



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL ISSUES

MEDIA RELEASE REPORT Tabled

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
15 October 2020

The Standing Committee on Social Issues today tabled its report into the *State Records Act 1998* and the Policy Paper on its review. The Upper House Committee was tasked with examining the Act and the Policy Paper as part of a broader review of the legislative and policy framework supporting the creation, preservation and access of our State's documentary and material heritage. In particular, the committee considered a range of proposed reforms presented in the Policy Paper aimed at enhancing knowledge of and access to our State's stories.

The Committee Chair, the Hon Shayne Mallard MLC, stated: 'For the committee, this inquiry was very much rooted in the deep and rich history of New South Wales – a history captured in records and places that should be protected, shared and learnt from'.

'To this end, the committee strongly supports the key proposal discussed during this inquiry – the creation of a new single cultural institution to replace the State Archives and Records Authority and Sydney Living Museums,' said the Chair. 'The committee believes that such an institution can broaden access and engagement with wider audiences in ways not seen before to truly bring the history of New South Wales to life'.

The Chair continued: 'To support this, the committee makes a number of recommendations to ensure that the new entity is built on strong legislative and policy foundations, including recommendations regarding a detailed analysis of the proposal, funding, and the new entity's recordkeeping and archival functions, governance structure, and State-wide mandate'.

'In addition, the committee makes further recommendations which support greater access to records, including for Aboriginal people, better records management by public offices and stronger regulation of public office recordkeeping'.

For a full copy of the committee's report and other inquiry documents, please visit the committee's [webpage](#).

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For further information please contact Committee Chair, the Hon Shayne Mallard MLC, on 9230 2434.