

**Submission
No 7**

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

Organisation: The National Art School

Date Received: 16 March 2020



16 March 2020

The Hon. Shayne Mallard, MLC
Chair
Standing Committee on Social Issues
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000
E: socialissues@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Dear Mr Mallard,

RE: State Records Act 1998 and Policy Paper Review

The National Art School (NAS) is a NSW State Significant Organisation (SSO), and Australia's leading independent fine art school; a producer of new art; a place to experience and participate in the arts; and a presentation venue.

NAS is the first art school in Australia, long acknowledged as a centre of excellence through the delivery of its distinctive studio-based fine arts higher education and will celebrate its centenary at the former Darlinghurst Gaol site in 2022.


Its origins stem back to the 1840s, when John Skinner Prout began at the Sydney Mechanics' School of Arts (SMSA) in Pitt Street, Sydney. After first moving to Sydney Technical College in Ultimo in 1889, the School was later transferred to the former Darlinghurst Gaol site in 1922, then known as the East Sydney Technical College (ESTC).

Following WWII, the School was recognised with the invitation to young war veterans to join the art school as part of the Commonwealth Reconstruction Training Scheme (CRTS), securing bi-partisan parliamentary support. Artists who would otherwise never have come to national attention include: Guy Boyd; John Coburn AM; Klaus Friedeberger; Guy Warren OAM; James Gleeson; John Molvig and Tony Tuckson.

Drawing on this extensive history, NAS continues to attract the best and brightest emerging artists of the next generation, to shape our contemporary cultural identity.

In addition, NAS is committed to present extensive programming at the former Darlinghurst Gaol site and work in partnership with like-minded organisations to extend our reach to communities living across Western Sydney, regional NSW and nationally.

We support the NSW Government's commitment to increasing public knowledge and celebrate diverse experiences throughout our shared history that shape our uniquely Australian identity.



As detailed in the *Review of the State Records Act 1998 Policy Paper*, we are in support of the proposed reforms, bringing together the State Archives and Records Authority of NSW and Sydney Living Museums.

We accept, having two separate organisations fails to exploit potential synergies that would deliver rich stories about our social, historical and cultural past. A single institution will create, keep and protect records that evidence the activities and decisions that have shaped NSW and our lives.

The proposed reforms will ensure that our collective memory and cultural heritage are protected and continue to grow.

Yours sincerely

Mr Steven Alderton
CEO and Director
National Art School