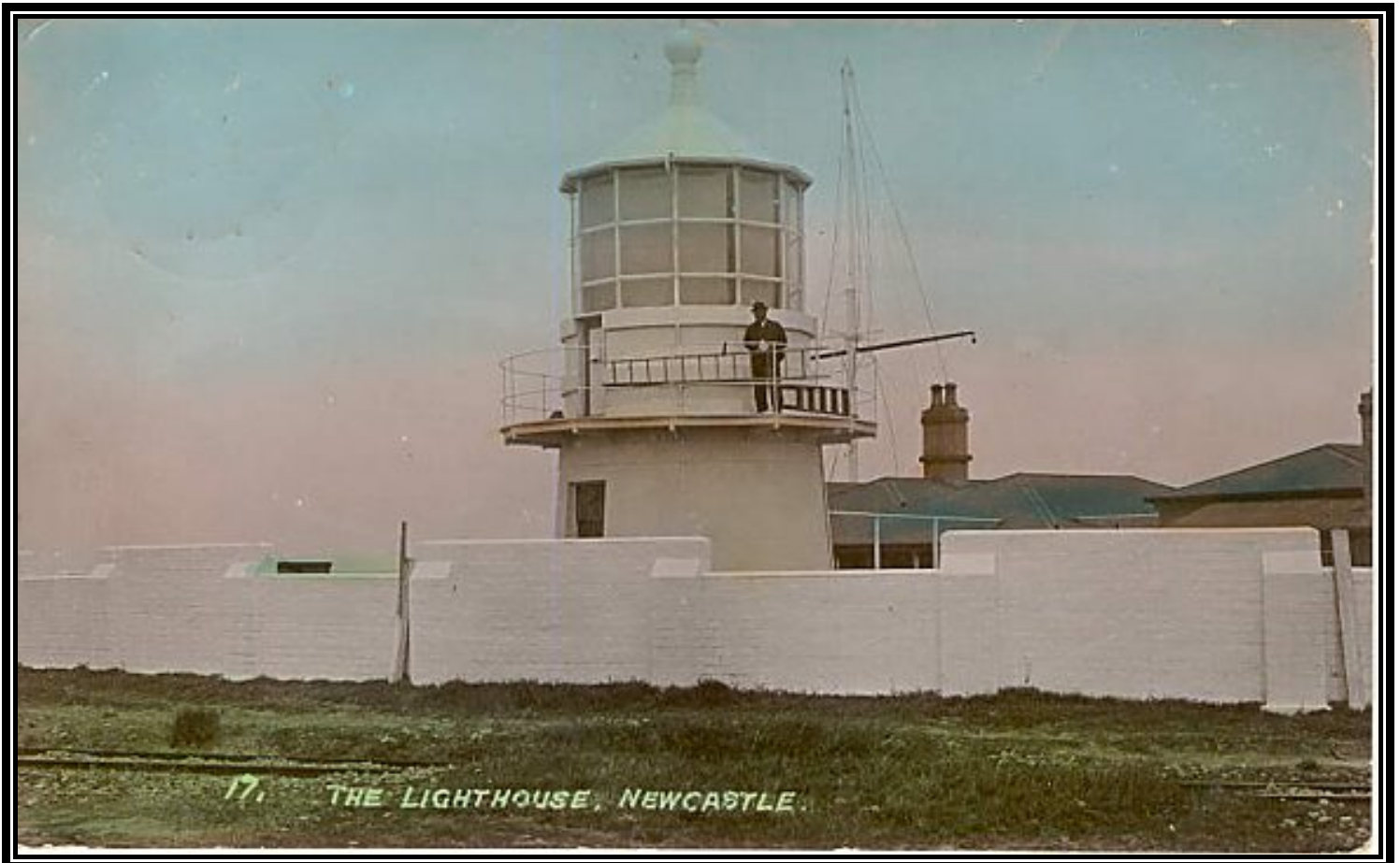


*Submission for EPBC Assessment of Nobbys Headland,  
Newcastle NSW*



**Nobbys Lighthouse Newcastle N.S.W.**

**Parks and Playgrounds Movement in association with:**

National Trust of Australia (NSW)

Nature Conservation Council of NSW

Total Environment Centre

Standing Committee on Newcastle East Development

# Submission for EPBC Assessment of Nobbys Headland, Newcastle NSW

## Parks and Playgrounds Movement Inc

8 February 2007

We argue that the proposed development by the Newcastle Port Corporation and Nobbys Lighthouse Pty Ltd at Nobbys Head Lighthouse, Newcastle NSW **be assessed by public enquiry** for the following reasons:

1. **The Newcastle Port Corporation and Nobbys Lighthouse Pty Ltd have breached section 26 of the Environment and Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act.**
2. **The proponents have not considered the Commonwealth Heritage Values** of the unique Nobbys Lighthouse which is probably the oldest operational Lighthouse on the Australian Coast.
3. **The development proposal does not meet the conditions** set out in the Expression of Interest document as published by the Newcastle Port Corporation.
4. **The Newcastle City Council failed to apply its adopted Heritage Places Strategic Plan and Plans of Management** when approving the project.
5. **The Newcastle City Council did not consider Commonwealth Heritage Values** in approving the proposed development. No heritage report was received by council prior to approval of the development.
6. **In plans for the development Nobbys Lighthouse Pty Ltd rely upon highly questionable alienation of the Lighthouse curtilage** by the corner of a recently built garage as the justification for the siting of an unsympathetic new building that partially surrounds and destroys the historic lighthouse.
7. **The Nobbys Headland was reduced to its present height specifically to facilitate the building of the Lighthouse that stands there today.** The historic and the National Heritage Values of Nobbys Lighthouse must be acknowledged and protected. Nobbys Lighthouse is 150 years old on the 31 Dec this year. **The relationship of Nobbys Lighthouse to the broader Coal River Precinct (see below) cannot and should not be underestimated.** (See [www.newcastle.edu.au/coalriver](http://www.newcastle.edu.au/coalriver))

Further, we maintain that the issue of development **requires a full public enquiry** because:

1. There are concerns about the structure and history of the Nobbys Lighthouse Pty Ltd.
2. The Coal River site of which the Lighthouse is a pivotal landmark is currently undergoing a national heritage nomination process. The lighthouse and the historical and heritage values thereof need to be considered in regard to the entire Coal River precinct. (See [www.newcastle.edu.au/coalriver](http://www.newcastle.edu.au/coalriver) )
3. There are significant concerns over the whether the Newcastle Port Corporation is the appropriate body to manage what is Commonwealth land especially with regard to the recent history of the Port Corporation. (See [www.icac.nsw.gov.au/go/investigations-and-inquiries/transcripts/glen-oakley---use-of-fraudulent-qualifications](http://www.icac.nsw.gov.au/go/investigations-and-inquiries/transcripts/glen-oakley---use-of-fraudulent-qualifications) )

We propose that:

1. Any future concentrated development within the Coal River Precinct should be situated in an alternative site, the Cornish Dock, that is owned by the Port Corporation and that is currently earmarked for development by them. This site can fulfil the heritage requirements of sympathetic and adaptive reuse without undermining the heritage and historical fabric of the Coal River Precinct. This alternative location provides visual and physical access to the Nobbys headland and lighthouse as well as Fort Scratchley and the Convict Coalmines. It sits within a precinct that represents the birthplace of Newcastle as a city.
2. The care and ownership of the Nobby Lighthouse and Nobbys Headland should be transferred to the National Parks and Wildlife Service or the Historic Houses Trust NSW who have legislative requirements to consider heritage values. Such custodianship would secure the integrity of a site of national historic significance for future generations.

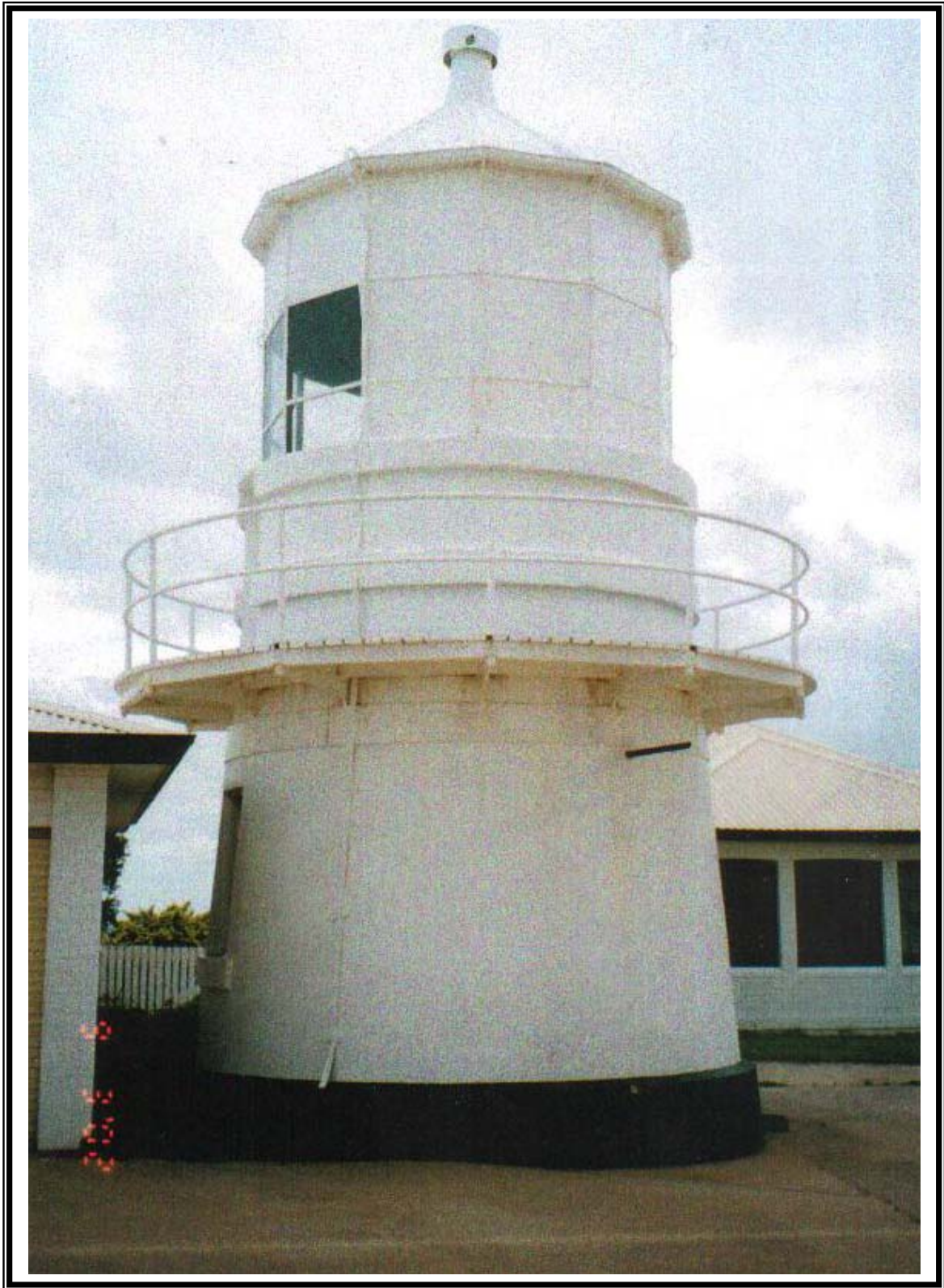
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**Nobbys Lighthouse Newcastle 2003**