



## POSITION PAPER

### EDUCATIONAL ESTABLISHMENTS AND CHILD CARE FACILITIES STATE ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING POLICY

#### BACKGROUND

On 6 April 2017 the National Trust put in a submission to the Department of Planning and Environment strongly objecting to the Draft Educational Establishments and Child Care Facilities State Environmental Planning Policy (SEPP) which had been advertised with an invitation for public comments.

The Trust specifically objected to the SEPP's assumption that all significant heritage places were already listed on the State Heritage Register and Local Environmental Plan Schedules of Items of Environmental Heritage, which would leave many significant places vulnerable to exempt and complying development or development without consent or any consideration of ways to conserve their heritage significance. For example, highly significant buildings which do not appear either on the Education Department's Heritage (S.170) Register or on a Local Environmental Plan include the former Alexander Mackie College of Advanced Education at Oatley. Bathurst High School (1926) is listed on the Bathurst City LEP but does not appear on the Department of Education's Heritage Register. There are over 130 TAFE sites in NSW but only 27 of these sites are heritage listed.

The Trust also strongly objected to the proposed demolition of buildings or structures without consent and the provision that permitted the construction as exempt development, of a sporting field, tennis court, basketball court or any type of court used for sport, and associated awnings or canopies, if the development does not involve the clearing of more than 2 hectares of native vegetation.

The Trust strongly opposes this SEPP and again advocates for stronger heritage protection of our State's precious educational, natural and cultural heritage. The current provisions within this SEPP are totally inadequate for the protection of heritage (both government and non-government owned) that will be affected by this legislation.

#### NATIONAL TRUST POSITION

- The Trust urges that a thorough heritage survey of educational and childcare places throughout NSW, with resultant heritage listing of relevant significant places currently unprotected, is required before this SEPP is enacted.
- The Trust will continue to oppose the provision that permits demolition of buildings or structures without consent. With such a large number of significant university and TAFE buildings not currently assessed or listed on Local Environmental Plans this provision would allow wholesale destruction of hundreds of buildings on universities and TAFE sites.

#### ACTION TO PROMOTE THE TRUST'S POSITION

The Trust will promote its views on this issue in the media, with the Education Department and the NSW government.