Please find enclosed my submission on this topic

Rowena Dunk

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SUBMISSION on CONTRIBUTORY HERITAGE ITEMS

I understand in the new Statewide planning guidelines being drawn up that properties currently listed as local heritage will have no designated place, place for appeal to be made, or any other contribution whatsoever.

As someone who lives in a house and also home that is designated local heritage, I believe this will be detrimental to the whole planning system of the state. Living in such a building has provided my husband and myself with a wealth of knowledge as we have come to learn of the vagaries and history of the house. I am sure we are not alone in this. Owners become adept at researching the period of the dwelling, at then rebuilding so that facilities are up to modern-day standards but then also looking at the style that existed in days gone by. Owners haunt older construction sites to find appropriate doors and fireplaces and then when necessary get new skirting and architraves etc made.

The owners of our heritage housing stock have been responsible for employing tradespersons to do new wiring and water systems, new tiling in bathrooms and on verandas, painting that suits the plastered walls, plasterers in the restoration of various fittings, replacement of roofs and gutters. The placement of window shutters etc to suit the style of the house – the list goes on. There is just so much. Last of all there is the garden and fencing.

Owners get a certain amount of joy out of doing renovation in all its facets, of furnishing after the period, remaking the house, planning the garden for a new era to complement the house in its new incarnation.

When you have an area that has all been built at one period of time it has a certain charm that cannot be regained by pseudo buildings built later. They are false. Sometimes buildings disappear because of progress, however the building in Sydney where my grandmother lived as a before marriage (1913) – 6 Sir John Young Cr, Sydney – is skirted by the Cahill Expressway and is the site of a museum of a more notable resident who followed. Once the Historic Conservation Zones are lost, they are gone forever. The must have some protection since in most cases they are also the link to people of our history. Historically we need to know that ‘X’ lived here, not that ‘X’ lived ‘round about here’ as is on a plaque in London in reference to a famous poet. Some buildings will disappear, that is a given but there are some areas that have their own character and these need to be preserved. It is good for tourism if the Tourism Department can think within our architectural heritage. We have the Victorian era both grand mansions and ordinary houses. Adelaide has the planned area of Colonel Light Gardens, which isn’t getting due credit because of its perceived newness.

Our street section in some people’s minds looks like a walk down a Jane Austen novel – Beulah Road, Norwood from Osmond Terrace to Sydenham Road with the buildings of St Bartholomew’s, 3 Victorian villas, one 1840 cottage, the smallest house in the city and a pair of double storey dwellings as well as Magarey House on the corner. With the oak and plane trees it has been preserved and owners have been particular about what has been done to their property.

The Village of Kensington also has many historic dwellings dating from early settlement of which I am sure will be made aware. There are other sites not only within the Adelaide suburban area but also in rural areas such as Clare where heritage has been held in regard. Why get rid of it now? It has been valued. We want to value it. It is not a case of lessening red tape but there needs to be a place for it. If it is lost it will be at our peril as a state