

**Submission
No 41**

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

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I would like to respond to the policy outcomes proposed as part of the review of the State Records Act 1998 and Historic Houses Act 1980.

I have attended exhibitions and events for each of NSW State Archives and Sydney Living Museums. Both institutions are well respected for the work they undertake. The Queen's Album exhibition, staged at Government House in 2019, was an extraordinary showcase of the State Archives Collection. It also demonstrated the power of curating and displaying the images and documents in a manner which engages the NSW public with the early history of NSW. The Hyde Park Barracks museum recently re-opened by Sydney Living Museums is a wonderful example of historically-based engaging museology. It is clear that the early stories of The Barracks were made richer through material sourced from the State Archives Collection.

The potential for greater exposure of and access to material by bringing the two organisations together is a better outcome for NSW stakeholders and the public. It provides better outcomes for taxpayers, more depth of interest for donors, and greater wealth of historical material than the two organisations would have on their own.

The partnership between NSW State Archives and Sydney Living Museums will enhance activities, with the potential efficiencies allowing more items in both collections to be accessible to the public.

Contemporary expectations require Museums, Archives, Libraries and Galleries to be more than static custodians of collections. The public deserve access to these Collections in an engaging, exciting and digestible way. The proposed new organisation is better positioned to have the resources, assets and mandate to make this happen.

Regards
Karen Moses