

INQUIRY INTO REVIEW OF THE HERITAGE ACT 1977

Name: Name suppressed

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Partially
Confidential

01.06.21 Standing Committee on Social Issues
The Hon. Shayne Mallard, MLC (Chair)
Parliament House, 6 Macquarie Street
Sydney NSW 2000
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RE: Review of the Heritage Act 1977 – Submission to the Standing Committee on Social Issues

To the Hon. Shayne Mallard and members of the Standing Committee on Social Issues,

I wish to make a submission regarding the NSW Legislative Council's Social Issues Standing Committee inquiry into the NSW Heritage Act 1977. Per the terms of reference and the guiding themes which underpin the review I address my responses directly to the following focus questions outlined in the discussion paper.

Focus Question 8: How could tailored heritage protections enhance heritage conservation?

Tailored heritage protections can assist with conservation and management of heritage assets by providing specific criteria on the valued or significant attributes of a landscape or place, which are separate from a building, structure or monument. In addition to this, it facilitates the development of tailored best practice guidance for the retention and management of these assets. Moreover, guidance can also be provided on how surrounding development can be shaped to celebrate and enhance these assets.

Focus Question 17: How could understanding of state heritage be enhanced?

The communities understanding of heritage is challenged by its perceived complexity, subjectivity, development restrictions and emphasis on history rather than value. This is further hampered by the lack of engagement from younger demographics. There are instances however where broad sections of the community are engaged in heritage matters and show understanding and value for heritage assets. The preponderance and significance of ocean pools in NSW is one case study which sheds light on potential pathways for effective promotion and engagement of heritage. Ocean pools are a gateway for engaging the broader community in complex matters of the natural and built environment. This includes best practices for conservation and management of public heritage assets. Ocean pools are simple and familiar yet incredibly iconic and well loved by the community. They benefit from engagement across the spectrum of age groups due, in part, to a significant presence on based social media. They are one case study of the community understanding a collection of assets as significant and valued and which are consistently supported for public investment. The purpose of my submission is to suggest this collection of assets and others which are a similarly iconic serve as flagship projects through which Heritage NSW advocates for broader engagement. The projects may involve approaches such as the publication of conservation management guidance, round table discussions with relevant asset managers and authorities and activation/tourism initiatives as discussed below.

Focus Question 18: How could we improve heritage tourism or help activate heritage places for tourism?

Following on from the previous response, creating 'flagship' heritage initiatives can also serve to promote Heritage Tourism as proposed by the discussion paper. Continuing from the example above, ocean pools in NSW can be considered as a 'blue necklace' linking the entire NSW coastline from Yamba to Eden. Various activities, events, government initiatives and campaigns can be launched as part of this. As mentioned above, these campaigns or activities would serve two-fold to engage the community in discussions about heritage values and significance. One potential proposition to launch and elevate such a campaign could begin with a joint listing of NSW's ocean pools which number 60 in total followed by a travel guide to visit each. Existing initiatives listed below provide a brief evidence base of the potential success this can yield. State strategies and policies which advocate for whole of coast tourism opportunities are also listed for the potential integration and alignment with broader state initiatives.

['Places We Swim'](#) Caroline Clements and Dillon Seitchik-Reardon

['Water worlds: the magic of New South Wales' ocean pools'](#) The Guardian Australia

['The Great Ocean Pool Crawl'](#) Visit Wollongong

['Southern NSW Drive Tourism Opportunities Assessment: Draft Report'](#) 2019 (Sapphire Coast Destination Marketing)

['Great South Coast Walk Opportunity Analysis'](#) 2019 (Destination Southern NSW)

Sincerely,

1st June 2021