

**Submission
No 20**

INQUIRY INTO REVIEW OF THE HERITAGE ACT 1977

Organisation: Veterans Car Club of Australia (NSW) Inc

Date Received: 22 June 2021



VETERAN CAR CLUB OF AUSTRALIA

(N.S.W.) INC.

"DEDICATED TO THE PRESERVATION AND RESTORATION OF VETERAN VEHICLES"

Patrons:

**Her Excellency the Honourable Margaret Beazley AO QC Governor of New South Wales
and Mr Dennis Wilson**

Standing Committee on Social Issues

Review of NSW Heritage Legislation

This submission is made on behalf of the Veteran Car Club of Australia (NSW) Inc., abbreviated to VCCA(NSW).

The VCCA(NSW) is *dedicated to the preservation and restoration of veteran vehicles*. A veteran vehicle was built prior to January 1919, that is, up to and including December 1918. It includes cars and motorbikes. Currently there are almost 200 members of the VCCA(NSW) who are custodians for over 300 historic vehicles. The VCCA(NSW) is the oldest club that caters for veteran vehicles in Australia.

The VCCA(NSW) aims to encourage the restoration and preservation of veteran vehicles and to engage in rallies, tours, exhibitions and other events suitable for these vehicles for the enjoyment of members and the public, and to foster public interest in moving heritage.

The current NSW Heritage Legislation is concerned with heritage sites and built heritage so any feedback in the focus questions is related to moveable heritage. It is very generalised in its descriptors of items of moveable heritage and does not differentiate intangibles nor operating heritage. It does not acknowledge that these vehicles are mostly owned privately and operated at the owners own expense. These vehicles deserve to be protected and conserved as a history of the development of transport. As the vehicles were manufactured prior to 1919 the varied models and brands of vehicles record the development of the motor car and motor bike. Some vehicles resemble horse drawn carriages, to versions that are steam driven and others have experimental engines, gears and parts until the recognisable vehicle of today. It is of significance that many early vehicles were imported into Australia as a chassis and the bodies were built in Australia which also makes many vehicles unique in Australia and the world.

Focus Question 1

At least one person on the Heritage Council of NSW should have an engineering background, an interest in moveable heritage, and an awareness of the different types of moveable heritage (planes, trains, vehicles, machinery etc) and a passion to advocate for its preservation.

Focus Question 3

The objectives of the Heritage Act are very generalised so are relevant.

Focus Questions 5, 6 & 7

Before any incentive can be given for private heritage ownership a register of what moveable heritage exists in NSW should be established. Tax incentives to individuals and grants to organisations supporting moveable heritage would support the conservation and preservation of these items of heritage significance.

Focus Questions 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14

These questions appear to relate to heritage sites and built heritage. A register of moveable heritage and its current ownership would establish the range and scope of moveable in NSW. Once the extent of moveable heritage is established, liaison with other states and federal bodies is required to set up a tracking mechanism to ensure that at least veteran vehicles with significant history remain in Australia instead of being sold overseas.

Focus Question 15

**Please address all correspondence to:
Honorary Secretary**



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Veteran vehicles are well over 100 years old so the knowledge, skills and expertise on how to restore, preserve and keep these vehicles operating needs to be retained and fostered through initiatives to keep these traditional trade skills alive. Those people with specialised knowledge and skills in technology and maintenance of historic vehicles are becoming scarcer and their skills are not being retained in the community. There needs to be opportunities for apprentices and training, and as well centres to preserve and access these skills and expertise.

There also need to be opportunities for greater liaison between NSW Heritage Committee and the Federal government to coordinate what is relevant moveable heritage and to compile a register so all moveable heritage remains in Australia. (See Focus Questions 5-7)

Another concern is the unintended effects of other legislation on the operation of these historic vehicles such as the drive to non-fossil fuels. The push to ban all fossil fuels would stop the operation of these historic vehicles. While the VCCA(NSW) supports the move towards renewable energy some consideration needs to be given to exemptions for the use of fossil fuels for heritage uses and ensure the availability of fuel at a reasonable price.

Focus Question 16

With no register or regulations clearly defined for moveable heritage no compliance or enforcement is possible.

Focus Question 17

The description of moveable heritage needs to be more specific to ensure better understanding of its significance and its intrinsic heritage value.

Focus Questions 18 and 19

There are opportunities for historic vehicle heritage to support other historic organisations and complement existing historic sites with community events and this would encourage the public to engage more with moving heritage. Greater collaboration with other historic heritage organisations such as shared displays would attract the public.

Recommendations

Expand the definitions to include descriptions of the types of moveables, intangible and operating heritage.

Make greater acknowledgment of the value and significance of technological heritage as part of NSW the development of NSW and Australia.

Recognise private individuals as the custodians of historic moving heritage.

Ensure the provision of apprenticeships, training courses and trade centres to preserve traditional skills to conserve and maintain historic vehicles.

Provide opportunities for locally based historic organisations to form partnerships and collaborate for training and skills retention, and to foster collegiality between members.

Promote working displays of moveable heritage. This could be facilitated by providing expertise in promoting moveable heritage to the public, establishing a directory of organisations committed to the conservation of moveable heritage and a directory of trades related to the conservation and preservation of moveable heritage and to represent the disparate organisations to governments and statutory authorities.

For further information contact: Louise Yeomans, Honorary Secretary, VCCA(NSW)Inc

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