



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL ISSUES

12 May 2021

D21/23861

The Hon Don Harwin MLC
Special Minister of State
Minister for the Public Service and Employee Relations, Aboriginal Affairs, and the Arts
Vice-President of the Executive Council
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Minister

Inquiry into the review of the *Heritage Act 1977*

Thank you for your correspondence dated 7 April 2021 requesting that the Standing Committee on Social Issues undertake an inquiry into the review of the *Heritage Act 1977*.

The committee has now met to consider the terms of reference and has resolved that I write to you to request that you forward a revised terms of reference which include the following additional matters:

- inserting the following words at the end of sub-paragraph (b) of paragraph 1: 'and the protection of heritage.'
- inserting the following new sub-paragraph after sub-paragraph (c) of paragraph 1: '(d) the case for stand-alone First Nations heritage laws in New South Wales.'

The amended terms of reference would therefore read as follows:

Review of the *Heritage Act 1977*

1. That the Standing Committee on Social Issues inquire into and report on the *Heritage Act 1977* (NSW) (the Act), with particular reference to:
 - a) the need for legislative change to deliver a heritage system that is modern, effective and reflects best practice heritage conservation, activation and celebration
 - b) the adequacy of the Act in meeting the needs of customers and the community and the protection of heritage

- c) how the Act could more effectively intersect with related legislation, such as heritage elements of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* and the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*
- d) the case for standalone First Nations heritage laws in New South Wales
- e) the issues raised and focus questions posed in the Government's Discussion Paper, in particular:
 - i. a category approach to heritage listing to allow for more nuanced and targeted recognition and protection of the diversity of State significant heritage items
 - ii. consideration of new supports to incentivise heritage ownership, conservation, adaptive reuse, activation and investment
 - iii. improvements to heritage compliance and enforcement provisions
 - iv. streamlining heritage processes
- f) any other related matter.

Could you please provide a response by **3.00 pm Friday 14 May 2021**.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr Sam Griffith, Director on 9230 2144 or email Committee.SocialIssues@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Yours sincerely



Hon Shayne Mallard MLC
Committee Chair