

INQUIRY INTO REVIEW OF THE HERITAGE ACT 1977

Name: Name suppressed

Date Received: 25 June 2021

Partially
Confidential

When people die photographs, sculptures, models and other representations are inadequate substitutes for the real person. It is exactly the same for heritage, once it is lost it cannot be genuinely recreated.

Not all people make significant achievements, however most are admired. It is the same for heritage, the familiar often being as admired as much as the significant.

The community expects Government to protect heritage. Government identification, protection, preservation and restoration of heritage is as important to community well being as the provision of health, education, transport and other services. Community engagement, interest and support for heritage conservation is greater now than at any other time. The expectation is that Government will increase the allocation of resources to heritage conservation.

I wish to contribute the following to the review of the NSW Heritage Act 1977,

- a) Heritage Council advice should be acted upon. There should not be an option for the advice to be ignored.
- b) The Minister responsible for heritage should not be allowed to permit exemption of the Heritage Act. State Significant Developments should comply with heritage requirements.
- c) The Heritage Council should have increased community representation.
- d) The Heritage Council should have significant appropriate expertise in the conservation of heritage.
- e) The Heritage Act should ensure the conservation of local heritage, as well as State significant heritage.
- f) The NSW Government should assist Local Government to protect heritage through the provision of finance, resources and technical advice.
- g) Current difficulties experienced in the administration of the Heritage Act originate from under resourcing.
- h) The NSW Government should assist individuals and groups to conserve heritage by providing information, technical advice, tax exemptions and training.

I look forward to a robust regulatory model that identifies and facilitates the conservation of our Local and State significant heritage.