

**Submission  
No 193**

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

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Often poor heritage outcomes occur at local government level, where the vast majority of heritage items reside, and are not subject to the NSW Heritage Act.

Many councils and shires do not have allocated staff with experience in heritage. Consequently, decisions about heritage properties are often made by planners or even administrative staff with no experience in heritage assessment.

This often results in inappropriate additions, inappropriate demolition, or loss of heritage curtilage.

Through Heritage NSW, Heritage Grants are available to fund heritage projects. Usually, funds are granted on a one off basis, for works to a particular heritage item. Ongoing funding is available for heritage advisors to local councils. Heritage advisors can do good work, but funding is limited, which means at best advisors may visit the council or shire once a month. This infrequency of overseeing, especially when there are many heritage items within council boundaries, often results in poor decisions being made when advice is not readily at hand.

This problem could be overcome by allocating more resources to local councils and shires to employ either permanent heritage officers, or more frequent visitation by heritage advisors. To achieve these aims, more funding is required, one way being through the Heritage NSW, Heritage Grant system.