

## **INQUIRY INTO REVIEW OF THE HERITAGE ACT 1977**

**Organisation:** Camden Historical Society Inc

**Date Received:** 8 June 2021

---



# *Camden Historical Society Inc.*

P.O. Box 566 Camden, NSW. 2570. Phone 024655 3400 ABN 84 182 869 026

Web: [www.camdenhistory.org.au](http://www.camdenhistory.org.au) Email: [secretary@camdenhistory.org.au](mailto:secretary@camdenhistory.org.au)

7 June 2021

Parliament House  
Standing Committee of Social Services  
6 Macquarie Street  
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Sir/Madam

**RE: Submission to the Review of the Heritage Act (NSW) 1977**

The Camden Historical Society is a community-based organisation whose aim is to preserve, conserve, and promote the history and heritage of our local area.

The Camden district has many heritage assets, some listed as state significant. The heritage of the Camden district promotes economic growth, job creation and tourism, and the heritage assets in the Camden district contribute to social cohesion, community resilience and sustainability.

The society would encourage the New South Wales Government to continue supporting heritage in the state, particularly in our local area.

The society is concerned that any 'streamlining' (Discussion Paper: p.17) process does not mean a watering down of statutory protection of heritage assets. On the contrary, there is a danger that 'streamlining' is code for the abolition of this protection.

The society is concerned that 'changes' (Discussion Paper: p.17) is code for short gain commercial gain at the expense of long-term preservation and conservation of the state's heritage assets.

The society is concerned that some in the community see this review as an opportunity to lessen the protection of heritage assets in New South Wales and make their removal easier for any future development of a site.

The society commends any proposal by the state government to 'promote an understanding of the State heritage'. (Discussion Paper: p. 20) A greater understanding of heritage will enhance the protection, preservation and conservation of heritage assets and 'the contribution that heritage' make to economic growth, job creation and tourism. The promotion of an understanding of heritage leads to social cohesion, community resilience and sustainability.

The society is concerned that some in the community see 'activation of public heritage assets' (Discussion Paper: p. 22) as code for selling off publicly owned heritage assets by the state government.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Lee Stratton  
Hon. Secretary