Role of the National Trust
[abstract]

As an independent, voluntary community organisation of nearly 50 years standing, the National Trust is often called upon to perform the role of mediator between developers and local government authorities. This has led to many opportunities for the National Trust to act as a ‘catalyst’ to achieve reasonable compromises between the often competing aspirations of developers and the community. This may also involve representations to local government authorities seeking variations in building and town planning restrictions.

The National Trust operates a number of liaison committees with government instrumentalities such as the Water Board, Roads and Traffic Authority and State Rail to deal on a case by case basis with the conservation of their industrial heritage. The Railway Heritage Committee has just been restructured and will be chaired by the Chief Executive of State Rail - an indication of the attention now being focussed by State Rail on heritage issues.

A recent innovation has been the institution of the National Trust Heritage Awards, sponsored by Sydney Electricity, to promote heritage conservation through awards for activities which are educational, promotional or provide information to the community.

Graham Quint

Graham Quint has worked with the National Trust of Australia (NSW) for the past 14 years and is the trust’s senior conservation officer. Initially dealing with the natural heritage (bush management, tree studies, coastal and landscape conservation), he now has responsibility for development and promotion of the National Trust’s information systems.