



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL ISSUES

## MEDIA RELEASE

### REVIEW OF THE *HERITAGE ACT 1977*

#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

13 May 2021

An Upper House committee has established an inquiry into the *Heritage Act 1977* (NSW). The inquiry will examine the effectiveness of the Heritage Act and the NSW heritage regulatory system, along with heritage aspects of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*.

The Heritage Act was established in 1977 during a period of green bans and activism to urgently preserve heritage items. The Act was last reviewed in 2007 and no significant reforms have been undertaken since 1999.

The committee will examine the adequacy of the Act in meeting the needs of stakeholders and the community today. In doing so, the committee will consider the issues raised in a recent [discussion paper](#) published by Heritage NSW, in particular, the proposal of initiatives to incentivise investment in heritage conservation, improvements to heritage compliance and enforcement provisions and the streamlining of heritage processes.

'This will be an opportunity for interested members of the community and stakeholders to have their say about the need for legislative change to the Act to deliver a heritage system that is modern and effective as well as one that reflects best-practice ways of recognising, conserving, re-using and celebrating the important heritage of NSW,' committee Chair the Hon Shayne Mallard said.

The committee's findings will contribute to the evidence base for the government to consider in any amendments to heritage legislation.

Interested parties, including the local community, are invited to have their say by lodging a submission through the [committee website](#) by Sunday 27 June 2021.

For information about the inquiry, including committee membership and the terms of reference, please visit the [committee website](#).

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*For further information, please contact the office of Committee Chair, Mr Shayne Mallard MLC, on (02) 9230 2434.*