

**Submission
No 125**

INQUIRY INTO REVIEW OF THE HERITAGE ACT 1977

Organisation: National Trust Vienna Cottage Committee

Date Received: 4 July 2021

Vienna Cottage Management Committee
Chairperson, John Birch A M

Submission to Review of Heritage Act

Vienna Cottage at 38 Alexandra St Hunters Hill is a 1871 four room stone working man's cottage acquired by the National Trust in 1984 and managed by the Vienna Cottage Management committee comprising local community members of the National Trust. The Vienna Cottage Committee conducts tours of the cottage to the public and local schoolchildren, presents exhibitions in the cottage and has an active program of talks on heritage issues and raises funds for the maintenance of the cottage.

The Committee has been concerned about destruction of heritage in NSW and have organized information talks on a number of issues including the Powerhouse Museum, Thompson's Square in Windsor the loss of tree canopy in Hunters Hill and indigenous cultural heritage.

The 1977 Heritage Act was enacted at a time when communities were active against overdevelopment destroying heritage and natural environment typified by the campaigns to save The Rocks and Kelly's Bush. The current record population increases and the associated urban development are creating similar major challenges to retaining our cultural heritage.

We recommend that

1. The review of the Heritage Act must strengthen heritage protection against overdevelopment by developing a NSW Heritage Strategic Plan.
2. Priority be given to the enactment of independent indigenous heritage legislation