

21 February 2006

Heritage Inquiry
Productivity Commission
PO Box 80
BELCONNEN ACT 2616

Dear Sir / Madam

**CONSERVATION OF AUSTRALIA'S HISTORIC HERITAGE PLACES
PRODUCTIVITY COMMISSION DRAFT REPORT**

Thank you for providing the opportunity to lodge a submission on the draft Productivity Commission report "Conservation of Australia's Historic Heritage Places".

The City of Port Adelaide Enfield is a large metropolitan South Australian Council that contains a significant stock of historic buildings and important heritage areas including the historic Port Adelaide area. The Council has a strong commitment to heritage conservation and has well established and effective heritage conservation mechanisms in place.

These arrangements were initiated a number of years ago and include a no fee heritage advisory service, financial assistance through a Council funded Local Heritage Incentive Funds Grant Scheme and comprehensive heritage conservation guidelines. These arrangements are effective and are supported and well utilised by the community.

The zoning instrument for the municipality, the Port Adelaide Enfield (City) Development Plan, lists State and Local Heritage Places and contributory items. It details zoning provisions for heritage areas and places. The heritage provisions are an integral part of the zoning provisions for the City.

Council acknowledges that there will always be individuals opposed to the restrictions on property development that zoning provisions, including those that relate to heritage conservation, impose. It also acknowledges that there is scope to improve heritage conservation arrangements and practices, including refining survey and listing processes, increasing incentives and improving consultation approaches. However, it considers that the fundamentals of the existing South Australian system are basically sound and have been operating well for many years. It is therefore highly concerned that the driving thrust of the draft report recommendations

effectively seeks to abandon this system and replace it with one that shows little true commitment to heritage conservation and one that if adopted, will undo decades of effort and investment in heritage conservation.

The City of Port Adelaide Enfield is strongly opposed to the notion of voluntary listing conditional upon negotiated heritage agreements as proposed in recommendations 8.1, 9.2, 9.3, 9.5 and 9.6 and urges the Productivity Commission to reject these recommendations and the ideology they espouse.

For further information or clarification please contact Council's Strategic Policy Officer (Urban Planning) Mr Tony Kamenjarin on telephone 8405 6007.

Yours sincerely

Mal Jonas
Director Corporate and City Development