



The Hon. James Griffin MP
Minister for Environment and Heritage

Ms Kathryn Pitkin AM
President
National Trust of Australia (NSW)
GPO Box 518
SYDNEY NSW 2001

By email: wigzell@nationaltrust.com.au

Dear Ms Pitkin

Thank you for your correspondence outlining the National Trust of Australia (NSW) 2023 State Election Heritage Priorities. I appreciate the opportunity to respond on behalf of the NSW Liberal and Nationals Government.

The NSW Liberal and Nationals Government will ensure that the State's heritage is appropriately protected, conserved and celebrated. The successful \$5 million Blue Plaques NSW program is an example of our focus on highlighting key assets and encouraging the community to engage in the stories of the diverse people and historical moments that have defined NSW.

The NSW Heritage Grants Program will continue to support communities to protect items listed on the State Heritage Register. Last year, Heritage NSW trialed a new \$1 million grant to incentive heritage activation which was awarded to Windy Station Woolshed, south of Tamworth, to activate that site as an event space with a co-investment from the property owners to restore the building.

The Design Guide for Heritage is one element of the NSW Liberal and Nationals Government's commitment to reflect the value of heritage in our cities and towns in a way that complements economic development and sustainability principles.

The NSW Liberal and Nationals Government will also ensure that our legislation and regulatory settings meet contemporary expectations and conclude the reform of the *Heritage Act 1977* and I thank the National Trust for its engagement in the consultation process last year. I commit to further engagement as those reforms progress after the 2023 NSW State Election. The Government is not considering changes to the process for managing state significant development and infrastructure projects as part of those reforms.

The NSW Liberal and Nationals Government is committed to introducing standalone Aboriginal Cultural Heritage legislation. We are engaging in extended consultation with key Aboriginal stakeholders and communities within the cultural heritage reform process.

We hope to have the opportunity to engage further with you in the next term of government. Again, thank you for your ongoing partnership with the NSW Liberal and Nationals Government.

Yours sincerely

James Griffin MP
Minister for Environment and Heritage

16/5/23