



Dear National Trust,

Thank you for these questions and the powerful work the National Trust does to protect and enhance the built and natural heritage of Australia. We hope to continue working with the trust for many years to come.

We submit the following answers to the questions asked:

**Question:**

*How will the incoming 57th Parliament consider the importance of 'place', to ensure the conservation of our collective histories and places of significance?*

Heritage brings meaning to people through places, objects and practices, and enhances community engagement and well-being. It is critically important and the Greens NSW are committed to ensuring the laws are in place to protect it.

We have committed to removing heritage-related exemptions from legislation, which undermine heritage protection in NSW. This includes particularly the exemptions for state significant infrastructure and state significant development. The most damaging projects should not get a free pass to destroy heritage places and artefacts.

The Greens are committed to preserving significant cultural landscapes, precincts, streetscapes, street trees and coastal settings. This commitment is matched by a comprehensive suite of mechanisms and strong laws to ensure that individuals and groups are empowered to protect heritage.

**Question:**

*How can 'community consultation' be made more meaningful when heritage and environmental protection listing and legislation have been overridden to facilitate development approvals?*

Aboriginal peoples have the right to own and control Aboriginal culture and heritage and must have the right to provide free, prior and informed consent before activities which will impact on Aboriginal heritage are permitted. The contribution of successive generations of migrant cultures must also be recognised and respected. The broader community also has the fundamental right to be part of decisions relating to the protection of heritage in their community and country.

The Greens are committed to improved community consultation, participation and decision-making in relation to decisions concerning heritage. In particular this should include deep consultation from the beginning of projects, not just overview consultation on a proposal that has basically already been decided. Heritage assessments and determinations must be free from the influence of the proponents whose actions would see heritage destroyed or damaged. This includes removing the ability of the Minister to deny consent to the listing of a local heritage item or place or a council's LEP.

We would protect local heritage by requiring councils to consider the listing of an item or place on a council's Local Environment Plan if the council is in receipt of a petition supporting the listing signed by at least 5,000 people or a number greater than 5 percent of the ratepayers of the municipality, whichever is the lesser; and until such time as the council considers listing, the item or place is to have interim heritage protection.

We would protect state and regional heritage by requiring the Heritage Council to consider the listing of the item or place on the State Heritage Register if the Minister is in receipt of a petition supporting the listing signed by at least 10,000 people; and until such time as the Heritage Council considers the listing, the item or place is to have interim heritage protection.

Given much heritage listing and conservation occurs on a local level we should also require local councils to report regularly to the Minister on the steps they have taken to protect and promote local heritage. We would also encourage and fund local councils to revise and extend their local heritage registers.

**Question:**

*How can development be dealt with to ensure that environmentally and socially sustainable solutions are achieved?*

As above the most important step we can take is to remove the exemptions from environmental, heritage and other protective controls from the biggest developments. State significant development and state significant infrastructure can be some of the most damaging developments and giving them a free pass is unacceptable.

We can also put in place positive measures like promoting adaptive re-use of heritage structures guided by heritage conservation values. This would include restoration, reconstruction, adaptation and compatible use being preferred to façading or other unsympathetic redevelopment, recognising that both the interior and exterior of buildings can have heritage significance.

## **Key issues**

### **Powerhouse Museum Ultimo**

The Greens have been a powerful voice for the retention of the Powerhouse Museum. As Deputy Chair of the inquiry I worked strongly to hold the Government to account on its flawed decision to move the museum. We need to retain the Powerhouse at Ultimo as a quality museum for generations to come, and build the world class museum that Parramatta deserves.

### **Sydney Football (Allianz) Stadium**

The Greens have been proud to stand with the community against the wasteful and unnecessary demolition of the Sydney Football Stadium. We believe there are better priorities for the people of NSW than spending more than \$700 million on this project.

### **Rivers, wetlands and groundwater systems**

The Greens have always stood up for sustainable water systems where the rights of rivers and wetlands to continue to exist are firmly recognised. We support laws that create legal recognition of these systems to allow their legal rights to be defended against unsustainable irrigation contracts, poor management or pollution.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Shoebridge', with a stylized, cursive script.

David Shoebridge  
Greens MP and Planning Spokesperson