



Mark Speakman
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MEDIA ALERT

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THREE NEW SITES ON STATE HERITAGE REGISTER

Heritage Minister Mark Speakman has announced the listing of three new sites on the State Heritage Register, acknowledging their importance and significance to the people of NSW.

Mr Speakman has directed the listing of three sites on the State Heritage Register:

- An Aboriginal rock art site of great rarity featuring a larger than life cave painting of a man – understood to be Baiame the creator, ‘father of all’ and lawmaker – overlooking the Hunter Valley, which is located on a private farm in the Hunter Valley, part of the traditional Wonnarua Nation;
- St Leonards Park, one of the oldest parks in NSW, first set aside as a reserve for public recreation as early as 1838, gazetted as a public park in 1867, and the home of one of Australia’s oldest cricket grounds; and
- Six significant sections of 163 kilometre Cox’s Road from Emu Ford (now part of Penrith) to Bathurst – the earliest road built across the Blue Mountains, constructed by convict labourers over six months from July 1814 to January 1815 under the guidance of William Cox. In the 1820s, original lines of road were upgraded by later convict road gangs.

Mr Speakman said that the State Heritage Listing of these three sites will provide each with the highest form of heritage protection and recognition available under the *NSW Heritage Act 1977*.

“The Heritage Council of NSW will work with the land owners to care for each site ensuring the enjoyment by future generations,” Mr Speakman said.

“The rare and beautiful Hunter Valley rock painting site is located on private farming land, whose owners have had close relations with local Aboriginal people for three generations, making the site readily accessible for their ceremonial and educational use.

“St Leonards Park contains beautiful parklands designed in the Victorian ‘gardenesque style’, surrounding the cricket ground/oval and bowling facility. The park’s memorials include an ornate Victorian-style fountain dedicated to Mayor William Tunks a key instigator in the parks development.

“Cox’s Road has a well-documented and fascinating history. As one of the first structures built by Europeans west of the Blue Mountains, the road was significant for opening up the land beyond the Blue Mountains for settlement, pastoral and agricultural expansion. It stands as a symbol of the conquest of the natural barrier created the Blue Mountains.”