

**Submission  
No 212**

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

**Name:** Mrs Elizabeth Barton

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In relation to the review of New South Wales Heritage Legislation I am writing in the hope that some of my thoughts on preservation will be regarded as worthwhile and given consideration.

- For the sake of preservation of buildings and land, the Heritage Council members should be qualified architects, historians, engineers and aborigines, such people having the knowledge of all aspects of our historic buildings and land.
- Aboriginal Cultural Heritage should definitely be acknowledged.
- Community engagement is definitely needed when assessing historic properties and land development. Bureaucrats rarely see the advantages of saving historical sites or properties, unless they are qualified in those fields.
- Understanding of state heritage should become a needed subject in primary and throughout secondary schools. Australia's history, before and after 1788 should be compulsory. Australians' understanding of why and how convicts came, the talents they showed after their releases, how they built, survived, found their talents and helped to build and eventually educate their descendants should be a compulsory part of our education and preservation of our history.
- Preservation and restoration of buildings should be linked. The restoration of Queen Victoria Building is a classic example.
- Instead of over-building, for the sake of preservation of our environment, save and use historic buildings. Classic examples of what has been saved are:

Mark Foys - now Downing Centre  
Pyrmont Power House - now a Museum  
Redfern railway workshops - now Carriage Works Arts Precinct  
The Hyde Park Barracks - now a Museum  
North wing of The Rum Hospital - now Parliament House

Yours faithfully,  
**ELIZABETH BARTON**