

Submission
No 283

INQUIRY INTO REVIEW OF THE HERITAGE ACT 1977

Name: Name suppressed

Date Received: 4 July 2021

Partially
Confidential

Dear Standing Committee on Social Issues

RE: Standing Committee on Social Issues - Review of the Heritage Act 1977

I wish to make the following submission addressing points 1(a) and 1(d)(i) of the Terms of Reference:

1(a) the need for legislative change to deliver a heritage system that is modern, effective and reflects best practice heritage conservation, activation and celebration

In my opinion there is no need to amend the current Act (Heritage Act 1977), apart from the following matters. Those being:

1. Appointments to the Heritage Council to no longer be by Ministerial discretion
2. Members of the Heritage Council to be composed primarily of qualified heritage conservation professionals (e.g. Australia ICOMOS), representatives from heritage conservation institutions (e.g. NSW Aboriginal Land Council, National Trust (NSW) etc.) and the NSW Government Architect
3. Heritage listings to be carried out on the authority of the Heritage Council (not the Minister)

1(d) the issues raised and focus questions posed in the Government's Discussion Paper, in particular:
(i) a category approach to heritage listing to allow for more nuanced and targeted recognition and protection of the diversity of State significant heritage items

In my opinion there is no need to amend the current Act (Heritage Act 1977) in regard to heritage listing categories. Such a change will only bring unnecessary complexity and rigidity to a well-known and fit for purpose heritage listing system.

I thank the Standing Committee for the opportunity to make this submission.