

**Submission  
No 116**

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

**Organisation:** Australian Garden History Society

**Date Received:** 28 June 2021

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The Hon. Mr Peter Poulosn, MLC  
Chair, Standing Committee on Social Issues  
Parliament House  
Macquarie Street  
Sydney NSW 2000



26th June 2021

Dear Mr Poulos,

re: Heritage Act Review

I refer to the submission by the Australian Garden History Society Sydney Branch dated 25th June 2021 regarding the Review of the NSW Heritage Act 1977, and provide the following comments on behalf of the Southern Highlands Branch of the Society.

The Branch is encouraged by the Ministers comments that the review is “about ensuring heritage listing actively contributes to conservation outcomes in the long term”.

You will be aware that the Southern Highlands has a rich history which began with the traditional owners of the land the Gundungurra and D’harawal people and later European settlers who first explored the area in 1798.

The Southern Highlands region is today recognised for its impressive 19th and 20th Century buildings, gardens and streetscapes and for its natural and agricultural/farming landscapes .

We note that the discussion paper for the review is silent about landscapes generally, both natural and cultural which is of great concern to the Branch membership.

We are encouraged by the Ministers statement that “this Government wants to see heritage not only protected but celebrated”. Consistent with the Ministers statement it will be essential that any review of the Heritage Act strengthens the protection of our heritage items including natural and cultural landscapes.

As identified in the Burra Charter “places of cultural significance enrich peoples lives, often providing a deep and inspirational sense of connection to community, and landscape, to the past and to lived experience”.

To ensure that our heritage is celebrated and protected for future generations it will be crucial that a strong and robust legislative framework be maintained.

Thank you for this opportunity to contribute to the review and the Branch looks forward to hearing the outcomes of the review.

Yours faithfully

Lyn Barrett  
Chair, Southern Highlands Branch  
Australian Garden History Society