

**Submission
No 6**

**INQUIRY INTO STATE RECORDS ACT 1998 AND THE
POLICY PAPER ON ITS REVIEW**

Name: Mr Ian Campbell

Date Received: 1 April 2020

The Hon Shayne Mallard MLC
Chair, Standing Committee on Social Issues
NSW Legislative Council
Parliament House, Macquarie Street
Sydney NSW 2000

To The Hon Shayne Mallard MLC,

Re: Inquiry into the *State Archives Act 1998* and the Policy Paper on its review

Your Committee's Inquiry into the *State Archives Act 1998*, in view of the proposed reforms outlined in the accompanying Policy paper, is an ideal opportunity to make you aware of my adamant support for the proposal to amalgamate the two existing agencies, Sydney Living Museums and NSW State Archives.

The supporting policy paper outlines the NSW Governments four policy outcomes proposals:

1. Stories that shape the social, historical and cultural identity of NSW are widely shared and understood.
2. Records of enduring value to the citizens of NSW are managed, preserved and made accessible
3. Citizens have timely access to records documenting the activities and decisions that shape NSW and the lives of its citizens.
4. NSW public offices create, keep and protect records as evidence of their activities and decisions.

I strongly commend these reforms to you as an opportunity for advancement of both the agencies involved. Both agencies bring to this policy proposal unique skills and capacities developed over a considerable time but until recently held separately and apart. Working together the policies proposed will be better able to be implemented.

For some considerable time I have been an avid supporter of the Historic Houses Trust prior to its transformation into the Sydney Living Museums. I am a *Governor's Circle* donor and benefactor. I am a fervent advocate of the organisations ongoing collections digitisation work and have been for several years. The collection digitisation undertaken at both SLM and the NSW State Archives serve to ensure the enhanced protection and preservation of these organisations' expansive and priceless historic collections, as much as it does in enhancing the collections' engagement with the public. As such, I am of the view that a unified agency, to be entrusted with the legislative responsibilities of both the *State Records Act 1998* and the *Historic Houses Act 1980*, will serve to adequately uphold the NSW State Government's duty to safeguard our treasured cultural and historical assets for future generations. Further, these proposed reforms will significantly enhance

the NSW Government's Open Govt and Digital Govt initiatives together with increasing the public's knowledge and enjoyment of the many stories that shape our social, historical and cultural identity, and enhance the social outcomes for the people of NSW.

It is my recommendation that the Committee on Social Issues endorses the proposed reforms as articulated in the Policy Paper. As you know the NSW Government is committed to putting citizens at the centre of everything it does. Government records, as evidence and as documentary heritage, underpin delivery of services to citizens and the social, historical and cultural identity of NSW.

Thank you for considering this submission.

Regards

Ian Campbell

31 March 2020