



Transport, Housing and Local Government Committee
Parliament House
Brisbane Qld 4000

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24 September 2014

Dear Committee members

Queensland Heritage and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2014

The National Trust of Australia (Queensland) [NTA(Q)] appreciates the opportunity to comment on the above Bill.

NTA(Q) generally supports the proposed amendments with some exceptions outlined below. NTA(Q) recognises that while reviewing and improving the *Queensland Heritage Act 1992* makes a very important contribution to improving the management of Queensland's heritage, it is only one of a suite of tools that contribute to the conservation and promotion of Queensland's heritage.

NTA(Q) supports government's other heritage initiatives including the Everyone's Environment Grants program, the Living Heritage data reform and the review of the Queensland Heritage Strategy and recognises the important contribution they make to conserving Queensland's heritage. NTA(Q) also supports the renewed focus on adaptive reuse.

However, resourcing the implementation of this Bill remains a major concern for NTA(Q). In particular, additional technical support for regional local governments and owners needs to be provided to promote adaptive reuse and to help facilitate good quality applications.

NTA(Q) strongly supports the following proposed amendments:

- Providing local government with greater flexibility to choose appropriate mechanisms to identify and protect places of local heritage significance, provided that additional technical support is made available to local government;
- Providing the opportunity for local governments to issue exemption certificates and enter into heritage agreements, and to issue essential repair and maintenance notices;
- Revising the essential maintenance provisions to include certain minor works, which is very important to NTA(Q) given the recent destruction by fire of several significant places and the appropriately judicious yet effective utilisation of the existing provisions to date;
- Expanding the scope of work covered by exemption certificates, thereby supporting owners that make good quality and thoughtful applications with an expedient approval process;

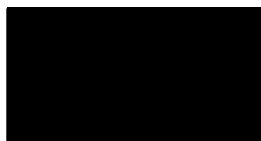
- The introduction of new orders for public benefit and education, adding enforcement options that could result in some positive community outcomes;
- The integration of archaeological places into the State Heritage Place category;
- Providing owners of a nominated place with an opportunity to make a written response to the recommendation to the Queensland Heritage Council; and
- Protecting aircraft that have crashed into the sea, although the 75-year timeframe for an artefact to be defined as significant is considered to be too long and somewhat restrictive.

NTA(Q)'s main concerns are:

- Increasing the time following a decision of the Queensland Heritage Council before which new applications cannot be accepted from 1 year to 5 years is substantial and NTA(Q) recommends an alternative period of 3 years, which may also avoid some confusion that may arise around the exceptional circumstances under which such applications may be accepted;
- Increasing the information required for a compliant nomination to the Queensland Heritage Register could make the process even more onerous and daunting for some members of the community interested in heritage and could put an increased load on the resources of NTA(Q) as it tries to help members of the community prepare nominations;
- Local governments, particularly in regional areas, should be provided with additional technical support to build their heritage capacity and help them successfully implement the provisions of this Bill, thereby improving local heritage management and increasing the potential of local heritage tourism; and
- Additional experienced and skilled technical resources are also needed in regional areas to promote adaptive reuse generally, assess exemption certificates and develop new heritage agreements.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment on this important Bill.

Yours sincerely

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Stephen Sheaffe
President