



**The Honourable Don Harwin MLC**

Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council  
Special Minister of State, Minister for the Public Service and Employee Relations,  
Aboriginal Affairs, and the Arts  
Vice-President of the Executive Council

Ref: A3408562

The Hon. Shayne Mallard, MLC  
Chair, Standing Committee on Social Issues  
Parliament House  
Macquarie Street  
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Mr. Mallard

I am writing to refer a matter to the Standing Committee on Social Issues.

In September 2018, Create NSW and the Department of Finance, Services and Innovation commenced a review of the *State Records Act 1998* (the Act) to assess the impacts of its operation, and whether it continues to support contemporary government and meet community expectations. Since the commencement of this review, a partnership between the State Archives and Records Authority of NSW and Sydney Living Museums has been formed, with a single Executive Director leading both organisations from 1 July 2019.

The NSW Government proposes reforms to the legislative framework for these two organisations, aimed at increasing public knowledge and enjoyment of the stories that shape our social, historical and cultural identity. This supports our government's vision for services, heritage, and arts and culture.

I request the Standing Committee on Social Issues inquire into and report on the Act and the *Review of the State Records Act 1998 Policy Paper*. Proposed terms of reference are attached.

Yours sincerely

**Don Harwin MLC**

Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council  
Special Minister of State  
Minister for the Public Service and Employee Relations, Aboriginal Affairs, and the Arts  
Vice-President of the Executive Council

DATE: 10.1.20

Enc: Attachment 1: Review of State Records Act 1998 - terms of reference

## **Attachment 1: Review of State Records Act 1998 – terms of reference**

That the Standing Committee on Social Issues inquire into and report on the *State Records Act 1998* (NSW) (the **Act**) and the Policy Paper on its review, with particular reference to:

- a) the role and purposes of the State Records Authority of NSW and Sydney Living Museums
- b) the adequacy of the Act in meeting citizens' needs
- c) factors constraining public access to and use of the documentary and material heritage of NSW
- d) the operation and effect of the proposed reforms in the attached Policy Paper – in particular:
  - i. the effect of the proposed reforms on NSW public offices, including NSW Government agencies, local councils, public health organisations and State-owned corporations
  - ii. whether the proposed reforms support digital government
  - iii. whether the proposed reforms will increase public knowledge and enjoyment of the stories that shape our social, historical and cultural identity, enhancing social outcomes for the people of NSW
  - iv. whether the proposed reforms will enhance the protection of the key cultural assets of NSW
- e) any other related matter.