

**Submission  
No 101**

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

**Organisation:** Greater Sydney Parklands

**Date Received:** 2 July 2021

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1 July 2021

Contact: Joshua French

Chair of the Standing Committee on Social Issues  
NSW Legislative Council  
Parliament House  
Macquarie Street  
Sydney NSW 2000

Dear Sir,

Greater Sydney Parklands welcomes the opportunity to comment on the review of the Heritage Act. We highly value the heritage places in our care and appreciate and acknowledge the support we have received from Heritage NSW in their ongoing management.

We support a category approach to heritage listing to allow for more nuanced and targeted recognition and protection of the diversity of State significant heritage items and note the *Review of NSW Heritage Act Discussion Paper* identifies 3 categories for publicly owned buildings

- Active service delivery assets (railway stations, schools, hospitals, bridges, roads)
- Historic heritage assets (museums, parks, gardens, historic areas)
- Heritage collections (museums, collections, archives, memorabilia)

As we have learned over the last year during these challenging times, our parks and open spaces play an important role independent of, and yet aligned with, their heritage value. They are more than solely historic heritage assets and provide an active service delivery supporting the health, well-being, and connectedness of our communities.

We suggest assets such as Parramatta Park, Centennial Parklands, Callan Park and Fernhill Estate be considered for inclusion in the first category listed above 'Active service delivery assets' in recognition of the public amenity required to safely provide and support the ongoing community access and activation of these key public open spaces.

We also support the case for stand-alone First Nations heritage laws in New South Wales set out in the Terms of Reference for the inquiry and applaud any efforts to streamline heritage processes, particularly regarding the approval processes for potential impacts to Aboriginal Heritage required under both the Heritage Act and the National Parks and Wildlife Act.

We acknowledge the important role Heritage NSW and the Heritage Act plays in protecting, managing and governing change to our heritage significant places in NSW and look forward to continuing working with them collaboratively in the future.

Your faithfully

**Suellen Fitzgerald**  
**Chief Executive**  
**Greater Sydney Parklands**