

3 February 2022

The Hon. Don Harwin MLC
Committee Chair
Standing Committee on Social Issues
Legislative Council
Parliament of NSW
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Chair

Inquiry into the *State Records Act 1998* and the *Policy Paper on its review*

I am writing to inform the Committee of some positive developments pertaining to the NSW State Archives and Records Authority (SARA), which are relevant to the Committee's 2020 inquiry into the *State Records Act 1998* and the *Policy Paper on its review*.

SARA is to become an Executive Agency, as ordered under the recent *Administrative Arrangements (Second Perrottet Ministry—Transitional) Order 2021*. This will come into effect by 1 April 2022 and is a positive development for the organisation that aligns very strongly with the findings of the Committee, as detailed in Report 57 of October 2020. Executive Agency status will increase SARA's self-determination and was called for in a number of the submissions and testimonies heard throughout the inquiry.

It should be noted that this is a further change to the revised policy positions outlined in the White Paper, *Review of the State Records Act 1998; The Future of History in NSW*, which was referred to the Committee in late 2021. The revised policy positions addressed in the White Paper were informed by the recommendations and finding of the Committee in Report 57 and the many expert and passionate witnesses who participated in this Inquiry. These policy revisions, alongside SARA's upcoming transition into an Executive Agency, constitute a very earnestly and thoroughly considered response to the recommendations and finding of the Committee in Report 57.

Yours sincerely



Adam Lindsay
Executive Director
NSW State Archives and Records Authority & Sydney Living Museums