

10 May 2018

Ms Leanne Enoch

Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts, Department of Environment and Science

GPO Box 5078

BRISBANE QLD 4001

Dear Minister Enoch,

**Re: Lamb House, Kangaroo Point**

As you know, the National Trust of Australia (Queensland) is Queensland's largest cultural heritage organisation. A member based charity, we provide strategic advocacy for the protection, conservation and celebration of Queensland's environmental, built and cultural heritage.

We have had enquiries from Brisbane residents, our Advocacy Committee and the NTAQ Board, expressing concern over the rapidly deteriorating condition of Lamb House in Kangaroo Point. Indeed, our own strategic advisory committee, the Advocacy Committee, has similarly discussed their concerns about the state of this site at their March meeting. We note as well the various recent media articles covering this issue.

This prominent Brisbane-based heritage site appears to be rapidly deteriorating and suffering from a lack of maintenance and subsequent lack of use – a sad situation for this significant building. We would not want to see this building relegated to the fate of “demolition by neglect.”

However, we are aware that the QLD Heritage Council elected not to enforce the essential maintenance provisions of the Queensland Heritage Act, due to the age of the owner. We also understand that the Department of Environment and Science (DES) is doing their best to negotiate with the owner and assist with an application for funding of a heavy duty for the roof, to halt further water ingress.



National Trust of Australia (Queensland) is dedicated to the protection, conservation and celebration of environmental, built and cultural heritage.

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We are in full support of the approach that DES is taking with this difficult situation. Due to the challenges associated with negotiating with this particular owner, our Advocacy Committee does not feel there to be any advantages by the National Trust stepping in to negotiate. However, should DES require any assistance or support, we would be more than willing to assist wherever possible.

Nonetheless, we feel this issue highlights the urgent need for more funding for owners of state heritage listed places. As point out in our 2017 State Election Priorities document, the high community perceptions of the value of heritage as a public good are **not** matched by a commensurate public-sector resourcing, nor in incentives for private owners.

There is currently no grant program specific to environmental, built and cultural heritage. Additionally, one of the few grants that is available, the Community Sustainability Action Grants, **specifically excludes** *“regular maintenance work that should normally be undertaken to keep the place in good repair.”* The situation of Lamb House clearly highlights the deficiencies in the current grant structure and lack and of overall funding – these deficiencies are exacerbating the deterioration and decay of Queensland’s precious heritage assets.

We look forward to your consideration of this issue and your response to this letter.

Yours sincerely,



Jane Alexander

Heritage Advocacy Adviser

