

INQUIRY INTO REVIEW OF THE HERITAGE ACT 1977

Name: Name suppressed

Date Received: 24 June 2021

Partially
Confidential

SUBMISSION

Heritage Act Review

24 June 2021

To whom it may concern

I am a 29 year old Sydney local who has worked in arts and heritage organisations since graduating from a Masters in Museum & Heritage Studies degree at the University of Sydney in 2015.

I am writing in support of stretching and extending our state heritage act, to provide greater protection and inclusion. My particular concerns are the heritage character of neighbourhoods and intangible cultural heritage.

In my own local government area of Ku-ring-gai, a great number of early C20th houses are torn down on a regular basis. Federation as well as 1920s & 1930s homes deserve a great deal more protection in this state. I would like to see more listing of entire streets, rather than simply individual properties, to conserve the heritage character of the state. Having worked in English heritage during my time in London, I found their 'Grade I, II, II*, III' system simple to understand. More importantly, the public had a readier understanding of the grading system and the restrictions this was likely to have on their properties. I believe implementing such a system here would give the public a greater awareness of the heritage character of their property and neighbourhood.

Secondly, I would like the state to consider including more intangible cultural heritage practises in the Act and supporting relevant organisations. For the past three years I have worked for the Embroiderers' Guild NSW as their Exhibition & Gallery Coordinator. (The Embroiderers' Guild is a NFP organisation established in 1957 for the promotion of embroidery and textile arts) This heritage craft, like many others, is primarily held by an older generation. Not only does the act of passing it on create multigenerational communities, but (in the case of embroidery) the craft is hugely multicultural and brings together (mostly women) of diverse cultural backgrounds. Our volunteer organisation owns its own building and has 1.5 employees yet and are constantly working very hard to stay afloat. I am afraid of what will happen to cultural practises and organisations like ours when this current generation of energy, community minded, senior volunteers passes away. Greater support to organisations such as ours which support intangible cultural heritage practises would be tremendously appreciated.

Thank you for taking the time to read my submission,

Sincerely yours,