

**Submission  
No 134**

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

**Name:** Mr Lee Squires

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As a continuing member of the National Trust and past executive of statutory trust management, I have been actively involved in the assessment of heritage values of grave sites and cemeteries in Rookwood and across NSW for more than 30 years.

In a federation of colonies as young as ours the value of our built heritage has to be preserved for our story of settlement to survive and be appreciated by the generations who follow us. Much of our material heritage is in private hands where owners do not always fully appreciate heritage values that may benefit them and their neighbours e.g., i) town streetscapes and ii) large scale landscapes.

Heritage values have to be advocated more widely to be embraced by private owners.

Legislation has to be strong enough to prevent/discourage the destruction of preserved heritage.

This is particularly important for large scale heritage but it is important too for smaller scale items such as cemeteries and even smaller items such as lone grave sites.

Cemeteries and grave sites often form a crucible of history especially when they are located in isolated areas.

Please do not overlook mentioning cemeteries and lone graves where appropriate in any legislation review concerning the preservation of Heritage values.