Conserving Timber Structures

- Covers a broad range of buildings, works, engineering structures

- Represents c.50% of the State Heritage Register and s.170 Items

- Government Ownership
• Bulk excavations on a site near Harris Street, Sydney
Key Issues:

• Retention of heritage values
• Maintenance Requirements
• Availability of Quality Replacement Materials
• Loss of Skills Base / Conservation Techniques
Heritage Office Approach:

• Regular Maintenance
• Minimalist Approach
• Providing for replacement materials
• Access to expert advice and skilled trades persons
• Sympathetic works and additions

Major Threats:

• Fire
• Insects
• Fungi
• Physical / Chemical Decay
• Presumption of Redundancy
Conservation Techniques:
- Timber Pre-Treatments
- Regular Maintenance
- Splicing / Wedging
- Repair Techniques
- Species Selection
- Maintaining Suitable Skills Base

Case Study RTA Timber Bridges
- Heritage values to be conserved
- Operational arguments vs retaining grandpas axe
- MOU – the way forward
Options to provide a continuing supply of quality timber

• Agreement with NSW State Forests

• Reuse and Recycling

• Establishment of sponsored mature hardwood plantations for specified SHR items

Recommended Actions

• Complete Inventory of significant items

• Providing Skills Base Courses

• Source of Replacement Quality Timber

• Flexibility but Retain Heritage Values
Where to From Here

• Heritage Office / Heritage Council

• Government Agencies

• Funding / Assistance