



# **Robyn Parker MP**

## **Minister for the Environment**

## **Minister for Heritage**

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### **MEDIA RELEASE**

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#### **STATE HERITAGE LISTING FOR BOWRAL'S UNIQUE MOUNT GIBRALTAR QUARRIES**

Bowral's Mount Gibraltar Quarries, the source of the trachyte stone used for numerous landmark buildings throughout NSW, has been placed on the State Heritage Register, Minister for Heritage Robyn Parker and Goulburn MP Pru Goward announced today.

Ms Parker said the quarries' rare stone has been used to build everything from landmarks like the Queen Victoria Building and Martin Place banks.

"The strength and beauty of this trachyte made it ideal for the construction of the buildings and places that are now the symbols of the growth of our State," Ms Parker said.

Ms Goward said trachyte mined at Bowral has the unique properties of great strength, durability and decorative potential when polished.

"The local quarries demonstrate the extraordinary engineering techniques of the early industrial era in NSW," Ms Goward said.

"The site was quarried for 100 years (1886-1986) and the extraction of the stone was fraught with danger, not only for the workers, but for the residents of Bowral who got used to the daily blasting.

"Some of the stone was used locally, but the bulk of it was exported to Sydney for major city buildings such as Challis House, Commonwealth Bank and National Mutual Building, all in Martin Place."

Ms Parker said at least 16 state significant buildings listed on the State Heritage Register have been constructed using Bowral Trachyte.

"The stone was also used for many commemorative stones for the Federation and for the foundation of Canberra and many war memorials," Ms Parker said.

Mount Gibraltar is a volcanic intrusion that cooled in such a way as to form this special rock; 180 million years of erosion have exposed the rock.

Ms Parker said the NSW Government is committed to conserving, revitalising and caring for places of heritage significance.

“Inclusion on the State Heritage Register ensures that the future management or development of Mount Gibraltar Quarries will be supported with advice from the state’s leading heritage organisation, the Heritage Council of NSW.”