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news release



Minister for Urban
Affairs and Planning
Minister for Housing

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WORLD-CLASS RAILWAY MACHINERY SAVED

A State Government grant of \$300,000 will go towards the conservation of world-class railway machinery at Eveleigh Workshop and will result in the employment and training of a group of young people to carry out the work.

The Minister for Urban Affairs and Planning, Mr Craig Knowles, said this was the largest single heritage grant in the State Government's \$3.6 million heritage program.

"The Eveleigh industrial collection in its setting at the former railway workshop is regarded internationally as very significant.

"Since the workshops became redundant about 10 years ago, we have been left with thousands of pieces of original machinery - some are minuscule while others like the Davy Press, the forge and the crane are huge.

"Such a large assembly of items from the industrial era, in its original setting, must be restored for future generations.

"The new jobs created at Eveleigh for people to carry out the mammoth restoration task is an important spin-off. They will be trained and supervised by a conservation specialist who is currently producing a conservation management plan for the machinery.

"It will be meaningful work for people who will be taught a valuable trade. It will keep the skills alive and this group will, in turn, pass them onto others.

"It is expected that the interest and commitment of the many railway heritage enthusiasts will also contribute to the restoration of the machinery.

"The \$300,000 grant will go to the Australian Technology Park which will manage the project.

"The grant was allocated on the recommendation of the NSW Heritage Council. A further \$300,000 will be sought from the Federal Government," Mr Knowles said.

The State Government's \$3.6 million heritage program will fund 245 projects over the next year.