



Hon Tony Kelly MLC  
Minister for Lands  
Deputy Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council  
Leader of the House in the Legislative Council

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## UNESCO AWARD FOR NSW'S UNIQUE COLONIAL RECORDS

The Minister for Lands, Tony Kelly congratulated the Land and Property Management Authority for having early colonial records placed on a highly respected United Nations register of important Australian historical documents.

"The Old Register of the early history of our country from 22 January 1794 to 15 May 1824 has been formally accepted for inscription on the UNESCO Australian *Memory of the World* register," Mr Kelly said.

"This is like achieving an Olympic gold and it shows the importance of preserving and making available historical records to the public.

"Other items on the UNESCO register include the *Endeavour* Journal of James Cook, the Mabo case transcripts and the landmark constitutional documents of the Commonwealth of Australia. (refer [www.amw.org.au/register/amw\\_reg06.htm](http://www.amw.org.au/register/amw_reg06.htm))

"UNESCO launched *Memory of the World* to guard against, as it says, 'collective amnesia' by preserving valuable archive material and library collections and to ensure their wide dissemination.

"The Old Register in fact comprises nine books and they document more than just land transactions.

"They provided the first place for people of the new colony to officially record their land transactions and other legal documents and they tell part of the story of the colony's early development and land history.

"They are a unique and irreplaceable record of the early colony of New South Wales and are now available on DVD.

"This allows anyone to explore the earliest and most valuable records of our nation's history.

"The DVD of the Old Register is available from NSW State Records at a cost of \$125.00 (inclusive of GST).

"All proceeds from the sale of the DVD go towards the conservation of the registers to ensure that this unique record of our nation's history is preserved and available to future generations of Australians.

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