

Submission
No 252

INQUIRY INTO REVIEW OF THE HERITAGE ACT 1977

Organisation: Name suppressed

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Partially
Confidential

I am the founder and director of the only estate agency that works exclusively with modern residential properties, many of which are recognised for their heritage value.

The current owners and future custodians of these properties are directly impacted by the legislation.

We were fortunate to attend the National Trust Heritage Forum. Two key points resonated with our 10+ years of experience working with current and future heritage items, in the wider context of NSW heritage.

- the significant contribution that cultural heritage places make to our identity, creating a sense of place and representing the State's story, its people and its shared connections.
- the important role cultural heritage places have in domestic and international tourism and their contribution to a vibrant state economy.

From discussion at the Forum, it was clear that there is real concern that a major review of existing historic heritage legislation has been proposed at a time when a twenty-year promise to enact independent Indigenous heritage legislation has not been fulfilled.

It is important to highlight that there was consensus that contemporary legislation to protect and conserve Indigenous Heritage must remain a priority over amending heritage legislation.

From conversations over time with owners and heritage professionals there is great concern that there needs to be greater resourcing to enable the Act's effective implementation. This was a fundamental conclusion of the Forum also, so that Heritage NSW can show leadership, effectively identify the state's heritage places, and manage their sympathetic change.

The following point directly relates to a key section of our Vision Statement:
'...the promotion of Australia's modern residential architecture and as a result, a wider understanding and preservation of its design heritage.'

- we strongly agree that the process of identifying and listing cultural heritage places should be separate from the process of managing change at cultural heritage places. Further categories of places should not be introduced.

In summary, the review may mean that heritage items may be 'activated', delisted, recategorised, sold off, or at worst redeveloped unsympathetically.

We urge that the review identifies that Heritage NSW needs to be given the required resource to fulfil their remit.