

Since 1816 The Royal Botanic Garden (and Domain) have existed to further plant knowledge and provide a living aesthetic to Australia's first European settlement. An open space amidst an ever expanding major world metropolis.

All the people of Australia, particularly those of Aboriginal descent, should treasure this rich heritage site. Owned by the original inhabitants and subsequently walked on and preserved by Lady Macquarie and her prescient and thoughtful husband Lachlan, it is land not to be valued in any mercenary way but respected and preserved for ever as a sacrosanct site.

With the current NSW government awash with funds from housing stamp duty and gambling profits they should not be indulging a few powerful art elite in a self-aggrandising expenditure of public funds on land not theirs.

The quasi debate on this issue has featured contributions from ministers referring to -it is only open space- and -cranes in the air are a measure of our economic well being. This seems to be the extent of any heritage conscience in this government.

Many people believe that not all development is good.

If you want to raise this issue on a federal level you will find no minister for heritage or culture as far as I can determine. Again a telling sign of where priorities lie.