

**Submission  
No 7**

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

**Organisation:** The Mudgee Rylstone Gulgong Branch of The National Trust

**Date Received:** 10 June 2021

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To: The NSW Legislative Council's Social Issues Standing Committee  
Regarding potential changes to the Heritage Act.

On behalf of the Mudgee Rylstone Gulgong Branch of the National Trust, I wish to raise our collective concern about any changes to the Act that may impact negatively on the future redevelopment of Heritage Listed buildings and structures across NSW in particular.

We recognise the critically significant effort made by like-minded organisations such as the National Trust over recent years to ensure the redevelopment of historic buildings is executed with the architectural and historic integrity these Australian treasures deserve.

Any changes to the act that allow future developers to veer away from these standards would be both wrong and irresponsible.

Wording within the proposed review such as 'Streamlining' and 'more nuanced and lighter-touch enforcement approaches' are of serious concern to our National Trust Branch. These changes would lessen the threat of court action against unsympathetic development down the track, making it immeasurably easier for developers to push through poor redevelopments at the expense of preserving our hard won heritage, particularly in instances where a State heritage listed property has been purchased in the full knowledge of it's Heritage significance.

Clearly, changes to the act will have an effect on urban and rural historic buildings and as such our Branch of the National Trust appeals to the minister's better judgement and hopes both he and the NSW Government will see the review in light of the comments above. Heritage is precious and we all need to actively protect our land, culture and buildings to enjoy today and for future generations.

'How will we know it's us without our past?'  
*John Steinbeck, Grapes of Wrath*

Yours in anticipation of a thoughtful review of the Act,

Bruce Mackenzie Wilson

Chair  
Mudgee Rylstone Gulgong  
Branch of The National trust