



Anoulack Chanthivong MP

MEMBER FOR MACQUARIE FIELDS

The Hon Gladys Berejiklian MP
Premier
GPO Box 5431
SYDNEY NSW 2001

11 April 2019

Dear Premier,

I write in relation to the unacceptable delays to the heritage listing of land surrounding historic Varroville Homestead in the Scenic Hills.

As the administration of the Heritage Act 1977 is now allocated to you under the Administrative Arrangements (Administration of Acts—General) Order 2019, it is imperative you stop the delays and make a decision immediately.

The previous Minister you appointed to administer the Heritage Act blatantly ignored her legislative responsibilities. It is now nearly 18 months since the NSW Heritage Council first recommended that the Minister list an extension of the land surrounding Varroville Homestead on the State Heritage Register, which would add to the homestead and land already listed and deemed as historically significant.

Under the NSW Heritage Act 1977, the Minister is given 14 days to make a determination whether to list an item recommended by the Heritage Council, or refer the matter to the Independent Planning Commission (IPC) for review. In this case, the Minister took 379 days to refer the matter to the IPC – breaching the law by one year.

The state heritage laws provide the IPC with 3 months to undertake its review, but again in this case, more than two weeks after the review was due the Minister agreed to an extension of time, further undermining the law and ignoring the local community. The IPC provided its report to the previous Minister on 25 February 2019 – one week before the start of caretaker provisions.

I strongly urge you to make an immediate decision on the heritage listing of the curtilage surrounding Varroville Homestead in the Scenic Hills and release the IPC's recommendation report.

The Scenic Hills provide a unique and stunning backdrop to our city that is being hit hard by overdevelopment. It is crucial we have ongoing protection of this important site that has major heritage significance and provides valuable open space for our growing community.

Inclusion of the land surrounding Varroville Homestead on the State Heritage Register would be a worthy recognition of Varroville's historical significance not only to south-west Sydney but also to the state's colonial history.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Anoulack Chanthivong', with a flourish at the end.

Anoulack Chanthivong MP
Member for Macquarie Fields