



The Honourable Don Harwin MLC

Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council
Special Minister of State, Minister for the Public Service and Employee Relations,
Aboriginal Affairs, and the Arts
Vice-President of the Executive Council

Mr Peter Poulos MLC
Chair of the Standing Committee on Social Issues
NSW Legislative Council
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Mr Poulos,

Re: The Inquiry into the Heritage Act 1977

Please find attached responses to further supplementary questions arising from the hearing held on Monday 2 August 2021 as part of the Standing Committee on Social Issues inquiry into the Heritage Act 1977.

Enclosed are:

- Responses to further supplementary questions.

If you have any queries in relation to the attached documents please do not hesitate to contact my office on (02) 8574 7200 or tom.anderson@minister.nsw.gov.au

Kind regards

Don Harwin MLC

Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council
Special Minister of State
Minister for the Public Service and Employee Relations,
Minister for Aboriginal Affairs
Minister for the Arts
Vice-President of the Executive Council

DATE: 23/09/2021

Review of the Heritage Act 1977 – Further Supplementary Questions

FURTHER SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS

Supplementary questions to the Hon Don Harwin MLC, Minister for the Public Service and Employee Relations, Aboriginal Affairs, and the Arts

QUESTION – 1	RESPONSIBILITY: Heritage NSW
1. A number of submissions have identified the absence of heritage conservation skills on the Heritage Council. For the first time since it was established the NSW Heritage Council does not have a conservation architect among its members. Is this under review?	
ANSWER: 1. The composition, skills and qualities of the Heritage Council of NSW are under review as part of the inquiry into the Heritage Act.	

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

QUESTION – 2	RESPONSIBILITY: Heritage NSW
2. At the beginning of this year you appointed a former Liberal Minister to the Heritage Council. a) Did you realise this would leave the Heritage Council without the expertise of a conservation architect? b) Was there a skills analysis of the composition of the Heritage Council before you made that appointment?	
ANSWER: 2. a) The Heritage Council continues to benefit from a diverse range of heritage expertise including that of Colleen Morris representing the National Trust who is an expert in cultural landscapes, Frank Howarth who has extensive experience in moveable heritage as a former CEO of the Australian Museum, and the Government Architect's representative, Dillion Kombuberri. b) Yes.	

QUESTION – 3	RESPONSIBILITY: Heritage NSW
3. In your evidence you stated "a) whole different set of considerations apply to public-owned heritage assets and by and large I would hope that the government would always aspire to be a model heritage owner and would try as far as possible to adaptively reuse heritage assets for public purposes." In recent years the Government has sold / leased the Lands and Education buildings on Bridge St, the Chief Secretary's Office and the Locomotive Workshops at the ATP, among many heritage properties.	

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<p>a) Why wasn't a public use considered for any of these sites of outstanding significance for NSW?</p> <p>b) Why wasn't the Heritage Council consulted on the disposal of these properties before the decision was made?</p>
<p>ANSWER:</p> <p>This question is best directed to the agencies which own these properties. Under the <i>Heritage Act 1977</i>, approval does not need to be sought for change in ownership.</p>

<p>QUESTION – 4</p>	<p>RESPONSIBILITY: Heritage NSW</p>
<p>4. Regarding your announcement as Minister of State on October 8 last year that Willow Grove would be relocated to North Parramatta – did you seek the views of the Heritage Council on this proposal before making this announcement? If not, why not?</p>	
<p>ANSWER:</p> <p>No. Willow Grove is not, nor has it ever been listed on the State Heritage Register.</p> <p>The relocation and reassembly of Willow Grove will be the subject of extensive public consultation.</p>	

<p>QUESTION – 5</p>	<p>RESPONSIBILITY: Heritage NSW</p>
<p>5. What has happened with the proposed addition of the Female Factory at Parramatta to the World Heritage serial convict list?</p>	
<p>ANSWER:</p> <p>In July 2020, I wrote to my Federal heritage counterpart to indicate the NSW Government's aspiration for World Heritage Listing of the Parramatta Female Factory, and to seek her support. This was is the first step on the pathway to consider World Heritage listing.</p>	

Review of the Heritage Act 1977 – Further Supplementary Questions

The Federal Minister responded with support for consideration of potential values that might support a World Heritage Tentative List nomination. I asked Heritage NSW to undertake this review and advise on the way forward. Heritage NSW engaged a consultant to undertake a high-level feasibility study on World Heritage Listing steps and what would be required to prepare and assess a nomination.

The expert report was finalised and submitted to me in April 2021. The report advised that it would be difficult to add the Parramatta Female Factory to the existing Australian Convict Sites listing and identified other pathways that might be successful. Heritage NSW is currently assessing the options for progressing a nomination.

A range of conservation and activation initiatives are currently progressing at the site while long term planning for a sustainable future is underway. The NSW Government will spend approximately \$35 million by late 2021 on the current program of works in the Parramatta North Heritage Core.

This includes delivery of essential conservation works and site improvements including restoration of the historic clock tower and Fleet Street palisade fence, removal of intrusive and insignificant building structures, building repairs, service upgrades and improvements to green space.

It also includes the Parramatta Girls Home Memorial and Heritage Garden, where Government has established a place of remembrance and reflection for survivors of the Parramatta Girls Home through the reinstatement of the front garden of the Norma Parker Centre and installation of a new memorial for the ParraGirls.

This builds on approximately \$20 million spent prior to 2019 by UrbanGrowth NSW, including work to restore the Norma Parker Centre to its original form, along with four other key buildings across the site.