

INQUIRY INTO REVIEW OF THE HERITAGE ACT 1977

Name: Mrs Barbara Rooke

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Dear Sir or Madam,

In the light of the current NSW review of the Heritage Act I would like to make the following positive suggestions in my submission.

1. The importance of, in the making of any changes to heritage, that VALUES ARE PROTECTED, whilst at the same time allowing a DEGREE OF CHANGE to facilitate comfortable living and acceptable aesthetic sympathetic changes to fabric.
2. It should be MADE EASIER to have a property heritage listed. Residents should be made more aware of what resources are available to enable that. They should be informed of the factors available to them as in my point 1.
3. They should be informed that their RATES will be REDUCED should their property become heritage listed and that it will not lower the value of their property to be so. The more properties that are listed nearby, in fact the GREATER THE VALUE of the area or that particular street.
4. MORE RESOURCES should be made available from the State for the protection of heritage. It should not be left up to individual residents or members of Societies such as the Darling Point Society, (which I founded 22 years ago) to have to fund professional proof of heritage before being recognised for listing. This Society in recent times had to spend \$10,000 on a private professional heritage report to demonstrate to Woollahra Municipal Council that the seawall around Rushcutter's Bay and Yarranabee Parks was worthy of listing. It was a successful campaign but it hit the Society's hip pocket considerably.
5. It is absolutely essential that LOCAL COMMUNITIES' OPINIONS should be garnered over the question of local history, either for it being established as heritage or in the face of any proposed destruction or significant change of heritage property. This is a key component of the Burra Charter which has and should remain the essential framework through which values are judged and any change is considered or managed.
6. More credence and acknowledgement should be given to the SOCIAL HISTORY of a property in the heritage framework, than is currently given.

Barbara Rooke