

**Submission
No 224**

INQUIRY INTO REVIEW OF THE HERITAGE ACT 1977

Name: Mr Tom Sherlock

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Submission on Heritage Review

I am not a heritage expert, but have been a Councillor for 13 years in Mosman. Heritage forms a strong part of our community identity. It is also considered by many, including myself, to be under threat.

In my experience we need to celebrate heritage and make the most of it in order for people to 'get on board' and appreciate it too. This can mean giving Councils tools to influence colour palettes and details of styling. We have one building in Mosman's Military Road where half of it is painted to celebrate heritage. But then the other half is painted a monotone - almost as though heritage were an embarrassment. And then in another area we have a suggested heritage palette - but one building is painted bright red!

Sympathetic development is another area where improvements could be made. I'm thinking of one development where a large black box was added to the first floor. This building was near a corner and so was quite visible in the area. Such out-of-character developments can degrade a heritage area and set precedents for other box-like developments.

Overall I still think that heritage in Mosman, and across NSW, is a terrific asset that we may sometimes misunderstand and under-value. Yes, Sydney is growing and changing. But we can be clever and weave a narrative through heritage management that tells the story of our history, and our identity. This is part of place-making. Part of being human. Part of every great city and every great state.

I appreciate the opportunity to be able to contribute to this review, and hope that the remainder of the review process will be similarly transparent with further opportunity for input and comment.