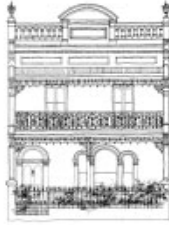


**Submission
No 225**

INQUIRY INTO REVIEW OF THE HERITAGE ACT 1977

Organisation: The Paddington Society

Date Received: 4 July 2021



THE PADDINGTON SOCIETY Inc.
For Community and Heritage
Est 1964

4 July 2021

To Minister
Don Harwin, NSW Government

Dear Minister.

Re; Review of NSW Heritage Legislation

We welcome the review into the NSW Heritage Act.

We see it as an opportunity to ensure that heritage is better managed and protected in NSW

The Paddington Society was formed in 1964 to protect the heritage of Paddington.

These days Paddington itself has a reputation cited in architectural journals and reference pieces as “the most intact Victorian Terrace village in the world”.

So how did this suburb, once considered a “slum,” become what it is today?
Largely, because of the efforts of a multitude of committed residents and the Government and the Minister of the day accepting the Report of the Bunning Enquiry in August 1968- this led to the conservation of Paddington.

It was about protecting heritage.

The primary purpose of the Heritage Act should be to identify, protect and conserve the heritage of NSW for the public. This is what the current Act does.

We do not agree that the current Heritage Act is out of date and we cannot see any evidence presented to support this view. The current Act is there in response to widespread community concerns that heritage is threatened by overdevelopment. This has not changed

What has not changed is the continuing relentless pressure to overdevelop

We believe that that the current Heritage Act should be strengthened by;

- More public conservation funding. The current funding is totally inadequate
- This increased funding should be focused on the physical needs of Heritage properties.
- Heritage Act should be expanded to govern State Significant Development- currently items and places of State heritage significance are not covered by the Heritage Act

It is important for the Heritage Act to maintain strong enforcement powers to protect NSW heritage.

The public and the world can only appreciate the importance of NSW heritage if it is conserved. When it is lost it is lost forever.

We ask that the resultant draft White paper, and draft Bills are incorporated into the review process so that we have further opportunities to comment

Yours faithfully

Will Mrongovius
President
The Paddington Society