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Minister for Heritage
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MEDIA RELEASE

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FINLEY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH GRANTED INTERIM HERITAGE ORDER

Minister for Heritage Mark Speakman has issued an Interim Heritage Order (IHO) over Finley Presbyterian Church.

Mr Speakman said an IHO was a temporary order, which would allow time for experts to assess the site's heritage significance at local and state level.

Finley Presbyterian Church is an 'Interwar' building, dating from 1920.

Berrigan Shire Council had approved the demolition of the church, however in April the Heritage Council of New South Wales issued an order restricting harm under the *Heritage Act 1977* providing protection for the church and its contents for 40 days.

"Following advice from the Heritage Council, I have extended the protection period by granting an IHO which is valid for up to 12 months," Mr Speakman said.

"The IHO will allow a full assessment of the site's values to be explored. While the IHO is in force the Heritage Council of New South Wales will be the approval body for any development on this site."

The church has an association with prominent regional architects of the time, Laird and Buchan, who worked across Victoria, NSW and Queensland. There is a similar church by the same firm at Derrinallum in Victoria, which has a local heritage listing.

The level of community concern also indicated the church's potential broader social value to the local Presbyterian and wider local community.

The NSW Office of Environment and Heritage has consulted with Berrigan Shire Council, and has its support for the IHO.

In making this IHO, the NSW Government is demonstrating its commitment to preserving our places of yesterday, while ensuring that they are a living part of our present.

We are also balancing development outcomes against the state's irreplaceable heritage assets, for the benefit of current and future generations.