



# The Hon Ray Williams MP

Member for Castle Hill  
Minister for Multiculturalism and  
Minister for Disability Services

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## MEDIA RELEASE

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6 MARCH 2018

### **\$2.8 MILLION IN GRANTS TO BRING LOCAL HERITAGE TO LIFE**

A new round of grants under the NSW Government's Heritage Near Me program will see \$2.8 million directed towards projects to protect unique local heritage around the state, and heritage managers or owners in the Castle Hill electorate are encouraged to apply, Member for Castle Hill Ray Williams announced today.

Applications are now open for this year's Heritage Activation grants, which are designed for owners or managers of local, publicly accessible heritage items—from buildings to parks and monuments to special natural and cultural places.

"These grants recognise the importance of bringing local heritage spaces and precincts in our community to life to conserve their heritage significance," Mr Williams said.

"The Heritage Activation grants are for projects that actively encourage community interaction and participation with publicly accessible heritage items that are listed on a local council's Local Environmental Plan (LEP).

"This program supports local communities in their efforts to conserve and celebrate their stories, places and values.

"I encourage all heritage managers or owners across the area to apply for this funding," Mr Williams said.

Past grants have allowed heritage managers or owners—most often community groups and local councils—to undertake conservation work, improve accessibility to their heritage item, add interpretation to a site, or reuse an old site for a new purpose.

Applicants can apply for support for their projects for amounts from \$10,000 to \$100,000. Applications close on 20 April 2018 for projects that begin after 1 July 2018. For more information on the Heritage Near Me program, visit

[www.environment.nsw.gov.au/heritage-near-me-incentives](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/heritage-near-me-incentives), call 02 9873 8544 or email [heritage.nearme@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:heritage.nearme@environment.nsw.gov.au)

**ENDS**

**Videos for media/social media:** This short video features previous Heritage Activation grant recipients from Coonabarabran describing how these grants have helped them protect their unique local heritage.

'*Saving the Royal*' tells the story of the Rickert family and their journey from purchasing to reactivating the Royal Hotel. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5fui2y9j9X0>

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