



POSITION PAPER

COMMUNITY CHARTER FOR GOOD PLANNING IN NEW SOUTH WALES

NATIONAL TRUST INVOLVEMENT IN NSW PLANNING SYSTEM

Since the introduction of planning legislation in 1979 (the Environmental Planning & Assessment Act) the National Trust has consistently lobbied for improvements for heritage protection in the planning system as almost all heritage is dealt with by local government, not under NSW Heritage legislation. In March, 2012 the National Trust made a submission to the NSW Planning System Review Issues Paper (the Green Paper) arguing that there was a major imbalance in the planning system favouring development over reasonable expectations that heritage would be protected.

The Trust also noted that NSW planning and environmental legislation should protect environmental assets including heritage places, not only to provide for new development, but because heritage places are a non renewable resource supporting jobs and investment through heritage trades and tourism, as well as enriching our environment and contributing to our culture and sense of place.

In June, 2014 the National Trust Board adopted a Policy on the NSW Planning System (Heritage Issues) which set out seven key policy points.

THE COMMUNITY CHARTER

Following the decision by the NSW Government not to proceed with new planning legislation and recognising the defects in the existing legislation regarding heritage conservation the National Trust accepted an invitation to liaise with other community groups with a view to formulating a Community Charter seeking legislative reform.

The National Trust contributed to the formulation of the Charter's heritage provisions based on advice and information from the Trust's Technical Conservation Committees and Conservation Policies Task Force.

NATIONAL TRUST POSITION

At its meeting on 27 August, 2014 the Board of the National Trust resolved to endorse the *Community Charter for Good Planning in New South Wales* and adopted three additional planning policies which the Trust should promote in conjunction with the Community Charter -

1. In principle, all developable land in NSW should have agreed built form controls;
2. The declaration of State Significant development sites should not turn off existing built form controls and,
3. The declaration of State Significant development sites should not turn off heritage listings and heritage considerations.

ACTION ON THE COMMUNITY CHARTER FOR GOOD PLANNING

The Trust calls on its members and the community to support the Community Charter for Good Planning in New South Wales by endorsing and promoting the Charter and the three additional planning policy points in regard to State Significant development sites and agreed built form controls.