

Media Release

The Hon Sonya Kilkenny MP
Minister for Planning
Minister for the Suburbs



Tuesday, 17 September 2024

REVIVING AUSTRALIA'S OLDEST CHINESE TEMPLE

The Allan Labor Government is supporting the recovery of Australia's oldest continuously operating Chinese temple, ensuring it remains a cherished cultural landmark for generations to come.

The heritage-listed See Yup Temple, located on Raglan Street in South Melbourne, has been awarded a \$60,000 grant to aid the See Yup Society of Melbourne in restoring and reopening the 150-year-old building.

The grant comes after the temple suffered substantial damage from a fire that broke out during the Lunar New Year of the Dragon celebrations in February 2024. Emergency repairs to secure the building were completed in May 2024.

The grant will assist the committee to identify the required steps for restoration by appointing a project manager and expert sub-consultants who will provide advice on the conservation of the temple and its contents.

The Taoist temple, built in 1866, is architecturally significant due to its fusion of Western classical architecture with traditional Chinese detailing, as well as its fine timber carvings and painted finishes. It also includes a large collection of historic objects made from timber, silk, bronze, stone and ceramic.

The temple is used for Chinese language classes, worship, and traditional festivals, making it a central hub for the Chinese community.

The grant will assist the See Yup Society to restore the unique heritage temple and important place of worship while preserving its cultural significance.

Quote attributable to Minister for Planning Sonya Kilkenny

"As Australia's oldest continuously operating Chinese temple, the See Yup Temple holds a special place in Melbourne's multicultural history – one that we're proud to protect."

Quote attributable to Member for Albert Park Nina Taylor

"This grant will help ensure this cherished site will continue to be a place where traditions are celebrated and memories are made for generations to come."