

# Ravenworth homestead

- The Department of Planning recommendation is that the homestead should be moved to a location near its current location and not to Broke.
- If this was to happen, further European heritage would be lost and Ravenworth homestead would join the scores of historic Hunter Valley homesteads now “lost” to the community.
- These historic homesteads are not in the public domain as they are privately owned, often by corporations such as coal mining companies and horse studs and thus are not available to the public.
- There is no example of a house representing these large Hunter Valley properties from the early 19<sup>th</sup> century in the public domain.
- Many are simply deteriorating and cannot be accessed by the public

# This should not happen again!

- In the 1990s there was a proposal to move Wambo homestead from its existing location, on a mining lease, to the town of Singleton
- The plan was to re-erect the building in a park and re-purpose it.
- The Heritage Office opposed this as it regarded the location and curtilage as part of what should be preserved.
- As a result the Wambo homestead sits surrounded by mining activity slowly deteriorating and not accessible to the general public.
- Note the buttresses holding up the foundations, missing columns, temporary downpipes
- An opportunity to preserve and utilise an historic house and an example of early European settlement of the Hunter Valley was lost



# Beamish open air museum near Durham, UK.

- The first open air museum in England
- Founded 1972 by Dr Frank Atkinson.
- Buildings have been translocated from other locations in order to preserve them





# Beamish school,(shown below)

- Moved from Stanley, County Durham
- Foundation stone 1891
- Chapel and fences all translocated
- The hotel in Beamish village is from Bishop Auckland
- The bank building in Beamish is from Gateshead
- Buildings of varying age & broad locations have been successfully translocated



# St Helens church, Beamish

- Perhaps the oldest building translocated
- Moved from Eston, North Yorkshire
- Parts date from 1100
- Main building 1450
- Bell tower 1600





# Beamish is now one of the most popular tourist attractions in the north of England

- More than 700,000 people visit each year
- The founder acknowledges “that a building kept in-situ is more authentic”
- However, he also believed that collecting and preserving the heritage of the region is better than losing it
- A superb example of moving old buildings and “bringing them to life”
- A model for all subsequent outdoor museums in UK
- The terrace in this photo is Ravensworth Terrace circa 1830, from Gateshead



# Closer to home :Richmond Villa

- This building was located in the grounds of Parliament House, Macquarie Street
- It was moved in 1977/78 to allow a new building to be constructed to house parliamentary offices





# Richmond Villa

- This building was relocated to Kent Street, Sydney
- Received Heritage listing in 2012
- A successful example of dismantling, re-erecting and adaptive re-use of an historic building
- Thus, you can retain heritage values in a translocated building





# The future of Ravensworth homestead

- The issue is: Which location offers a better future for preserving this historic Hunter Valley homestead?
- Such opportunities seldom come up
- We cannot afford to lose another homestead
- Putting the building on the Ravensworth Farm site will result in another historic homestead mouldering away and seen by almost no-one.
- The Ravensworth Farm site recommendation includes the need to have a plan of management, studies to be done to find a use for the building and no opportunity for public access.
- The Broke location already has all of the above as well as ensuring ongoing public access and public engagement with the heritage resource
- This unique opportunity should not be squandered
- This imaginative and creative project should be supported