

Dear [NAME OF CANDIDATE]

On behalf Royal Historical Society of Victoria, I write to you in your capacity as a candidate for the Victorian Legislative Council seeking your commitment to support a renewal of the Legislative Council Inquiry into the protections within the Victorian Planning Framework.

The Royal Historical Society of Victoria represents 340 local historical societies across Victoria. Founded in 1909, the RHSV has actively supported the commemoration and protection of history and heritage both in Melbourne and across Victoria. In 2016, responding to concerns of our members that significant heritage was being lost, the RHSV created the Heritage Committee, which I chair, to speak on its behalf in these matters.

I write to you because the Victorian planning system is failing to protect valued heritage. Everyone knows of the destruction of the 1857 Carlton Inn (Corkman Hotel) in 2016, and of the impending demolition of the 1914 Jack Dyer Stand, Melbourne's most important witness to the heroic period of Aussie Rules and the only surviving symbol of the Richmond Football Club's presence at the Punt Road Oval. But much more serious is the loss of local historic buildings which underpinned and gave meaning to communities throughout Victoria.

We need fundamental changes to the planning system. The first step was begun with the Legislative Council Inquiry into the protections within the Victorian Planning Framework concluded last month. That Inquiry received 285 submissions (see (<https://www.parliament.vic.gov.au/epc-lc/inquiries/article/4652>), but was aborted without hearings and without a full report. Its only recommendation was that a full inquiry be initiated at the beginning of the next Parliament, based on and continuing this Inquiry (see the Interim Report [here](#)).

We are asking you as a candidate to commit to a full Inquiry in the next Parliament if you are elected. Will you make that commitment?

I would be grateful to hear back from you, if possible by 2nd November, so that we can include your response in the next issue of our newsletter.

Please respond to admin.officer@historyvictoria.org.au.

Yours sincerely,

Charles Sowerwine, Chair,
Heritage Committee, RHSV.