

8.1. MM01: State Heritage listing of The Hayden Orpheum Picture Palace

At the first meeting of this Council on 24 January 2022, Council resolved:

- 1. THAT Council seek urgent heritage advice in relation to the heritage significance of the Cremorne Orpheum Cinema and its curtilage, in particular whether State heritage listing is appropriate to protect this important local heritage item.*
- 2. THAT such advice be sought as part of the heritage advice to be obtained in respect of the Parraween Street, Cremorne cottages and surrounds under the resolution of Council at the meeting held on 10 January 2022.*

Originally opened in 1935, the Orpheum was an exciting cinema destination for suburban Sydney during the moviegoing heyday. Today it is a Military Road cultural landmark, community gathering place, and an exceptional example of Art Deco design.

On 30 May 2022, Founder of Cremorne Conservation Group (CCG), Ms Fiona Gracie, together with founding member, Mr Chris Holding, worked tirelessly to organise an event to celebrate and advocate for State Heritage listing for the Orpheum Cinema as part of the National Trust's Heritage Festival.

On a wet and cold night, more than 400 people attended the cinema to hear historical insights about the theatre from Council's Dr Ian Hoskins and Dr Peter Sheridan of the Art Deco Society of Victoria moderated by Ms Fenella Kernebone, National Trust Board Member.

Of course, the iconic organ was raised and organist, Neil Jenssen, entertained the audience!

On 7 November 2022 Council resolved, in relation to the Orpheum:

THAT Council resolve to nominate the Hayden Orpheum Picture Palace for inclusion on the State Heritage Register for listing under the Heritage Act 1977 and commence the process with the Office of Environment and Heritage.

Since January 2022 Council worked, together with our community, to have the Orpheum recognised and registered on the NSW State Heritage Register.

After much community consultation and campaigning, the NSW State Heritage Register listing of the Hayden Orpheum Picture Palace was approved by the Hon. Penny Sharpe MP, Minister for Climate Change, Minister for Energy, Minister for Environment and Minister for Heritage on 31 May 2024.

The heritage listing recognises the theatre's unique place in the State as one of the last surviving examples of an Art Deco suburban cinema that is still in operation as a cinema today.

In her direction to list the cinema on the State Heritage Register, the Minister for Heritage, The Hon. Penny Sharpe, MLC cited the theatre's importance in the cultural history of NSW, the rich Art Deco stylistic features of the building, its association with renowned theatre architects, entrepreneurs and performers, the social value to the community, and its potential to yield further information about the history of 20th century cinema.

It was fitting that the State Heritage listing occurred on the eve of the Sydney Film Festival – the Orpheum was a festival venue and was filled with cinephiles enjoying the rich mix of architecture and film history.

I therefore recommend:

- 1. THAT** Council write to the Hon. Penny Sharpe MLC thanking her and the staff at Heritage NSW for their advocacy and action.
- 2. THAT** Council write to Ms Fiona Gracie and the Cremorne Conservation Group acknowledging the important role they played in galvanising community interest and support for the State Heritage listing.
- 3. THAT** Council acknowledge and thank Council heritage and strategic planning staff for their contribution to the listing.

**COUNCILLOR ZOË BAKER
MAYOR**