

**Submission on the Heritage Inquiry by the
Australian Government Productivity Commission**



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Productivity Commission Inquiry into Historic Heritage

The City of Maribyrnong has a strong commitment to identification and management of the cities historic heritage and welcomes the opportunity to participate in the Commissions inquiry into Cultural Heritage.

The issue paper raised many issues of importance. The response below is confined to two issues that are pertinent to the City of Maribyrnong.

Financial Incentives for the Private Sector

The municipality has a high proportion of heritage properties that are commercial and industrial in use. Many of these properties are in transition and unlike residential properties heritage controls place an extra burden on the property owners when it comes to adaptation and reuse. For residential properties change is usually a rear extension with no change to the use. For sites such as the former Pivot Fertilizer site, CSR, Bradmill, Orica Australia and Kinnears Ropeworks all major industrial sites in prime locations the reuse and adaptation issue is complex and lengthy.

The private sector owners of these heritage sites are under an obligation to look at the adaptation and reuse and require greater financial incentives to deal with these issues.

Responsibilities of Government

All governments should be accountable for the appropriate management of their heritage places.

Government agencies have a duty of care to ensure that appropriate safe guards are put in place to conserve heritage places. This is particularly pertinent prior to the transfer of heritage sites from public to private ownership.

Maribyrnong has a number of places of heritage significance that are or were in public ownership, sites such Northern Maribyrnong Defence site and Jack's Magazine. Government departments that manage these public heritage assets should be responsible for developing conservation management plans for these sites, for implementing heritage recommendations and seeking appropriate legislative protection. This should include putting funding into adaptation and reuse.