

**Submission  
No 208**

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

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**Date Received:** 4 July 2021

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## **Review of the Heritage Act 1977**

I am a member of the public and a member of a community group who is appalled at the direction that this NSW Government is taking with regard to our heritage.

The State Governments desire to “liberate assets.” The protection that heritage buildings have at present is barely enough. The oldest Public House in Parramatta has been destroyed for a light rail that did not need to have this building demolished.

This same Light Rail has passed through the Cumberland Hospital site within metres of the Female Factory which is applying for World Heritage listing. Buildings are being approved which are so tall that the sight lines from the Female factory are compromised by such developments. The new Parramatta Stadium which this government foisted upon the people of Parramatta is now visible whereas the previous stadium was not.

The people of Parramatta have been under relentless and thoughtless decisions made by this State Government ever since Mike Baird had a brain snap and decided to foist a replacement museum in Parramatta, in order to sell the Ultimo site to developers. For the time being the Ultimo Museum stays but the stupidity continues with the replacement museum to be built whilst the one it was to replace supposedly is now to be retained.

In order to facilitate this fiasco Baird sacked the existing Council and installed his puppet Amanda Chadwick to administer the council in the interim. She no doubt at his prompting sold properties owned by the council which were to be incorporated in their “River foreshore Plan.” It is a result of this that another of Parramatta’s Heritage buildings is to be destroyed. Willow Grove is under threat by a government who have no value for Heritage. Profit is their only mantra.

Any changes introduced by this government will weaken the already inadequate protection that they currently possess.

### **2. PURPOSE OF THE HERITAGE ACT 1977**

(e) to encourage the adaptive reuse of items of State heritage significance,

Terms like adaptive reuse of State Heritage significance fill me with horror. Adaptive reuse is available under the existing act. The government want to reduce the limited protection that is currently available and erode it further.

### **2. PURPOSE OF THE HERITAGE ACT 1977**

The Act has been amended over time to attempt to achieve an acceptable balance between heritage conservation, owner rights and the changing needs of communities across the state for housing, job opportunities, infrastructure and community and open spaces.

- Focus Question 3: Are the objectives of the Heritage Act still relevant?
- Focus Question 4: Does the Act adequately reflect the expectations of the contemporary NSW community?

“The act has been amended over time” and they can justify the destruction that they are currently attempting to introduce. There is more than enough flexibility without further erosion of what exists.

Are the objectives of the Heritage Act still relevant? Not for the Philistines who have no concept of what is valuable. Everything is seen through a lens of its monetary worth. They know the cost of everything but the value of nothing.

Does the Act adequately reflect the expectations of the contemporary NSW community? Of course it does, these incompetents want to change everything according to whatever whim takes them at the time. The act exists to prevent people like them destroying everything to suit their own agenda. These laws were introduced in 1977, two years after the replacement of the Askin government who attempted to destroy the Rocks and the QVB in Sydney for bland office blocks and apartments. Who today would think that was a good idea?