

**Submission
No 175**

INQUIRY INTO REVIEW OF THE HERITAGE ACT 1977

Name: Ms Anne Field

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I am making a submission as I have maintained a long interest in heritage and associated matters. I was an elected Councillor at Rockdale 1991-1999 and then at Kogarah Council 1999-2008. I was a member of Rockdale Council's Heritage Advisory Committee from 1995 and then Chair until 1999. I was appointed Chair of Southern Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils Heritage Forum in July 1999. At Kogarah Council I served on the Heritage LEP Committee and continued to be a delegate to SSROC Heritage Forum until 2008.

I have run a number of community campaigns to save heritage listed properties eg Lamrock House "Devaran" in Kogarah, which was demolished in 1997 and Griffith House, St George Hospital Campus late 2012 to 2013. Griffith House was demolished in April 2013 as the development of the Emergency Department was State Significant Development. SSD must incorporate/adapt heritage properties and not demolish them. Valuable properties are lost. Griffith House was largely replaced by a car park, which today is usually empty. Local Governments vary in attitude towards heritage. Then then Rockdale Council Councillors largely had a reluctant and negative approach to heritage. This has continued to today's Bayside Council. Kogarah Council was slightly better. The amalgamated Kogarah and Hurstville Councils as Georges River Council are at least recognising historical places / people with blue plaques. The Heritage Act may benefit from some changes, which includes indigenous heritage. However, its objectives and principles remain appropriate today. It must be strengthened not weakened.