



**JULIE OWENS MP
SHADOW PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY FOR SMALL BUSINESS
SHADOW PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD
EDUCATION
MEMBER FOR PARRAMATTA**

**LABOR COMMITS TO NATIONAL HERITAGE LISTING FOR NORTH PARRAMATTA
HERITAGE PRECINCT**

Member for Parramatta, Julie Owens today announced a Labor commitment to see the North Parramatta Fleet Street site of the Parramatta Female Factory and its environs on the National Heritage Register.

Speaking to a rally of concerned residents in North Parramatta today Ms Owens said, "Labor has listened to the advocacy of the North Parramatta Residents Action Group, the Parramatta Friends of the Female Factory and others and is taking decisive action. Upon election, a Shorten Labor Government will make a top priority recommendation to the Australian Heritage Council for National Heritage Listing."

"This precinct contains Australia's oldest and most intact Female Factory and must be protected in its entirety to be preserved, conserved, interpreted historically and made accessible to all Australians now and in the future."

The heritage listing combined with the current green ban, on the entire 32 hectare site, is a great foundation for an economically sustainable and unique cultural development of this important precinct.

The Fleet Street precinct is of State and national significance and there is substantial local ownership of and pride in the site. This is a place with a rich history that extends from its ancient Indigenous custodians to the present day. The whole site enjoys an outstanding parkland setting beside the Parramatta River and provides historical insights into early colonial life.

Labor is also absolutely committed to progressing National Heritage Listing for the precinct.

"These steps would go a long way towards protecting a crucial part of Australia's history," Ms Owens said.

Labor believes the preservation and adaptive reuse as a heritage tourism development should be above party politics and we call on the Turnbull Government to support Labor's position in a bipartisan approach to this nationally significant precinct.

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