



## Heritage conservation

Under the government's proposed new planning system, there would be little change to the Heritage Council's role in deciding on development applications relating to state heritage items (Letters, July 1).

In fact, the new system would benefit heritage conservation by ensuring heritage is considered upfront when the planning vision for an area is set, not as an afterthought once a development application has already been lodged. The listing of new state heritage items will not be touched at all by the new planning system as this process is governed by separate NSW legislation – the Heritage Act.

Most importantly, we've discussed the proposed changes with the Heritage Council itself and will continue to do so. During the discussions to date, we've made it clear the department's involvement in specific development applications will only occur when delays are being experienced or if there is conflicting advice.

This will mean little change from the current system and we will put in place a protocol with the Heritage Council to implement this approach.

**Sam Haddad** director-general,  
NSW Department of Planning and  
Infrastructure