

Supplementary questions to Mr Ben Pechey, Executive Manager, City of Sydney

Question:

1. Mr Ben Pechey, in the City of Sydney submission it states that “The City of Sydney does not believe that the Heritage Act is an appropriate place for directing tourism –related issues.”

Could you expand on the reasons for this statement?

Answer:

The City agrees with the objects of the Act, which are essentially to support the conservation of the state’s heritage.

It is suggested that an essential condition for promoting heritage related tourism is ensuring heritage places are conserved and that this should be the focus of the Heritage Act.

Any incentives, concessions, grants or streamlined processes offered within the Heritage Act should be primarily focused on supporting the conservation of the state’s heritage.

This may then open mutual benefits for wide range of industry sectors, including tourism. The City does not see the role of the Heritage Act to preference one industry sector over another.

Question:

2. The discussion paper indicates that the South Australian government’s draft Heritage Tourism Strategy 2020-2030 provides a model best practice approach to enhancing heritage tourism. The strategy aims to promote:

Growth in the visitor economy as a result of outstanding heritage experiences.

Investment and activity that conserves, retains and takes pride in the state’s heritage.

The action plan outlines a range of regulatory and non-regulatory initiatives to enhance SA’s heritage tourism industry. Regulatory initiatives include removing red-tape, streamlining processes and developing incentives and guidelines to support adaptive reuse of heritage for commercial activity.

Non-regulatory initiatives include marketing, experience and supply development, improved sector collaboration, and promoting the value of tourism.

Couldn’t the Sydney of City benefit from the South Australian government’s draft Heritage Tourism Strategy?

Answer:

In principle the City is supportive of the types of initiatives foreshadowed in the South Australian government’s draft Heritage Tourism Strategy.

Streamlining, incentives and guidance which mutually conserve the state’s heritage and support the tourism sector could also be able to be made available to other industry sectors, for example, the arts or education.

It is suggested that Heritage Act could establish the legislative framework for such regulatory support but be agnostic about which industry sector they would be limited to. This would allow government strategies and programs to guide the use of such initiatives.