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From: Ian Wight, Deputy Chair (for Charles Sowerwine, Chair)
Heritage Committee at Royal Historical Society of Victoria

0477 990 040

iwight@icloud.com

LEADING HISTORY GROUP CAMPAIGNS FOR VITAL HERITAGE PROTECTION

Victoria's planning system is failing to protect our priceless heritage and the parliamentary inquiry which was set up to address this issue has been aborted. The illegal demolition of the 1857 Carlton (Corkman) hotel is not an isolated incident, nor is the threatened demolition of the Jack Dyer Stand. The iconic Queen Victoria Market is under constant threat. Urgent action is needed.

With the election only two months away, the RHSV is responding to the deep concerns of our 340 member societies around Victoria by urging and assisting them and their many thousands of members to write to local candidates to seek support to urgently reestablish the inquiry after the election.

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 which concluded recently. That Inquiry received 285 submissions 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.

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.

For media enquires please contact: Ian Wight, Deputy Chair, RHSV Heritage Committee on 0477990040 or iwight@icloud.com