

**Submission
No 178**

INQUIRY INTO REVIEW OF THE HERITAGE ACT 1977

Name: Ms Linda Avramides

Date Received: 30 June 2021

Hello,

RE: Enforcement of The NSW Heritage Act, 1977

Voting against heritage is voting against the community. I am writing to request that NSW State Govt puts the community first and prioritises our right to preserve our history and cultural heritage.

'The iconic and beloved Jack Munday, may have died last year but 50 years ago on June 17, 1971, he joined with Hunters Hill residents and bravely created the green bans movement that went all around the world with one simple message: people have the power to say "stop" to save their communities and their heritage. What power do they have now?' Helen Pitt, SMH June 17, 2021

See attached pic: Jack Munday being carried from a protest at The Rocks in the early 1970s.

Increasingly, we are living in a world where social and physical isolation are becoming the new norm. In such an environment, it has become a matter of extreme urgency to hold on to our history, to what provides us with a sense of place, succour and belonging. We must treasure what is left of our heritage as it speaks of our roots, our past history and helps place us as a community and as a culture.

In a recent article by Maxim Boon of Time Out Sydney he describes the 40 most desirable suburbs to see in the world. In every instance they focus on community, tradition and history.
<https://www.timeout.com/coolest-neighbourhoods-in-the-world>

For instance Bedford-Stuyvesant, New York is described as a neighbourhood cloaked in history, with leafy residential streets that pulse with a sense of community and tradition with blocks that feel like extended families and rows of ancient Victorian brownstones.

Yarraville in Melbourne is also noted for its Art Deco buildings and he describes it with an epicurean edge and a perfect balance of residential and recreational.

Marrickville is listed as the 10th most desirable suburb in the world, and this is because it is a true melting pot, its streets lined with Federation-era houses and with leafy enclaves that protect the suburb's cultural essence.

Despite its proximity to the inner city, Marrickville has managed to remain affordable and inclusive, largely thanks to the continuing absence of soulless high-rise developments and juggernaut hospitality franchises. Long may it last...

Randwick City like Greater Sydney was always renowned for its heritage precincts and for the high standard of building, fine craftsmanship, attention to detail and aesthetics that shine through in our heritage architecture. Over the last 50 years these have been slowly decimated by thoughtless developments and now they are ofcourse constantly under threat by the rush for high to medium density development.

If we lose these, we also lose our history, and its rich cultural associations. We urge you not only to keep the buildings and structures recommended for heritage listing by the community, but to further establish and list precincts and green spaces throughout NSW. We cannot save one building then overshadow a beautiful historic streetscape with a concrete 'developer's dream' structure.

As for the economy and jobs generation, economically speaking there is much revenue and opportunity for employment when it comes to restoring our historic buildings:

- heritage buildings, by definition, require constant restoration and skilled craftsmen, builders and artisans as well as state of the art materials.
- tourism is largely based on historic cities and precincts. The more well preserved historic towns around the world attract thousands of visitors per week.

The recent changes in LEP laws and Councils rezoning for higher density developments have granted so much power to developers, resulting in further rampant and questionable developments with thoughtless destruction of our historic residences, now being replaced by soulless, unsightly, incongruous (to the streetscape) and largely empty commercial buildings.

The city of Sydney is vast becoming a sea of cranes and building sites resulting in overshadowing and loss of light and sun. This is now not only an issue in the inner city but throughout our suburbs. Increasingly, this leads to unhappiness, depression and diminishing quality of life.

That is why, over the years, we as a community have fought to prevent the demolition of many of our beautiful historic buildings with their signature elegant, graceful proportions and stunning sandstone exteriors and light filled landscaping.

The urgency to save these buildings and their heritage significance is due to:

- the fast-diminishing stock of original historic buildings
- the fact that these properties provide a cultural and aesthetic snapshot of our heritage
- their removal would have a detrimental impact on views, shading, light and the aesthetic profile of the historic streetscape.
- modern structures replacing those in a street lined with heritage buildings is simply incompatible with the character of the local area.

The architectural history and character of Sydney and NSW must therefore be preserved not only for the wider community but for our children.

To ensure that we preserve our heritage buildings and precincts is to preserve our culture, history and our heritage for future generations.

Thanks and kind regards,

Linda Avramides
Randwick Heritage Action Group

