

**Submission  
No 148**

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

**Name:** Ms June Lunsmann

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My husband and I own 3 locally listed heritage items.

We live in one in Birchgrove NSW and we own an adjoining property which we rent as part of our income at a reasonable rate resulting in permanent tenants who also respect the heritage in our area. I considered it important to have these properties listed and presented relevant information about significance of the buildings and the social importance of previous residents.

The third property is in Shellharbour and was the original courthouse in the area. It was listed before our purchase. It is not leased but used by many friends and family members. Although it was altered over the years to provide accommodation to local police officers the basic cells and outer areas are intact. We are happy to open the house for tours.

I joined the Balmain Association in the mid 1980s and am currently on the management committee. One of the main activities of the Association is the ongoing maintenance of the Balmain Watch House which is listed on the State Register. We act with guidance from the National Trust and raise funds for the ongoing maintenance by hiring the Watch House for exhibitions.

During the 1980s I was an active fundraising member of Friends of the Baths when we were able to save the Dawn Fraser Pool and have it permanently listed on the State Heritage Register. It was also recognised on the Register of the National Estate, now disbanded.

I am currently a member of the Tongarra Historical Society in the Illawarra.

I submit the following

### **1. I agree with the Minister's Foreword**

"Heritage is our legacy. It is the stories, memories, and collective experiences of our state in physical form. Heritage items of special significance play an important role in our community whether it be sparking joy, bringing people together or encouraging reflection. Our heritage deserves to be protected and cherished."

"However, over time, a perception has developed that heritage listing can be a burden, with the most minor activities subject to costly regulatory obstacles."

*This may be the case but people genuinely concerned about heritage welcome these obstacles as a means of preserving it.*

### **2. I agree that Comment on p. 6**

"that the NSW community of today looks vastly different to that of the 1970s, when the Heritage Act was first introduced. Greatly increased cultural diversity and a renewed focus on Aboriginal culture and heritage"

"the following that many of the items protected by the SHR may no longer fully reflect the many different narratives and values that underpin our communities of today and tomorrow."

*My Comment: this statement simply re-enforces the need to retain these items to explain these values to future generations.*

### **3. I totally agree with the following statement**

"Many places and sites of Aboriginal cultural heritage are iconic and significant, and they should be acknowledged for their special place in our collective history. We also have a more complex understanding of heritage. Heritage is increasingly being recognised for more than just its historical relevance, with the many social, economic, environmental, health and wellbeing aspects of heritage increasingly coming into focus."

*I totally agree with the necessity of acknowledgement of Aboriginal history and their cultural sites but as well we need to salute their management of the land over many, many thousands of years.*

*My comment: Aboriginal Cultural Heritage has been managed by National Parks which have consistently had their funding cut and it's appropriate that the Heritage Council should take up this responsibility and ensure adequate funding.*

### **4. Heritage Council of NSW**

The proposed membership of the Heritage Council is far too reaching and should be confined to archaeology, architecture, environmental heritage, Australian history, moveable heritage, natural

heritage, cultural landscapes and Aboriginal heritage.

*My comment: Several years ago the Heritage Council was significantly defunded resulting in the loss of the expertise provided by many of the members.*

*A future Heritage Council should be fully resourced and members selected for their expertise in above areas. In particular peak Aboriginal bodies should be part of this membership, not just simply consulted.*

To keep this short I have listed my main concerns and haven't fully commented on the impact on our public buildings. I didn't see anywhere where this white paper addresses the ongoing erosion of the heritage value of our public buildings due mainly to the greed of developers working under the guise of "adaptive re-use". Even though our colonial history is extremely short compared to the rest of the world it is part of our history and should be preserved.

I look forward to hearing about further public involvement in this white paper.

Yours sincerely

June Lunsman