

Submission  
No 8

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

**Name:** Name suppressed

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Partially  
Confidential

I would like to make a submission to the premises made within the Policy Paper particularly background section **2.1** *Two organisations work to tell our stories and preserve our collective memory*.

The scope and breadth of the NSW State Archives Collection is vast and encompassing. Conversely, the current branding of Sydney Living Museums with its Sydney centric portfolio is not and does not reflect the broad and democratic Collection scope within NSW State Archives. This is at odds with the synergies suggested in the policy document. Significant re-imagination and re-engineering of Sydney Living Museums branding and scope would be required to achieve the synergies suggested.

The NSW State Archives Collection contains documentary evidence of Government administration. The earlier portion of the Collection represents the administration for the whole country for a time, along with areas of the Pacific. Later the Collection represents specific government administration for other Colonies not only NSW.

The Collection also reflects State archives created across the **whole** State of NSW. The democratic right of the people to access State Archives of Government administration is currently supported through a network of NSW State Archives - Regional Archives Centres to allow people outside of Sydney to access their State archives.

To represent this democratic approach to the State Archives Collection through access, collection activation and to develop programs to tell its stories requires a statewide geographically diverse approach. As it currently stands, Sydney Living Museums is currently branded and marketed exclusively towards Sydney's built past and Sydney visitors and residents.

The properties within the portfolio of Sydney Living Museums are largely reflective of private citizens and often the elite people of Sydney (with a couple of notable exceptions). This again is at odds with the democratic statewide Government administrative collecting policy of NSW State Archives.

In addition, the display of original NSW State Archives requires specific climatic and light standards. With the exception of only a couple of properties within Sydney Living Museums portfolio it would require significant engineering of these historic properties to bring them in-line with these display standards.

It is important that the State Archives Collection is seen to represent all of the people of NSW not just those exclusive to Sydney. These points should be taken into consideration when determining whether combining the two organisations especially when weighing these against the synergies stated within the Policy document section **2.1** - *Two organisations work to tell our stories and preserve our collective memory*.