



**The Hon Penny Sharpe MLC**  
**Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Council**  
**Shadow Minister for the Environment**  
**Shadow Minister for Heritage**

NSW Parliament  
Macquarie Street  
Sydney NSW 2000  
T (02) 9230 2741  
✉ @pennysharpemlc  
Penny.Sharpe@parliament.nsw.gov.au  
[www.pennysharpe.com](http://www.pennysharpe.com)

Ms Kathryn Pitkin  
President  
National Trust of Australia (NSW)  
GPO Box 518  
Sydney NSW 2001  
By email: [president@nationaltrust.com.au](mailto:president@nationaltrust.com.au)

Friday 17 March 2023

Dear Ms Pitkin,

Thank you for contacting me ahead of the upcoming NSW state election regarding the National Trust's 2023 State Election Heritage Priorities.

I want to thank you for the work the National Trust has done over a long period of time and continues to do today to be a strong voice and advocate for the importance of heritage, place and belonging in our communities. The stories we choose to tell ourselves and others are why protection, conservation and reinterpretation of heritage is so important.

Labor's priorities if elected on the 25th of March in relation to heritage are:

- Delivering standalone Aboriginal cultural heritage laws in NSW. We will do this in partnership with First Nations people to deliver reform that properly respects, recognises, and conserves sites of Aboriginal cultural heritage and significance.
- Developing the state's first Heritage Strategy in the lead up to the ICOMOS conference this year, the strategy will include:
  - Implementation of the review of the *Heritage Act 1977* (NSW) to ensure its powers and responsibilities meet the needs of coming decades.
  - Examination of the s170 Heritage and Conservation Registers of NSW Government agencies and the management of the assets listed on the register.
  - Examination of the interaction between state planning laws and planning policies and the *Heritage Act*.
  - A review of the funding support and incentives for heritage conservation and maintenance.

Labor will also:

- Seek to restore the funding that has been lost for the National Trust Heritage Festival.
- Ensure the Heritage Council has the expertise it needs to undertake its independent role.
- Develop options to recognise and protect significant trees and urban bushland and wildlife corridors as part of the recognition of natural heritage.
- Accelerate the World Heritage nomination for the Parramatta Female Factory.
- Support areas like Camden and Haberfield being considered for heritage recognition by the Heritage Council.
- Protect the World Heritage listed Blue Mountains National Park by not going ahead with the raising of the Warragamba Dam wall.

Thank you for contacting me, I look forward to working with the National Trust in whatever capacity the people of NSW choose on 25 March.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Penny Sharpe', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Penny Sharpe MLC