

Central Western Daily

22 April 2008

Dear Editor,

I note the 1917 Hibernian Hall sold recently for just under \$300,000. It was also reported the new owners will be required to maintain internal and external features on this building. [CWD 22.04.08].

The article went on to state that as the old building has no car parking, the new owners must pay fees akin to a levy for extra public car parking.

Many NSW Councils have provisions in their Local Environment Plan permitting heritage listed or buildings of historic interest to have no car parking and to be exempt from such fees and levies, provided the owners agree to upkeep the historic features of the building. These are called "heritage incentives."

A report called the Expert Panel's Review of the NSW Heritage Act was released on 19 March 2008 by the Minister for Planning Mr Sartor and contains the comprehensive review of heritage laws, policies and incentives in the past 30 years. It recommended a raft of heritage incentives for owners of such properties. Waiver of car parking levies is only one such way the community can say a tangible 'thank you' to private owners of such properties. The NSW Department of Planning is currently working on a comprehensive list heritage incentives for local Councils can include in their LEP and/or they can be included via use of the Departmental LEP model LEP.

The new owners of the Hibernian or any owners of similar heritage items can contact the NSW Department of Planning for more information about these incentives. More information is also available from the heritage owners that lobbied for these reforms - SoHONSW sohonsw@gmail.com or PO Box U92, University of Wollongong, Wollongong NSW 2500.

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Society of Heritage Owners NSW

