

**Submission
No 195**

INQUIRY INTO REVIEW OF THE HERITAGE ACT 1977

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2nd July 2021

To: The Standing Committee on Social Issues

Dear Sirs

Submission regarding The Review of the NSW Heritage Act 1977

We are writing as we are:

- residents of *The Astor* and shareholders in the Astor Pty Ltd. and
- concerned about the powers of the Act being overridden by State Significant Development

The Astor is listed as an item of local heritage significance on the Sydney Local Environment Plan 2012. The Astor is part of the Governor's Domain and Civic Precinct – National heritage List. The Astor was built in 1923 and is an apartment building.

As shareholders we contribute to Sydney's heritage by maintaining a high standard of care and conservation of this building. The Astor at 123 Macquarie St is a working living example of residential building development in the city and contributes to the sense of place, and identity.

The current Act enables the conservation of The Astor but the ability of State Significant development to override The Heritage Act is of considerable concern as we are neighbors to other significant listings.

We are making this submission following our experience in responding to an application for a State Significant Development hotel/residential building at 50-52 Phillip St SYDNEY (SSD-10464). The application SSD-10464 proposes an approximately 48 story tower cantilevered over a major heritage site – the original Public Works Building.

We were unaware until this experience that a State Significant Development turns off the provisions of The Heritage Act

Focus Question 3

We consider the objectives of The Act are relevant and must not be overridden by State Significant Development.

Focus Question 4

The current heritage act does reflect the expectations of the contemporary NSW Community as long as it is permitted to encourage and protect precincts like Macquarie St and the Governors Domain and is not rendered powerless by The State Significant Developments.

In the case of the 50-52 Phillip St proposal the scale and bulk of the development would diminish the cultural value and integrity of the group of buildings. In so doing desirable goals like enhancing domestic and international tourism could well be compromised.

Your faithfully

Ann Long

Geoffrey long