

MEDIA STATEMENT – Australian Institute of Architects NSW Chapter

MLC Building North Sydney

The Institute of Architects is shocked by the recent Land and Environment Court judgement to rescind former Minister Harwin's decision to list the MLC building North Sydney on the NSW State Heritage register.

The MLC building is one of the earliest Australian buildings of its construction type and one of the few of its kind to survive. Not only is the building an early Sydney example of the Post-War International Style, detailed for commercial office uses, it is also possibly the earliest surviving curtain wall building in Australia, a unique exemplar of the technological advances of the time.

NSW Chapter President Laura Cockburn states, "Clearly Minister Harwin recognised the importance of this building and the need for it to be listed on the State Heritage Register. That this listing has now been removed due to an administrative error is concerning."

Ms Cockburn continues, "The Institute calls on the new Minister to maintain the NSW government's position and re-direct the heritage listing of the MLC building in a comprehensive and definitive manner, such that it cannot be subject to future court action."

The Institute strongly believes that demolition of this building is not warranted and would constitute an irretrievable loss to NSW.