritage Councils 2016 recommendations and ask that you list Sirius on the State Heritage Register.

I understand that the recent Land and Environment Court ruling said the former Minister's decision to not heritage list Sirius Apartment Building at 36-50 Cumberland Street, did not comply with the Heritage Act and you must now reconsider the Heritage Council's recommendation to list Sirius.

This building has significant built and social heritage value, and there is strong community support for protection of the structure and recognising its history providing low cost housing.

Key heritage groups have confirmed the high value of the Sirius building as a rare example of brutalist architecture that is largely in original condition. This is a landmark building in a high profile position with very high levels of public awareness. The building is worthy of strong heritage protection.

Most importantly, the Sirius building is also of very high value for its social heritage, with links to modern settlement of The Rocks, local working history and the more recent Green Bans movement and low cost housing provision. I have worked with the local community on government plans to sell social housing in this precinct and am very aware of the strong sense of community and maritime links that the Sirius building represents.

I understand that the Heritage Council of NSW recommends that Sirius receive a State Heritage listing on the grounds of its aesthetic significance, rarity as a social housing purpose-built building and unique circumstances associated with historic C20th events.

The Heritage Council of NSW deems the Sirius building to be of state significance for its aesthetic and rarity value and I agree with the council that it should be listed on the State Heritage Register. Given the major redevelopment associated with Barangaroo and already underway in the Sydney CBD, it is vital that this high value heritage be protected.

I ask that you support the Heritage Council of NSW's recommendations and list the Sirius Apartment Building on the State Heritage Register.

Yours sincerely

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