<insert date>

<insert candidate contact details>

<insert candidate contact details>

<insert candidate contact details>

Dear Candidate <add candidate name>

I am writing to ask you to commit to supporting the natural, cultural and built heritage of NSW in your candidacy, and to make heritage matter this election by supporting the National Trust of Australia (NSW)’s [state election heritage platform](http://www.nationaltrust.org.au/initiatives/nsw-state-election-2023-make-heritage-matter).

[Add a short Personal paragraph here e.g. *I live in a suburb that has retained its heritage streetscapes and these must be preserved for the next generations. They bring value and wellbeing to our local community, and are irreplaceable.”*

I am not alone. In NSW, there are ***more than 18,000 National Trust members, 62,000 visitors a year to National Trust properties (pre-pandemic, there were 139,000) and more than 40,000 owners of heritage places in NSW*** – all who value natural, cultural and built heritage for the good of the community.

I ask you to consider the many ways that we all benefit from NSW’s heritage – through visiting parks and bushland areas, to visiting our cultural institutions and historic pubs, taking visitors to the Rocks or to see rock art, or simply enjoying our local high street. None of this would be possible without the contribution of heritage legislation and resources to protect and maintain these places.

Unfortunately, successive governments have devalued the protection and conservation of heritage places over the last 15 years leading to immense community concern and a loss of places that people love. The community is increasingly speaking out with concern and developments are seeing unprecedented numbers of public submissions - ***but we need your support to make meaningful, long-term change.***

I urgently call on you to support the built, cultural and natural heritage in our electorate by committing to the following eight National Trust election priorities that will strengthen and grow the heritage we love:

1. **Stop disabling the State’s heritage legislation. Repeal Section 4.41 (c) and (d) of the EPA&A Act.**
2. **Commit to stand-alone Aboriginal Cultural Heritage legislation. Table an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage bill in 2023 and ensure it's properly resourced.**
3. **Develop options to better protect remnant urban bushland and significant trees across NSW.**
4. **Legislate the mandatory consideration of the Government Architect's Design Guide for Heritage.**
5. **Make grants available for operational costs of heritage organisations, museums and galleries.**
6. **Incentivise adaptive reuse of buildings to encourage sustainable development and reduce carbon footprints.**
7. **Ensure the NSW Government properly cares for the State’s heritage as a responsible custodian of these precious heritage assets.**
8. **Ensure funding is made available so that every local council can employ a local heritage advisor.**

You can read more about these eight priorities on the National Trust NSW website:

[www.nationaltrust.org.au/initiatives/nsw-state-election-2023-make-heritage-matter](http://www.nationaltrust.org.au/initiatives/nsw-state-election-2023-make-heritage-matter)

NSW’s heritage matters—it creates a unique identity, a sense of place and a strong reminder of our history. Our heritage places, from buildings to landscapes, songlines to character areas, and trees to shipwrecks, represent our story, our people and our shared connections.

In March 2023, I ask you to commit to the eight National Trust priorities and make heritage matter.

Yours sincerely,

[YOUR NAME]