

Re: Historic Cultural Heritage Amendment Bill 2023

To whom it may concern,

I write to you today to offer my feedback on the Historic Cultural Heritage Amendment Bill 2023. I am a student of History and Art History at the University of Melbourne, but grew up in Tasmania. I am currently a member of the City of Hobart's Heritage Portfolio Committee and I have had previous roles advising TMAG and DPAC on policy and legislation.

I appreciate that the legislation has some positive aspects, however there are also some elements of concern to me.

I am in favour of all of the aspects of the legislation that improve administrative speeds for Heritage Tasmania — these seem much needed and will undoubtedly benefit both staff and other interested parties.

I am also in favour of allowing the THC to make decisions that take into consideration adjacent heritage properties. While I would like this to go further, for example, supporting the creation of heritage zones similar to the ones found on local government heritage provisions, this is a first step, and will be positive.

However, areas of concern for me include the provision allowing unauthorised works to commence before assessment. Although I understand it is how LUPAA operates, it doesn't make sense to enable theoretical alteration of heritage aspects of a place and only assess it retrospectively. I can only foresee this causing trouble for the THC, HT and people who want to do work on listed buildings.

The other main area of concern was taking away the power of Local Government to review applications to the THC. We discussed this briefly in our last Portfolio Committee meeting, and my resulting understanding of the legislation means that applications won't be able to be assessed by their impact on wider heritage areas. In places like Woodbridge in Kingborough, this poses an issue, as there are three isolated state-listed heritage structures, but a much more expansive local heritage zone: these listings both relate to each other, and it makes no sense to consider the state heritage listed buildings out of their wider context. Even if they theoretically were considered by the proposal to consider adjacent heritage properties, the impact on the wider zone would not have to be considered.

Thank you for taking my feedback into account. I look forward to reading the final legislation.

Kind Regards,
Hugh Magnus

