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**SPECIAL**

*Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*

INCLUSION OF A PLACE IN THE COMMONWEALTH HERITAGE LIST

**HMS *Sirius* Shipwreck**

I, Tony Burke, Minister for Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities, being satisfied that the place described in the Schedule has the Commonwealth Heritage values specified in the Schedule, pursuant to section 341J1 of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*, include it in the Commonwealth Heritage List.

Dated 25 October 2011

*[signed by]*

Tony Burke  
Minister for Sustainability, Environment,  
Water, Population and Communities

**SCHEDULE**

STATE / TERRITORY

Local Governments  
Name  
Location / Boundary  
Criteria / Values

**EXTERNAL TERRITORIES**

**Norfolk Island Area**

**HMS *Sirius* Shipwreck:**

The primary shipwreck site of HMS *Sirius* is located East of Kingston Pier in Slaughter Bay, Norfolk Island, at a point centred on latitude 29 degrees, 3 minutes and 37 seconds South and longitude 167 degrees, 57 minutes and 18 seconds East. The boundary encompasses the primary shipwreck site and other identified archaeological deposits associated with HMS *Sirius* within Slaughter Bay. These sites are contained within and bounded by an imaginary line;

- (i) The commencement point being the Southeast corner of Kingston Pier at latitude 29 degrees, 3 minutes and 30.63 seconds South and longitude 167 degrees, 57 minutes and 12.11 seconds East;
- (ii) thence East along the mean low water mark of the coast of Norfolk Island to a point where the parallel of latitude 29 degrees, 3 minutes and 34.03 seconds South intersects with the meridian of longitude 167 degrees, 57 minutes and 36.38 seconds East;
- (iii) thence West South West to a point where the parallel of latitude 29 degrees, 3 minutes and 42.36 seconds South intersects with the meridian of longitude 167 degrees, 57 minutes and 20.11 seconds East;
- (iv) thence West North West to a point where the parallel of latitude 29 degrees, 3 minutes and 39.27 seconds South intersects with the meridian of longitude 167 degrees, 57 minutes and 12.09 seconds East;
- (v) thence North along the meridian of longitude 167 degrees, 57 minutes and 12.09 seconds East to the point of commencement.

All geographic coordinates for the location and area are expressed in terms of the Geocentric Datum of Australia 1994 (GDA94).

<b>Criterion</b>	<b>Values</b>
(a) the place has significant heritage value because of the place's importance in the course, or pattern, of Australia's natural or cultural history.	<p>The shipwreck site of HMS <i>Sirius</i> has outstanding heritage value to the nation because of its importance in defining events in Australia's cultural history and for its part in development of the processes of Australian migration and defence.</p> <p>The archaeological remains of HMS <i>Sirius</i> represent a tangible link to one of the most significant vessels associated with early migration of European people to Australia. HMS <i>Sirius</i> was guardian of the first fleet during its epic voyage to Australia between 1787 and 1788, which brought the convicts, soldiers and sailors who became Australia's first permanent European settlers. HMS <i>Sirius</i> was also the mainstay of early colonial defence in New South Wales and the primary supply and communication link with Great Britain during the first two years of the settlement. The loss of HMS <i>Sirius</i> at Norfolk Island on 19 March 1790 was a disaster to the fledgling colony during a period of crisis, when the settlement at Port Jackson was in danger of collapse and abandonment. It can be argued that the adaptability, ingenuity and grim determination to survive, demonstrated by the colonists at Port Jackson and Norfolk Island following this disaster, became an enduring trait of the Australian people.</p>

Criterion	Values
(b) the place has significant heritage value because of the place's possession of uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of Australia's natural or cultural history.	<p>The shipwreck site of HMS <i>Sirius</i> has outstanding heritage value to the nation because it possesses rare and uncommon aspects of Australia's cultural history relating to early European settlement.</p> <p>The archaeological remains of HMS <i>Sirius</i> are the only known remains of a vessel of the first fleet that sailed to Australia.</p> <p>As the first fleet flagship, the story and <i>in-situ</i> remains of HMS <i>Sirius</i> are pivotal to the understanding of aspects of life during the early years of Britain's New South Wales colony. The artefacts already recovered during salvage and archaeological excavations of the site, represent the largest single assemblage of material culture from the first fleet voyage to Australia and the early European occupation of Port Jackson and Norfolk Island during the first two years of the settlement.</p> <p>In an international context, HMS <i>Sirius</i> also represents one of the few located examples of an 18th Century British warship that exhibits the use of experimental construction techniques in the period following the American revolutionary war and along with HMS <i>Pandora</i> is one of only two such naval shipwrecks from this period located in Australian waters.</p>
(c) the place has significant heritage value because of the place's potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of Australia's natural or cultural history.	<p>The shipwreck site of HMS <i>Sirius</i> has outstanding heritage value to the nation because of its potential to yield information that would contribute to a greater understanding of Australia's history of early European settlement.</p> <p>The existing artefact collections and the remaining <i>in-situ</i> fabric of HMS <i>Sirius</i> contain important physical evidence of key historical events in Australia's history, including the voyage to Australia and the movement of colonists to Norfolk Island.</p> <p>Contemporary historical documentation relating to HMS <i>Sirius</i> is limited and there remain many unanswered historical and technical questions surrounding the ship and its cargo, especially at the time of its loss on Norfolk Island. The archaeological investigations of the shipwreck site of HMS <i>Sirius</i> have demonstrated its significant archaeological potential for research into the cultural heritage of the early European settlement of Australia.</p> <p>The remaining fabric of HMS <i>Sirius</i> and associated artefact assemblages represents a "time capsule" of cultural life from the period leading up to its shipwreck in 1790, which are relatively free from the effects of cultural disturbance after contemporary salvage ended in 1792.</p>

Criterion	Values
(g) the place has significant heritage value because of the place's strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons.	<p>The shipwreck site of HMS <i>Sirius</i> has outstanding heritage value to the nation because of its strong and special association with the Norfolk Island Community, the descendants of the first fleet settlers and the Australian community as a whole.</p> <p>The arrival of HMS <i>Sirius</i> and the first fleet at Sydney Cove on 26 January 1788 is one of the most important moments in our country's history, which is celebrated each year as the "Australia Day" national public holiday. The importance of the role HMS <i>Sirius</i> played in the founding of Australia is often reiterated on Australia Day including the unveiling of the HMS <i>Sirius</i> memorial in Macquarie Place, Sydney, which contains an anchor and cannon from the ship, which was conducted with great fanfare on Australia day in 1907.</p> <p>The important role played by HMS <i>Sirius</i> in the European phase of Australian settlement is widely recognised within the Australian community and is especially significant to the descendants of the first European settlers or "first fleeters" as they are often described. This importance was highlighted with the selection of HMS <i>Sirius</i> as a significant archaeological project to celebrate the Australian bicentennial in 1988.</p> <p>HMS <i>Sirius</i> is also important to the people of Norfolk Island and is a celebrated part of their island's history, with the artefact collection from HMS <i>Sirius</i> housed in the Norfolk Island Museum. The history and archaeological remains of the HMS <i>Sirius</i> are highly valued by the people of Norfolk Island as the vessel represents a significant phase in the peopling of the Island and its development as a place of secondary punishment of convicts transported to Australia.</p>
(h) the place has significant heritage value because of the place's special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in Australia's natural or cultural history.	<p>The shipwreck site of HMS <i>Sirius</i> has outstanding heritage value because of its special association with the lives of prominent Australians who served as officers on HMS <i>Sirius</i>.</p> <p>The careers of the first three governors' of the colony of New South Wales, Arthur Phillip (1788-1792), John Hunter (1795-1800) and Philip Gidley King (1800-1806) are closely associated with the history of HMS <i>Sirius</i>.</p> <p>All three sailed as senior officers on board HMS <i>Sirius</i> during the voyage of the first fleet to New South Wales; Phillip as Fleet Captain, Hunter as his second in command and King as Second Lieutenant. Hunter was also Captain of HMS <i>Sirius</i> during its last ill-fated voyage in 1790, when it was wrecked at Norfolk Island.</p>

For more information on the place search the Australian Heritage Database at <http://www.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/ahdb/search.pl> using the name of the place.