



**Andrew Constance**  
Minister for Transport and Infrastructure

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **WENDY WHITELEY'S SECRET GARDEN PRESERVED**

Minister for Transport and Infrastructure Andrew Constance and Member for North Shore Jillian Skinner today announced plans for the long-term preservation of Wendy Whiteley's Secret Garden at Lavender Bay.

The NSW Government will extend North Sydney Council's five year lease on the land to 30 years, with an additional 30 year roll-over clause - ensuring visitors can enjoy the iconic garden for decades to come.

Mr Constance and Mrs Skinner were joined in the garden today by Wendy Whiteley, Sydney Trains Chief Executive Howard Collins and North Sydney Mayor Jilly Gibson.

"For more than 20 years, Wendy Whiteley has laboured tirelessly to change what was essentially an overgrown railway dump into a beautiful and unique public space," Mr Constance said.

"Wendy has poured her blood, sweat and tears into the garden and she, along with the people of Sydney, deserve certainty that it will be here for years to come. Our announcement today ends the question mark over the garden's future."

Mrs Skinner said: "Wendy's garden is a magical place that I have taken family and visitors to over many years. It is quirky, like Wendy herself, with fabulous plantings and surprises around every corner.

"I am absolutely thrilled it will be preserved as a gift not only to my local community but to all Australians."

Mr Collins said rail operations will be planned to ensure the garden will not be disturbed.

"When you contrast the condition of the land before Ms Whiteley first began working on the garden, the transformation is remarkable. I'm among the many people who will be very pleased to know it will be here for decades to come," he said.

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