

To Resident and Friends' Groups

Dear Friends,

I write to you because, like us, you have fought to protect our heritage. I know that, like us, you see that the Victorian planning system is failing to protect valued heritage. And I know that, like us, you believe that we need fundamental changes to the planning system.

The first step toward such changes 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](#)).

With the Victorian elections in less than two months, we have a chance to make our voice heard in favour of better heritage protection. We need to get candidates to commit to the Legislative Council resuming its Inquiry into the Victorian planning framework as recommended but perhaps with improved Terms of Reference.

We are writing to all candidates for the Legislative Council on behalf of the RHSV, and a copy of my letter accompanies this letter, but local voices will have a much greater impact. So I am asking you to ask candidates in your electorates to commit to resuming the Inquiry into the protections within the Victorian Planning Framework, with public hearings, as the first priority in the next Parliament. The following [link](#) will help determine which upper house electorate your society is in.

I hope that you too will ask candidates in your electorates (both lower and upper house) to commit to resuming the Inquiry into the protections within the Victorian Planning Framework, with public hearings, as a first priority in the next Parliament.

Other allied organisations, such as Australian Heritage Alliance, the National Trust and Planning Democracy and will make similar suggestions to you. The more the merrier. The important thing is to make an impression on politicians.

Given that the Inquiry would be in the upper house (Legislative Council), we suggest writing to candidates for that house. With this email you will find a table with the names and addresses of candidates. We hope this will simplify the task of writing to them.

Getting the Inquiry restarted would be a crucial step forward. If a full Inquiry is begun and holds public hearings, the shortcomings of current heritage protection will be on full display and it will be possible to push for reform.

If you have any queries, please contact me using the RHSV email:  
[admin.officer@historyvictoria.org.au](mailto:admin.officer@historyvictoria.org.au).

Yours,

Charles Sowerwine, Chair,  
RHSV Heritage Committee.