

SUBMISSION on NSW Heritage Act Review 2021

The Darling Point Society Inc has been representing the interests of one of the most heritage significant districts of New South Wales for the past 22 years. We know what our residents want to preserve and what they enjoy about living on this beautiful peninsular. A peninsular that is dotted throughout not only with much magnificent extant architecture but is also riddled with considerable social history.

In the light of the current NSW review of the Heritage Act we would like to make the following positive suggestions in our 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 our 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 like The Darling Point Society Inc to have to fund professional proof of heritage before being recognised for listing. Our 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 our 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.
6. More credence and acknowledgement should be given to the SOCIAL HISTORY of a property in the heritage framework, than is currently given.

Yours sincerely,
Charlotte Feldman
President
Darling Point Society