

12 May 2008

Manly Daily

Dear Editor,

I see Manly residents within the proposed heritage conservation "zones" are overwhelmingly opposed to the idea [MD 10.5.08].

Local Councils abuse of their heritage overlay conservation precincts, zones, streetscapes are in the opinion of the Federal government's Productivity Commission Report into Built Heritage so appalling that they recommended such powers be removed from local Councils . It is so out of control in nearby Kur-ing-gai Council that Planning Minister Sartor refused to ratify a slew of such conservation zonings they created. A few one-eyed heritage fanatics get together, convince weak willed Councils to inject massive funds into a heritage conservation study - often undertaken by a mate and fellow traveller heritage fanatic who surprise, surprise, recommends the sterilisation of massive areas as heritage conservation zones. The same incestuous heritage fanatics individuals and groups then reap an even higher fees as 'heritage consultants' to the poor owners whose property values are slashed and who have to pay five times the cost to get anything done because "its heritage" and consequently more complicated.

The Society of Heritage Owners NSW has also called on the NSW Minister for Planning Mr Sartor and the NSW Minister for Local Government Mr Lynch to work cooperatively to remove these much abused heritage precinct, heritage conservation zone and heritage streetscape discretionary powers from NSW Councils and to review any existing ones for heritage genuineness.

Make no mistake - an old fashioned protection racket is operating here which strip lawful owners of their full property rights, cost them a bundle and financially benefits the heritage in-crowd. It is nothing more or less than heritage fraud and must be stopped.

Any affected owners can contact the Society of Heritage Owners NSW [sohonws@gmail.com ] for information and support.

C. Hayward

Society of Heritage Owners