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MEDIA RELEASE

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NSW HERITAGE GRANTS ANNOUNCED DURING ANNUAL NATIONAL TRUST AWARDS

Heritage Minister Mark Speakman announced \$850,000 for state heritage listed properties and heritage projects with the National Trust during his address at the National Trust's annual awards lunch today at Doltone House in Pyrmont, Sydney.

One property that will benefit is Dalwood House, on the historic Wyndham Estate Vineyard in the Hunter Valley.

Built before 1830 on the oldest continuous vineyard in NSW, Dalwood House was a ruin before being acquired by the National Trust. The National Trust and the descendants of George Wyndham have assisted in raising funds for its restoration.

"Dalwood House is a great example of community and Government working together to protect our heritage. Wyndham Estate and Dalwood House are now a wonderful heritage tourism experience in the Hunter," Mr Speakman said.

"The NSW heritage grants are designed to provide direct financial assistance to owners, councils and community groups to conserve and revitalise places of heritage significance," he said.

"Today, I am pleased to announce that the National Trust was awarded \$850,000 for a range of projects, including:

- \$450,000 to support conservation works on State-owned heritage assets managed by the National Trust.
- \$150,000 for the conservation and restoration of Dalwood House on the Wyndham estate.
- \$150,000 in funding for the National Trust Heritage Festival in 2016/17. The annual Heritage Festival is a six week celebration to build support, awareness and enjoyment of heritage conservation.
- \$80,000 over 2015-2017 to continue the National Trust's established Cemeteries Conservation Advisory Service, which provides critical advice on cemetery conservation.
- \$10,000 to develop an interpretation plan for the Riversdale homestead in Goulburn; and \$10,000 to develop an interpretation plan for Cooma Cottage.

Since 2011, the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) has now committed more than \$2 million in grant funding to the National Trust through its Heritage Grants program.

"This funding has supported a range of projects from conservation and adaptive re-use work at the State Heritage Register-listed former military hospital at Observatory Hill to support for the running of the National Trust Heritage Festival," Mr Speakman said.