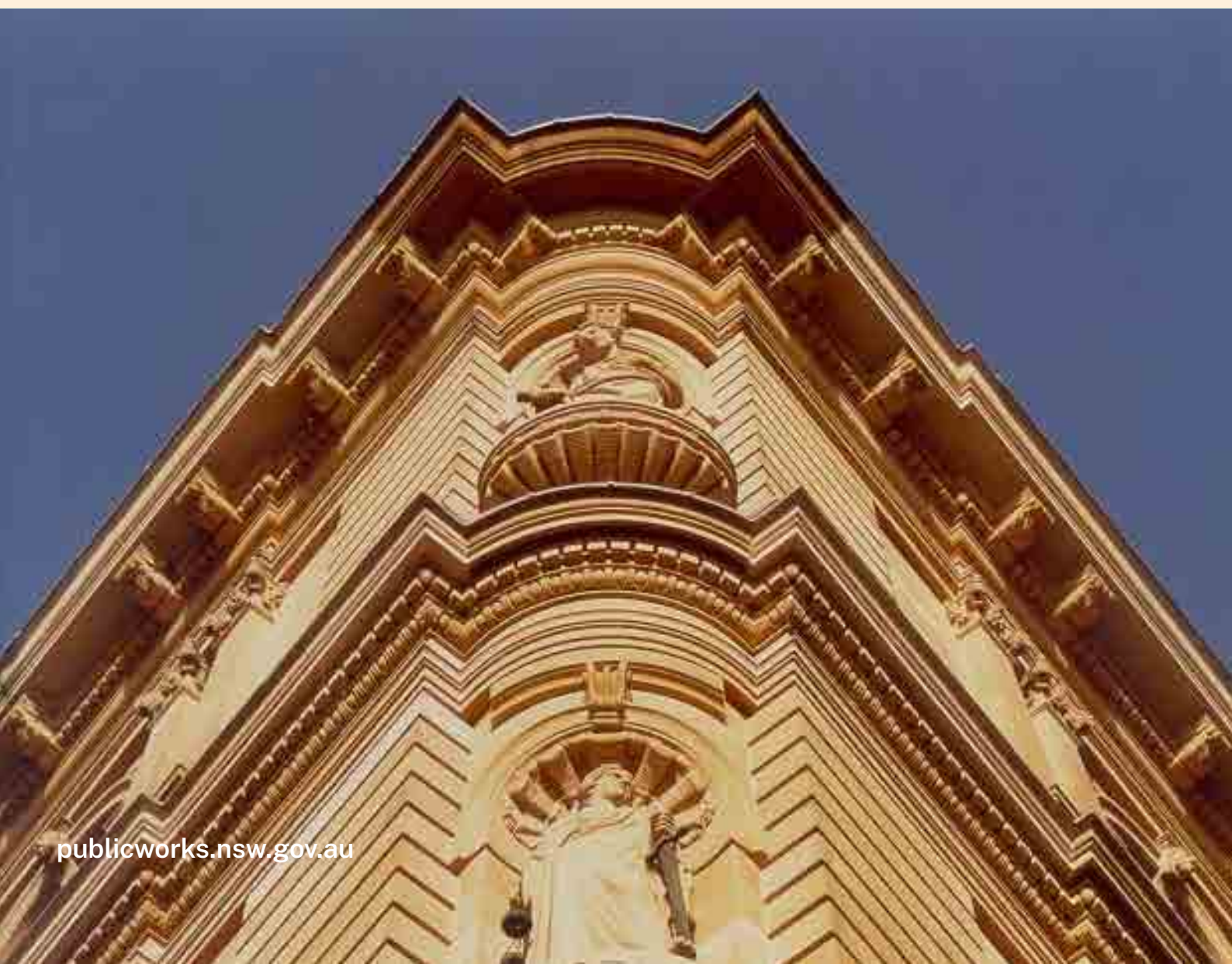


Ministers Stonework Program

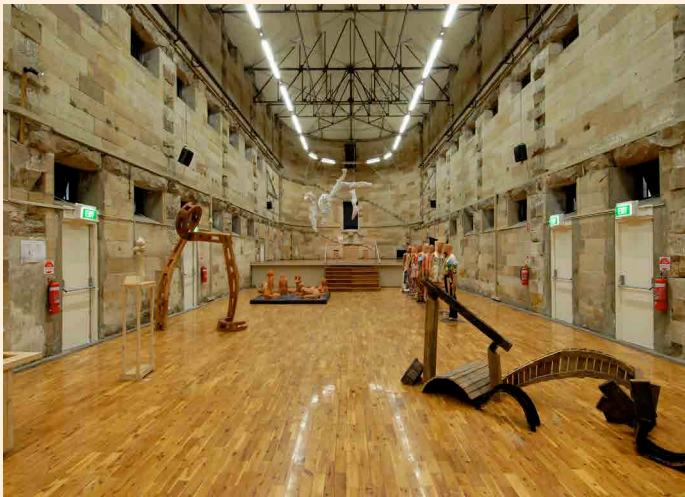
The NSW Government owns a significant portfolio of buildings and structures estimated at over 800 at the last count dating from the 1800s onwards, which are wholly or partly built of sandstone. They include some of Sydney's iconic sights like the Art Gallery of New South Wales, Australian Museum; and Sydney Hospital, as well as civic buildings, schools, hospitals, gaols, fire stations, courthouses – part of the rich heritage of sandstone across NSW.



Ministers Stonework

NSW Public Works manages the Program, which provides financial and technical support, including stone, skills and advice, for the ongoing repair and restoration public stone buildings in NSW. The program allocates projects where client agencies make a commitment to joint funding. By collaborating with other State agencies, the value and benefits of the Program are significantly enhanced. These joint funding arrangements have resulted in the development of a holistic approach the co-ordination of works where economies can be achieved by undertaking associated works such as roofing repairs, roof drainage and carpentry and painting works.

- MSP co-funds conservation work on stone or partly stone assets in state government care
- Funding is subject to certain criteria, based on need and consistent with state agency best practice and government policy
- The MSP can also co-fund condition inspection, forward documentation, strategic planning and interim safety risk management to help agencies plan future objectives and resources for heritage asset management



NSW Public Works Heritage Asset Advisory manages the budget for the MSP. The team provides expert advice, training and support to state and local government agencies and private sector custodians in the development and promotion of best practice heritage conservation for all types of public heritage assets.



Key Objectives

- Assist State agencies to establish priorities and optimise maintenance and repair of historic stone buildings and monuments
- Promote the sustainable and responsible use of natural stone, particularly conservation-quality “yellowblock” (Sydney Basin-Hawkesbury sandstone), in building repair
- Support training and development of stonemasonry skills and associate specialised crafts, and raise stone industry standards
- Promote and support economical outcomes in the long-term maintenance of heritage buildings, including strategic asset management
- Enable NSW government agencies to fulfill their responsibilities as managers of listed heritage assets
- Support or undertake research into stone production and conservation techniques
- Assist managers of government heritage buildings in active use to identify and mitigate potential maintenance challenges, including safety and structural risks

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