

North Shore Times

18 April 2008

Dear Editor,

Zeny Edwards the President of the NSW National Trust has nominated “the sky” for heritage classification [NST 18.04.08], claiming such a listing will show the item is “significant and acknowledged as a item of significance throughout NSW.”

The truth is National Trust heritage “classifications” are meaningless. They have no power or authority to preserve or do anything to protect the items they heritage classify, without the owner’s consent.

We assert National Trust heritage classifications are a menace. They erroneously lull some into believing an item is protected when it is not and provide a platform for harassment of owners. The National Trust and its member operatives engage in orchestrated campaigns harassing owners of property’s they target for heritage listings and classification. Notorious examples include the local Pettit and Sevitt 40 year old project homes, where elderly and other owners have been financially and psychologically harassed with repeated, non-meritorious attempts to heritage list, even after the NSW Heritage Office found these items failed to meet genuine criteria for heritage listing. In Tasmania, the situation was so dire, they enacted legislation to stop the National Trust purporting to heritage list items there. The attempt to heritage classify the sky by Zeny Edwards is just another heritage stunt.

The Society of Heritage Owners NSW calls on the NSW Minister for Planning Mr Sartor and the NSW Minister for Local Government Mr Lynch to enact laws in NSW to stop any person or organisation purporting to heritage list or classify any item, other than those properly identified as such by the lawful body established to make such determinations. Owners of property nominated for heritage listing or currently listed or classified who feel harassed or mistreated can contact us at sohonsw@gmail.com or Society of Heritage Owners PO Box U92, Wollongong University, Wollongong NSW 2500.

C. Hayward

Society of Heritage Owners NSW