

Submission
No 235

INQUIRY INTO REVIEW OF THE HERITAGE ACT 1977

Name: Name suppressed

Date Received: 27 June 2021

Partially
Confidential

Thank you for the opportunity to make this submission on the review of the NSW Heritage Act (1977).

I trust that the NSW Government's purpose is not to reduce the important functions of this Act that has so far somewhat successfully protected the abundant heritage in our state. Rather, given the avarice pervading civilization these days, the Heritage Act's provisions for the identification, protection and conservation of NSW's built, natural and indigenous heritage should be strengthened. That, hopefully, will counteract the risk of valuable heritage/history being consigned to oblivion by proposed State significant development that would likely countermand the provisions of the Heritage Act (1977).

A good start would be:

- Ensuring that the majority of the members of any future NSW Heritage Council are recognized experts specialising in heritage, as I believe was the case some years ago. The fact that the current Council includes so few members with solid heritage expertise is shameful, scary and reasonable grounds for suspicion—of the Government. Politician and developer intrusion in the Heritage Council will, inevitably, tip the scales to the detriment of preservation.
- Ensuring that final decisions on matters of heritage significance should never be afforded to any minister of government, let alone a minister whose title does not even incorporate the word heritage.

In answer to:

- Focus Q.8: Do it and it will happen.
- Focus Q.10: A surprising question, given the many examples of community advocacy over many years for the preservation of heritage, which is history, that has so often been blatantly ignored by the powers that be, e.g., for precious gems of history in Parramatta—Women's Factory and associated buildings. Then there is the stupidity of "moving" *Willowdale*, which the Minister condones. Given the publicity it has received of late, the possibility of adaptive reuse must be a given after a deserved restoration in situ.

Yours sincerely,