

Submission  
No 286

## INQUIRY INTO REVIEW OF THE HERITAGE ACT 1977

**Name:** Name suppressed

**Date Received:** 4 July 2021

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Partially  
Confidential

4 July 2021

Submission to the Review of the NSW Heritage Legislation

I write this submission as a concerned community member with an interest in the preservation of heritage throughout New South Wales as a tangible link to the memories and stories of our past as a nation. I have for over 40 years been a member of various organisations including the Royal Australian Historical Society; Historic Houses Trust; National Trust of Australia; and our local historical society.

I would like to make the following comments about this first discussion paper:

- 1 - Why is this review being undertaken under the context that natural disasters, such as bushfires, flooding and COVID 19 have affected heritage conservation when no specific evidence is available to support this statement.
- 2 - I would question just what the statement that “heritage is increasingly being recognised for more than its heritage relevance, with many social, economic, environmental, health and wellbeing aspects of heritage increasingly coming into focus” means. No specific information is available to support this.
- 3 - A review of the Heritage Act should be undertaken because the Act requires minor review to strengthen its heritage protections.
- 4 - Any changes to the Heritage Act should strengthen the legislation to provide better heritage outcomes and not weaken heritage protections as seems to be alluded by the “surplus to need” inference.
- 5 – Indigenous heritage needs to be included in the NSW Heritage Act now.
- 6 - I do not believe that the NSW Heritage Act is out-of-step with trends in heritage conservation nor onerous and wonder what studies have been undertaken to make this finding.
- 7 - I do not believe that there is “a perception that heritage listing can be a burden rather than a celebration of our history”. In many ways this may be the attitude of those who seek to destroy heritage for a financial gain.
- 8 - Heritage Council members should be renowned heritage experts and representatives of significant heritage organisations to ensure that heritage is protected for future generations.
- 9 - I strongly object to the four-category tactic suggested that will denigrate most of the State listed heritage in Category 3 as “standard residential properties” to overlook highly significant heritage and categorise them as inferior items.