

**Submission
No 147**

INQUIRY INTO REVIEW OF THE HERITAGE ACT 1977

Name: Ms Donna Leslie

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As a heritage professional of some 25 years experience, I regularly work with the Heritage Act, 1977.

I believe the NSW Heritage Act remains relevant and robust in 2021.

However, the Act has become ineffective and downgraded due to the reduced status of the Heritage Office. Lower heritage standards have resulted.

It is essential that a strong and well-resourced NSW Heritage Office can enforce compliance and enforcement of penalties and infringement notices.

At NSW State level there must be pro-active financial support for guidance on adaptive re-use and promotion of heritage incentives to encourage commercial and community ventures as in other States.

Dedicated programmes are needed to promote community understanding, engagement and promotion of heritage. There is currently a disconnect between heritage and the local community. At the very least ALL Local Councils need a trained heritage professional.

The position of a NSW State Heritage Minister would promote and elevate heritage to the relevance it deserves in the 21st C.

Donna Leslie
Heritage Consultant