

HERITAGE COUNCIL OF NEW SOUTH WALES

Review of the NSW Heritage Act 1977

Hearing – 13 August 2021

Response to Supplementary questions to Mr Frank Howarth AM PSM, Chair, Heritage Council of NSW

1. In your evidence you did not want to talk specifically about Willow Grove and said the Heritage Council had no particular view on Willow Grove, stating: “I do not have a view on Willow Grove because it is not a matter that has come to the council. The council has no particular view.” However, the Heritage Council was given a briefing on the relocation of Willow Grove to North Parramatta in November 2020 and the minutes record:

Council members expressed deep concern regarding the proposed relocation of Willow Grove, noting its connection to the Country and the place where it was built, its strong association with the Aboriginal community for having access to the river and potentially significant artefacts to be discovered should the building be relocated to a place with no relatable context to the site (...)

- a) Is this still the position of the Heritage Council? If the position has changed why has it changed?

Answer:

Yes, this is still the position of the Heritage Council.

- b) b) Given the Heritage Council had expressed its deep reservations about ‘relocating’ Willow Grove from Phillip St to North Parramatta, why wasn’t their opposition to moving the building communicated by Heritage NSW to the DPIE/ EIS?

Answer:

I do not know whether the Heritage Council’s position was or was not communicated by Heritage NSW to DPIE/EIS. However, the Council’s minutes are public.

Frank Howarth AM PSM

Chair, Heritage Council of NSW

17 September 2021

HERITAGE COUNCIL OF NEW SOUTH WALES

Review of the *NSW Heritage Act 1977*

Response to Further supplementary questions to Heritage NSW or Chair of the Heritage Council of NSW

1. In Prof Mackay's submission 56 he states "According to the 2019-2020 Annual Report of the NSW Heritage Council a document has been prepared called 'Future of the State Heritage Register: Vision and Objective'. However this document is apparently not publicly available.

- a) Can you please make this document available to the committee?

"The Future of the State Heritage Register: Vision and Objectives" is attached and is to be provided to the Social Issues committee.

- b) And it was in this report that the NSW Heritage Council makes reference to a new "tourism project", but it is understood that this did not proceed. Why did this project not go ahead?

The tourism project outlined in the Annual Report of the Heritage Council of NSW 2019-2020 did not proceed due to resourcing constraints.

Frank Howarth AM PSM
Chair, Heritage Council of NSW

23 September 2021

The Future of the State Heritage Register



Bondi Beach Cultural Landscape, Sydney NSW, Matt Lauder

Vision

The State Heritage Register identifies and protects the State's most significant places and items to collectively represent the diverse stories of New South Wales.

The NSW State Heritage Register (SHR) protects physical heritage items including places, works, relics and moveable objects of importance to the people of NSW because of their historical, scientific, cultural, social, archaeological, architectural, natural and/or aesthetic values.

The items listed on the SHR have changed over time along with community understanding of what is important in telling the story of NSW. It is critical that the SHR continue to reflect the places and items that diverse communities of NSW believe to be important to their story.

The vision for the future of the SHR provides strategic direction for protecting the State's heritage places and items to ensure that the SHR meets community needs and expectations and remains robust and relevant into the future.

The following strategic objectives will achieve the vision for the future of the SHR:

Objectives

1. NSW identifies, protects and conserves its unique and important heritage
2. The SHR responds to community values and includes a representative collection of the diverse heritage items and places in NSW
3. The SHR represents First Nations' cultural heritage as intrinsic to the story of NSW
4. Communities engage with clear and effective approaches to SHR listing and management

1. NSW identifies, protects and conserves its unique and important heritage

The SHR includes places and items which represent some of the important stories of our State and its people – who we are, how we live and work, how we have interacted, and how this has evolved over time. As our understanding of the past is constantly changing, there are opportunities and challenges for heritage management to ensure that future listings and practice remain relevant and valued by the community.

Impacts from natural disasters such as bushfires and floods, climate change, and urban development can pose threats to NSW's heritage. A proactive approach to identify and respond to these threats will help protect NSW's heritage for current and future generations.

2. The SHR responds to community values and includes a representative collection of the diverse heritage items and places in NSW

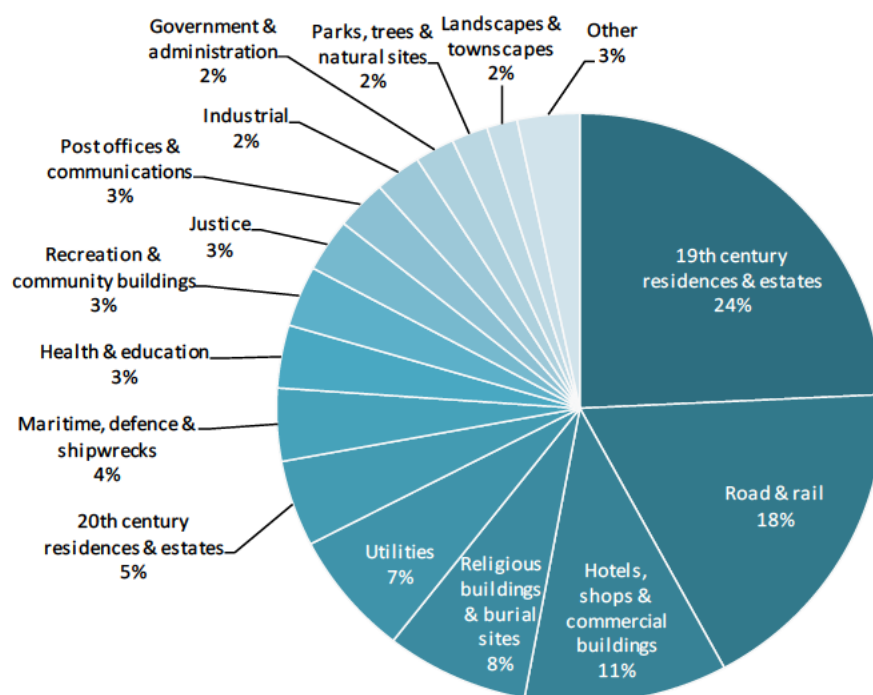
The *NSW Community Attitudes to Heritage Report and Survey* (2016) identified a wide range of heritage places are important to communities, including landscapes and natural heritage, multiculturalism, rural and regional heritage and Aboriginal heritage.

The *Survey* also found that intangible heritage such as community events and cultural activities, are highly important to communities. While the State Heritage Register is not designed to recognise intangible heritage alone, it does recognise the stories and intangible heritage connected to the significant places and items listed on the Register

Regular engagement with the community on priorities and the types of heritage recognised by the SHR will increase community support and ensure the SHR remains relevant to current and future generations.

The SHR recognises physical items and within that limitation should represent stories that are important to the people of NSW. However, it is currently dominated by 19th century residences, road and rail, and commercial buildings, and does not cover the diversity of historical and cultural values that contribute to the story of NSW.

To be representative, the SHR needs to focus on priority areas that have community support but are less well covered. Priority listing programs will help to address these gaps.



Items on the State Heritage Register by type

3. The SHR represents First Nations' cultural heritage as intrinsic to the story of NSW

The cultural heritage of NSW's First Nations' people has continued for thousands of years and is intrinsic to the history and evolution of NSW to the present day. Places and objects of importance to NSW's First Nations people help define who we are as the people of NSW. However, many of these places and objects are not widely recognised or celebrated and are increasingly threatened.

Improving the representation of NSW's First Nations' places on the SHR will enable the people of NSW to connect with these significant places and provide a well-defined statutory process for their ongoing protection.

4. Communities engage with clear and effective approaches to SHR listing and management

Clear, effective and transparent processes for managing new SHR listing proposals will make it easier for communities to successfully nominate items which they consider are state significant and support timely processing.

Heritage Act approval requirements ensure that the items listed on the SHR continue to tell their story as they evolve with the people of NSW. Streamlined approval processes will reduce complexity, increase efficiency and make it easier for SHR owners and managers to engage constructively with the Heritage Act regulatory process and obtain approvals and exemptions for works where appropriate.

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Approver	Heritage Council of NSW	Date	18 February 2020
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Last review	18 February 2020	Next review	18 February 2021
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