

**Submission
No 43**

INQUIRY INTO REVIEW OF THE HERITAGE ACT 1977

Organisation: Cessnock City Council

Date Received: 10 June 2021



10 June 2021

The Director
Standing Committee on Social Issues
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000
Email:
Committee.SocialIssues@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Contact: Martin Johnson
Our Ref: DOC2021/082700
Your Ref:

Dear Sir/Madam

Review of the Heritage Act 1977

Council welcomes the opportunity to provide input on the NSW Government initiated review of the *Heritage Act 1977*.

Council is of the opinion that the *Heritage Act 1977* in its current form remains relevant, and the objectives are as appropriate in the contemporary context as they were when they were first drafted.

Council recommends adequate resourcing of State Heritage Offices to better facilitate the protection of heritage items in NSW as opposed to streamlining processes through the weakening of existing legislative frameworks.

We strongly support incentivising landowners to use and maintain heritage items so they are seen as an asset rather than a burden. Restricting access to incentives through long-winded and complicated bureaucratic processes does little to encourage land owners to appropriately manage those items.

In the Cessnock Local Government Area we have limited items listed under the State Register. However, as an organisation that manages heritage items, we remain concerned about ensuring adequate community representation and ensuring the protection of heritage items through relevant legislative channels. Weakening and/or switching off the robust heritage protections that we have in NSW is not the answer to 'making heritage easy'.

t: 02 4993 4100 f: 02 4993 2500

p: PO Box 152 Cessnock NSW 2325 or DX 21502 Cessnock
e: council@cessnock.nsw.gov.au w: www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au

ABN 60 919 148 928

If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact Council's Manager Strategic Planning, Martin Johnson

Yours faithfully

Martin Johnson
Manager Strategic Planning