The Granite Island Causeway

The heritage position – June 2020

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The Granite Island causeway was confirmed as part of a State Heritage Place in 1985.

A State Heritage Place is protected by legislation, which requires that any development is managed under the advice of the Minister responsible for Heritage.

In practice, the management process involves consultation with heritage conservation architects in Heritage SA, part of the Department of Environment and Water (as delegates of the Minister).

The process for demolition protection (which is around the management of a Place) happens under the new Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act or the existing Development Act. The process is informed by the listing of the Place under the *Heritage Places Act 1993.*

Our Minister for Heritage will have a voice as a referral body with the State Commission Assessment Panel (SCAP) when DPTI lodges a development application for the causeway project. The Planning Minister is the final decision maker for Crown development such as the causeway.

As I understand it, DPTI, as an infrastructure agency, needs to consider matters more broadly than the Minister for Heritage whose objectives are purely around the conservation of our State Heritage Places.

The causeway matter has not been raised by any member of the public to the South Australian Heritage Council. In any case, the Heritage Council has no role in the current process.

The public, however, can still play a part through the normal channels and state their case for or against the proposed demolition to the Government.

On the issue of reform, the Heritage Council put in a substantial submission to the recent Environment, Resources and Development Parliamentary Committee proposing legislative changes to strengthen heritage protection and has endorsed the bi-partisan Report of the Committee.

In future under the new Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act, the Minister for Heritage will have power of direction (to retain a place, for instance) and no longer just advice, except for Crown development. This is an important change in the planning legislation that strengthens the protection of heritage.