



**Gabrielle Upton**

Minister for Heritage

**Sarah Mitchell**

Minister for Aboriginal Affairs

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

Friday, 23 February 2018

### **HAVE YOUR SAY ON NEW ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE LAWS**

For the first time ever, NSW will have stand-alone legislation for our State's Aboriginal cultural heritage and the NSW Government is asking for your contribution.

Minister for Aboriginal Affairs Sarah Mitchell and Minister for Heritage Gabrielle Upton today released draft legislation to better conserve and manage Aboriginal cultural heritage for public consultation.

Mrs Mitchell said this marks a major milestone in the NSW Government's commitment to reforming cultural heritage laws.

"This draft legislation incorporates feedback we've heard from the community so far and offers a model where Aboriginal people can actively influence and make decisions around heritage conservation," Mrs Mitchell said.

"This legislation is part of the NSW Government's commitment to create a stronger voice for Aboriginal peoples in the celebration, promotion and protection of their cultural heritage. I look forward to working with Minister Upton and the broader community to ensure this legislation is as effective as possible."

Ms Upton said the draft legislation represents a better understanding of living culture and connection to Country.

"Under this draft legislation, Aboriginal cultural heritage now includes living and traditional heritage, intangible and tangible values as well as objects and artefacts," Ms Upton said.

"Genuine consultation with the community is vital in ensuring this legislation is as effective as possible and I look forward to hearing the feedback."

An online portal has been set up with a range of materials to help people understand the proposed changes and provide feedback. A series of public workshops will be held at 20 locations across NSW to listen to feedback from the community.

Public consultation closes Friday, 6 April 2018.

For more information visit: <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/topics/aboriginal-cultural-heritage/legislation/draft-aboriginal-cultural-heritage-legislation-2017-consultation>

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