



TRANSCRIPT

The Hon Peter Garrett MP

Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts

BONDI BEACH NATIONAL HERITAGE LISTING

Doorstop at Bondi Beach

11:00am, 25 January 2008

Peter Garrett:

Bondi is totally Australian in terms of its experience, it's the most popular beach in the country, it brings people from all around the world. It's the sun, it's lifesavers, it's the culture of Australia and it is absolutely right that Bondi Beach goes on the National Heritage List. What a great day for this beach, what a great day for the National Heritage List. How Australian is it that Bondi is on our most important national heritage list.

And as someone who grew up in Sydney, Bondi holds a very, very special place in my heart. People would come down to this Bondi area to make music, they'd come down here to surf, and of course you'd come down to be a part of the Bondi culture and in fact if you go back I think several years now to an Oils album you'll hear that song called Bus to Bondi. But we weren't the only ones by any means - there were many musicians and there still are musicians that live and work in this area. This is a place that has inspired countless artists, painters, filmmakers, television series-makers and it is a place that has great Australian spirit so it is fantastic to get Bondi on the National Heritage List, the 76th nomination, and what a fantastic nomination, what a fantastic listing it is and for the Rudd Labor Government, strong evidence of our commitment to recognise Australia's important places of national heritage value; Happy to take any questions.

REPORTER:

What would this mean in terms of protection under the Federal Environment law if there were developments proposed on say the parks or the cliffs?

PETER GARRETT:

Well this listing does mean that under the EPBC Act if the values of Bondi and the values of the listing are likely to be affected, then the Commonwealth would be able to consider those applications - if there

are any applications or proposals that would affect those values, not the places physically, but the values of the whole area.

REPORTER: Mr Turnbull raised the issue of some money under the regional grants program for the two surf clubs here, obviously you are reviewing the grants program, are those applications still going to be reviewed favourably?

PETER GARRETT: All those existing funds that have been committed are locked in. I have to say and I have to commend the Heritage Council who were responsible for bringing this nomination forward, the process whereby nominations are considered by the council is a good process, it is a solid process and we think that the Council has brought forward a nomination which is absolutely deserving.

REPORTER: How much credit should be given to Malcolm Turnbull because he also brought it forward?

PETER GARRETT: It is actually the Council itself that brought it forward, look I am happy to acknowledge the role played by the processes that Australia has in place to recognise places of important national heritage value and that's what's happened here and that will continue to happen.

REPORTER: If we can just come back to that question of the protection, I mean what real guarantees are there of the integrity of this place, the beach and Campbell Parade in particular, are going to stay protected?

PETER GARRETT: I think that the answer to that is to recognise that by putting Bondi on the National Heritage List, it permits the Commonwealth if there is a proposal which would affect the values of Bondi, the values of the listing, to examine it and to explore it. So it is an additional level of consideration.

REPORTER: And if necessary to stop it?

PETER GARRETT: Well it would depend what it was. But certainly if you were looking at having a 30 storey skyscraper stuck right in the middle of Campbell Parade which casts, you know, shadows over the whole of the beach and clearly, materially affected the whole of this area, its amenity, the sense of place that's here; it's something that you'd look at very closely.

REPORTER: What do you love about this place?

PETER GARRETT: Look its openness. I think it's a place that welcomes people. I mean hearing Uncle Les talk about the role that it had for Aboriginal people brings it home to us. Many, many Australians are drawn to Bondi, as are many Australians absolutely loving the fact that we've got a place like this so close to the city with openness, and a history and a tradition that is still real and still being lived out on the beaches today.

REPORTER: How important is Bondi for the tourism industry?

PETER GARRETT: Well inbound tourism accounts for about 68 per cent of the tourism and they come for places that have got natural values and places of important heritage value. So Bondi will be very important to our tourism. It's clear that it's one of the most visited parts of Australia. When tourists come to Australia and particularly when they come to NSW they want to see the Opera House, the Harbour Bridge and Bondi Beach. All of those three iconic sites are now on the National Heritage List and that will amplify the attraction and the recognition that these places have for visitors both from within Australia and also from overseas.

REPORTER: Can you give us a few lines from Bus to Bondi?

PETER GARRETT: Well it's all about tickets and arriving late, I can tell you that much.

EVENT GUEST: You've talked about Uncle Les being here, I've just travelled all the way from Kempsey and I just pulled up in town and I heard that YOU were on the beach with my uncle and I thought that was a great

achievement of the Aboriginal people and the non-Aboriginal people actually working in harmony to get something going to protect the land and protect the being on it is the most important thing that people of this country should be looking at.

PETER GARRETT:

Well that's right and it was terrific to have Uncle Les here today. We will continue to work closely with Indigenous communities and that's certainly the case not only in relation to places like Bondi Beach but also places of other importance that have been put on the National Heritage List. Now a couple more questions folks then we have got to go.

REPORTER:

Just a question on the Malabar Headland and the NSW Rifle Association, are they going to have to move from that site?

PETER GARRETT:

Actually I noticed that we might have a film that will be made on a bit of Malabar Headland. I think that the *Wolverine* film, if my memory serves me correctly, has identified a portion of Malabar, away from the Eastern Suburbs Banksia Scrub, as a potential site for some filming. We will look closely at the way in which we can commit to restoring the Malabar Headland for the people of NSW to enjoy as National Park and public open space and all interests will be taken into account in that process.

REPORTER:

What is your response to the report from the Productivity Commission today which basically questions the Stern review?

PETER GARRETT:

Look I've seen the reports of that report and I recognise that the Treasurer and Minister Wong will have additional comments to make about it. I simply say that all of the reporting that's done in relation to examining the economic impacts of climate change has value. I know that Professor Garnaut's report will take it into account, just as he will other material that's out there in the public domain. When it comes to the technical questions about discounting rates and matters of that sort there'll be an economic debate about that. The Stern report, this Commission's examination of it and a number of other scientific and economic reports will build up a body of knowledge upon which

governments will make prudent decisions. Thanks very much
everybody.

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