



MEDIA RELEASE

The Hon Peter Garrett MP

Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts

The Hon Bob Debus MP

Federal Member for Macquarie

19 June 2009

\$112,000 FOR EVERGLADES HOUSE AND GARDEN UPGRADE

With a contribution of \$112,000 in funding, important work can now begin on Everglades House and Garden.

Funding was announced today by the Federal Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts, Peter Garrett, and the Federal Member for Macquarie, Bob Debus, as part of the Australian Government's \$650 million *Jobs Fund*.

"Everglades includes one of Australia's foremost heritage gardens and this new funding will ensure that visitors will have improved access to its spectacular surroundings," Mr Garrett said.

Mr Garrett said activities funded through the project will include:

- Upgrade to the walking paths throughout the Paul Sorenson designed gardens.
- Repairs and upgrades to the interior of the house.

Mr Debus welcomed the funding, saying, "Everglades House and Gardens was established in the 1930s and I am very pleased that the \$112,000 earmarked under the Australian Government's *Jobs Fund* will benefit visitors as well as create jobs for local trades-people and apprentices. In addition, our local businesses will also have an opportunity to supply the materials and services needed to support this vital conservation and preservation work.

"This funding is especially welcome because Everglades draws in thousands of tourists each year. This work will enhance its attractiveness to tourists as it continues to generate jobs and provide an economic stimulus to the region," Mr Debus said.

"This is an important investment in our local community, as is the previously announced funding of close to \$1.3 million for major upgrades to the Grand Canyon Walking Track in the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area.

"The *Jobs Fund* is an important part of the Government's commitment to support local jobs. The \$650 million *Jobs Fund* includes \$60 million for projects related to Australia's historic, Indigenous and natural heritage places and the National Trust of Australia (NSW) is to be congratulated for their work to conserve Everglades House and Garden."

The \$60 million for community heritage projects has been developed in consultation with Senator Bob Brown as part of the Government's \$42 billion National Building – Economic Stimulus Plan.

Funding previously announced for heritage projects includes \$2.5 million for four Tasmanian convict sites and more than \$550,000 to protect and conserve the Cottesloe home of World War II Prime Minister John Curtin. In addition \$2 million has been allocated for conservation works to Old Government House in Parramatta and more than \$360,000 for walking and bike trails at Budj Bim in Victoria.

For more information on Australia's heritage projects, visit www.heritage.gov.au

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