



PRESERVING AUSTRALIA'S OLDEST GARDEN SUBURB

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The Hon. Penny Sharpe, MLC
Deputy Leader of the NSW Labor Party
Shadow Minister for the Environment and Heritage
NSW Labor
Parliament House, Macquarie Street
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Dear Ms Sharpe,

The Hunters Hill Trust was formed in 1968 and has been one of the pioneers in heritage and conservation planning in NSW, instrumental at the local level in ensuring the recognition and implementation of heritage and conservation protection in Hunters Hill's planning instruments. Please find Attached the latest Hunters Hill Trust Journal.

Fifty+ years on from its establishment, we are facing a heritage and conservation crisis across NSW, with much of the work of the last half century being undermined. The Trust has been following with alarm the destruction of Thompson Square in Windsor; the proposed relocation of the Powerhouse Museum and demolition of heritage in Parramatta to make way for its relocation, the erosion of authority and respect for the Heritage Council over the listing of the Sirius building, along with many other areas of concern.

We welcome the announcement of Labor's heritage strategy covering the above issues as well as the proposal for specific laws to protect Aboriginal culture, and review of government's management and protection of heritage assets. We are pleased that a NSW Heritage Summit has been promised in Sydney in 2020 ahead of the International Council on Monuments and Sites annual general assembly. Will you also consider removing the ability of the Minister for Planning alone being able to sign off on the destruction of State Significant Heritage through the State Significant Infrastructure legislation by ensuring that any future issues as significant as the loss of Thompson Square are properly considered by Cabinet?

Heritage, sense of place, local identity and good civic design are critical to the future of our communities across NSW. It is essential to good place making

and strong coherent communities that we preserve, conserve and maintain those things that people recognise as being important to their love of a place. Heritage and conservation should not be an add-on to place making, they must be enshrined as core values within our planning system, along with good civic design that meets community expectations.

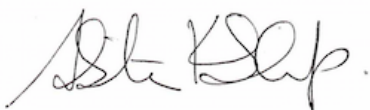
The State's current planning and approval processes are creating poor outcomes, overriding carefully considered Local Environment and Development Control Plans and placing communities 'under siege', with the proliferation of poorly designed and constructed apartment blocks across swathes of Sydney of particular concern. We are pleased to see Labor's announcement that it will stop developers from bypassing Councils and ensure that the Greater Sydney Commission (GSC) will 'work more closely with councils to ensure local planning standards do not vary wildly across borders'.

We would also encourage Labor to develop policies to better manage building resources such as the supply of sand and gravel that will assist in the protection of our built environment. Currently there is little incentive or consideration for the cost of rapacious development or the benefits of conserving buildings from an environmental, resource and energy perspective. This must be given greater weight in government policy positions and incentives.

In the lead up to the State election we are keen to profile the key platforms of the different parties and look forward to hearing about any initiatives that will support the protection of heritage and the environment and deliver good civic and community outcomes.

Finally, we were pleased to see your statements on Callan Park, and hope that you will also give your attention to the preservation and heritage protection of Gladesville Hospital, a comparable institution that is a much loved local heritage and community precinct.

Yours sincerely



Alister Sharp
President
Hunters Hill Trust
(28 Feb 2019)

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