

A historical painting of the Convict Barrack in Sydney, New South Wales. The scene shows a large, multi-story brick building with a green roof and several arched windows. In the foreground, a wide, reddish-brown dirt path leads towards the building. Two figures are standing on the path, one pointing towards the building. The sky is filled with large, billowing clouds. The overall style is that of a 19th-century landscape painting.

New South
Wales

Museums of History + SRA NSW



State Records Act Review - Establishment of history focused cultural institution

- 'White Paper' issued to Social Issues committee in December 2021 and published in February 2022
- Upcoming Cabinet consideration to introduce the Bill to Parliament
- Seeking a commencement date of 31 December 2022
- 2 significant changes since last consultation;
 - Instead of a single institution, of SARA and SLM, policy proposal is to separate the regulatory and policy functions into its own executive agency.
 - Operation Dasha responses.

State Records Act 1998

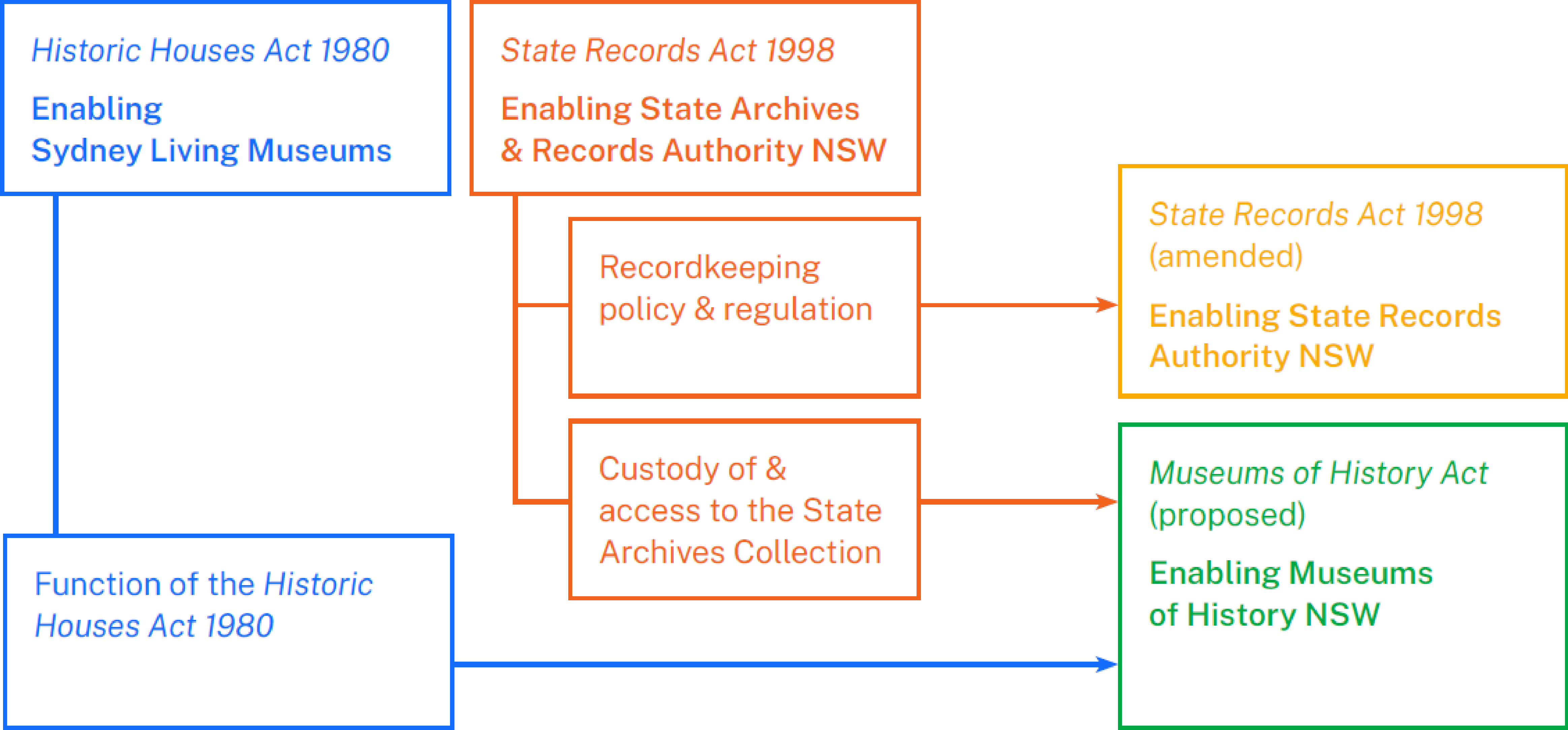
Historic Houses Act 1980

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State Records Act 1998 (amended)

Museums of History Act (proposed)

Historic Houses Act 1980 (repealed)





Improvements to the State Records Act



Transfer Planning

- Public offices must make and implement plans to transfer control of records of enduring value to the collection of State archives under the control of Museums of History NSW
- Benefits from improved focus and engagement with transfer process are:
 - Improved transfer rates guarantees:
 - valuable State records are cared for
 - reduced storage and management costs for public offices
 - Greater visibility of transfer plans ensures:
 - services to support transfer including capacity for customer service, systems, transport and conservation can be enhanced
 - resources can be managed to more effectively ensuring more timely response for transfer and retrieval

Access to Archives

- Reduction of access period from 30 years to 20 years
- Archives without a closed to public access direction will be open to public access after 20 years
- It is still the public office responsible for the records that determines whether the records are closed
- 12-month transitional arrangements for public offices to make arrangements to close records if needed.
- Transitional funding allows for additional staff to support public offices



A photograph of a large, two-story building with a wide veranda, likely a government or institutional building, with several vintage cars parked in front. The building has a light-colored facade and a dark roof. The veranda is supported by white columns and has a white railing. The cars are parked in a row in front of the building. The text "The State Records Authority of NSW" is overlaid on the image in a large, white, sans-serif font.

The State Records Authority of NSW



Creation of SRANSW

- Separation to respond to stakeholder feedback
- The State Records Authority of NSW will be a statutory body with a Board with the same role as current SARA Board
- 8 New appointments to be made by Minister with only 3 positions prescribed;
 - History, Use of Archives, First Nations +
 - CEO MHNSW (or delegate)



Monitoring Power

- SRA to be able to issue a notice to a public office requiring that they conduct an assessment of their record-keeping and report of the findings.
- This approach improves recordkeeping outcomes by expanding the powers of SRA but doesn't create additional investigatory bodies or escalate costs.



Other Minor Amendments

- Public Office definition – increase clarity on the composition of the jurisdiction reducing interpretation
- State Record definition – remove ‘and kept’
- Creating records (s12) – remove (the underlined) ‘must make full and accurate records of the activities of the office’ to make definition more clear and remove outdated language



Responses to ICAC *Operation Dasha*

- Adopt - Increase penalty provisions from 50 penalty units to 75 penalty units for breaches of s21
- Adopt - Increase time period to bring proceedings from 2 years to 3 years.
- Does not create an offence for the willful failure to keep records.
- Have consulted with ICAC + other integrity agencies



Investments for Transition

- SRANSW being supported through current investment:
 - New website
 - RMAT and upcoming monitoring exercise
 - Public Office Portal which includes information and services for transfer.



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Elevation

MHNSW Creation

- Statutory Body
- Will seek Exec Agency status by admin order
- Governing Board
- Board of 11 members + CEO Ex-officio
 - History
 - Heritage
 - First Nations
- Minister will need to appoint all 11 inaugural members

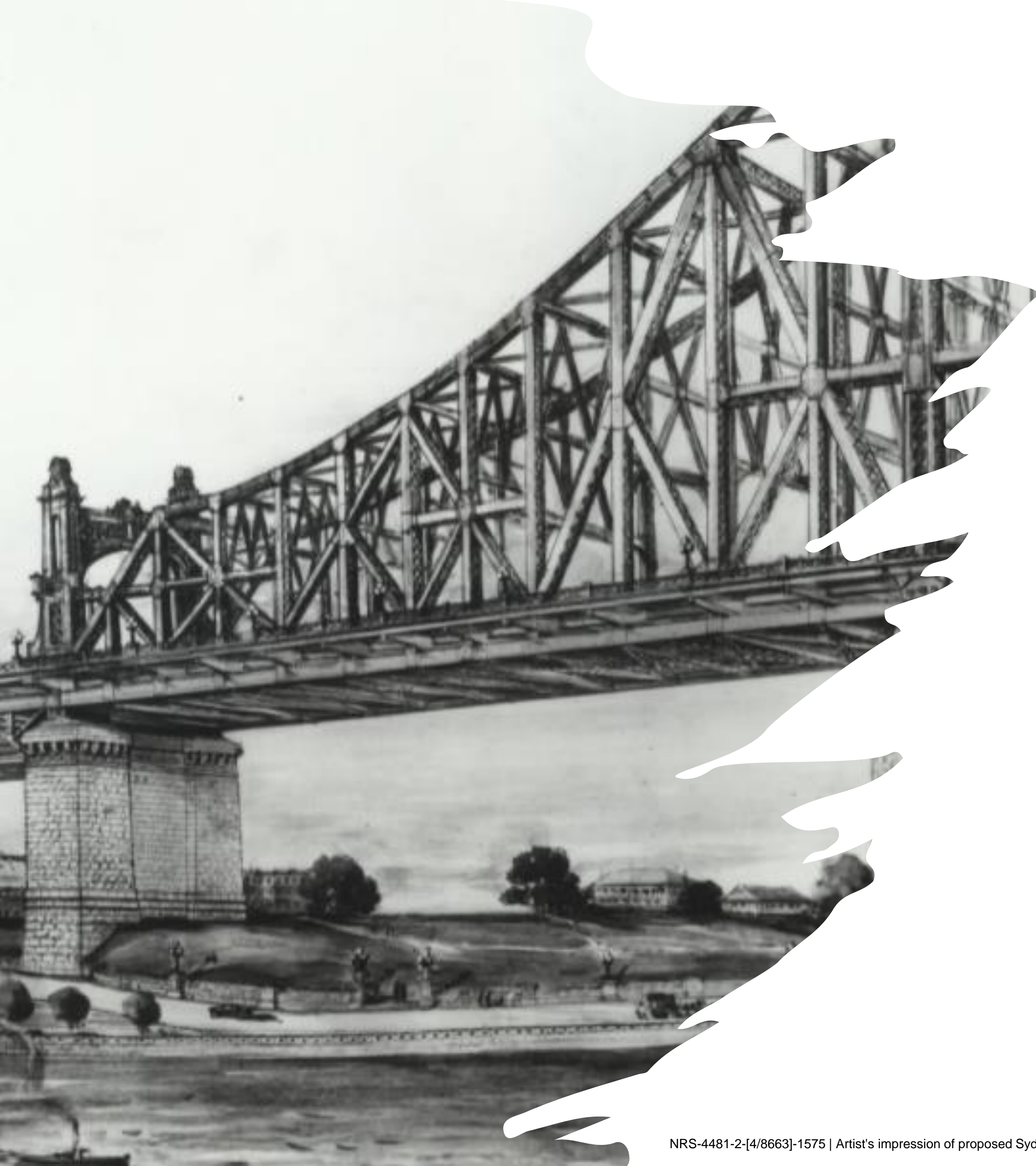


Minor Changes related to MHNSW

- New objectives:

The principal objects of Museums of History NSW are as follows—

- (a) to collect, manage and preserve State archives, significant buildings and sites, and objects and materials related to those buildings and sites,
- (b) to increase public knowledge and enjoyment of, and access to, the collection of State archives,
- (c) to promote knowledge and appreciation of history,
- (d) to promote the State archives, significant buildings and sites and stories that shape the social, historical, political and cultural identity of New South Wales,
- (e) to achieve the objects described in (a)–(d) across the State, including in regional and rural New South Wales.



Minor Changes for MHNSW

- In sections being transferred from the Historic Houses Act 1980, the term “Significant” to replace the term “historic” with relation to the property related remit to displace the notion that it is limited to ‘colonial-era’ places and to ensure that there is the capacity to acquire contemporary properties of significance.
- Amendments to the current s62 and 36a of the State Records Act which confirm capacity to enter into commercial arrangements will ensure MHNSW is able to maintain and improve its commerciality.

A man and a woman are standing in a museum, looking at a large, curved wall covered in historical landscape paintings. They are both wearing headphones, suggesting an audio guide experience. The room has a high ceiling with exposed wooden beams and modern lighting fixtures. The paintings depict various historical scenes, including towns, castles, and landscapes. The overall atmosphere is educational and immersive.

| Questions?