



Australian
Institute of
Architects

NSW

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Friday 4 November 2022

The Hon. James Griffin MP
52 Martin Place
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Minister Griffin

We are writing to you, once again, with the knowledge that 105-153 Miller Street, North Sydney (the MLC building) has, due to a technicality, had its State Heritage listing revoked, that the Heritage Council has decided not to challenge the Land & Environment Court finding (based on legal advice), and that a hearing is set to commence on December 2, 2022 regarding the demolition of this significant building.

As we have previously stated, it was clear former Minister Harwin made the decision to heritage list recognising the MLC building's crucial importance in our State's cultural history. We therefore urge you to uphold this well-considered determination and move to renew the State Heritage listing as soon as is practicable. Without a State Heritage listing in place prior to December 2, we fear a detrimental outcome from the upcoming hearing. This would be a direct result of the failure of the NSW government to adequately ensure the direction for State heritage listing was done correctly in the first instance.

The Institute maintains, as do all stakeholders, the building, in its current state, needs significant works to ensure its viability as a commercial entity into the future. We do not believe, however, that this justifies its demolition or that of any building of historical significance which is not in pristine condition. A serious precedent would be set if this building were allowed to be demolished.

The Institute would welcome the opportunity to explain in further detail the many reasons this building is of high significance and we extend an offer to work proactively with government to assist in the process of delivering high quality adaptive reuse outcomes for important buildings in NSW, now and into the future, and we do not accept this discussion will in any way compromise future legal processes.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Laura Cockburn'.

Laura Cockburn FRAIA
NSW Chapter President

We respectfully acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the lands on which we work and pay respect to their Elders past, present and emerging.