

SUBMISSION: CONSERVATION OF AUSTRALIA'S HERITAGE PLACES

EAGLE FARM COMMUNITY HERITAGE PROJECT

1. PURPOSE

1.1 The purpose of this submission is to respond to the invitation by the Commonwealth of Australia's Productivity Commission to make comments and provide proposals following the publication of the Productivity's Commission's Draft Report on the Conservation of Australia's Historic Heritage Places, December 2005.

2. SCOPE- FOCUS OF THE SUBMISSION.

2.1 The Conservation of Australia's Historic Heritage Places, applies to a wide range of heritage locations throughout Australia and this involves private, National, State Government and local authority heritage preservation and conservation issues. This submission focuses on one general location only and the problems experienced in the evolution of arrangements to ensure heritage protection involving three tiers of Government and the community. The submission does not attempt to address issues, principles or practices of wider private, commercial or environmental application.

2.2 Restriction of focus to one heritage site and its immediate precinct has been due in part to time considerations, following notification of local public hearings for 3rd February 2006 and the stipulated requirement to provide written comments at least a week before the hearing date. (Ref Productivity Commission's Draft report introduction, page 1.)

3. THE HERITAGE SITE CONCERNED.

3.1 The Heritage site concerned is located at the old Eagle Farm Airport site Brisbane, which contains three heritage listed sites but also includes adjacent, non listed structures which ought to be considered in a practical sense for inclusion in the total heritage precinct.

3.2 The Heritage listed sites include

- (1) Hangar #7 - a World War Two structure used by the USAF for the assembly and test flying of captured Japanese aircraft.
- (2) Allison motor test beds used during WW11 for test running of Allison aero engines.
- (3) Women's prison archeological site.

3.3 Non- listed historic structures include immediate post war Hangars #9 & #10.

4 AUTHORS OF SUBMISSION

4.1 This submission has been compiled on behalf of the *Eagle Farm Community Heritage Project*, which comprises the following organizations

- (1) *Aerospace Heritage Queensland*
- (2) *Victoria Barracks Historical Society Brisbane Inc.*

5 BACKGROUND

5.1 The project to utilize the heritage listed old Eagle Farm Airport site for museum activities was commenced at a time when the Commonwealth Government owned this historic site. However, the Commonwealth Government subsequently sold the site to Brisbane City Council on 21

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September 2001, and the Aviation Historical Society of Australia (Qld Branch) was notified accordingly. The Chief of Staff of the Office of the Minister for Finance and Administration on 28 Sept 2001, suggested contacting Mr. Frank Riley as the relevant BCC Officer.

5.2 Aerospace Heritage Queensland had been inaugurated as an umbrella group of Aviation Museums and preservation bodies in January 2000 with the approval of the then Deputy Premier, Mr. Jim Elder MP. Aerospace Heritage Queensland as its favored project endorsed the Eagle Farm Community Heritage Project.

5.3 Meetings were held by representative of the Eagle Farm Community Heritage Project with Mr. Frank Riley, City Assets Brisbane City Council. The BCC selected the preferred developer of the old Eagle Farm site and the Community Heritage Group was informed that provision had been made in the developer's plans for recognition and safeguarding of the heritage listed area at Eagle Farm.

5.4 Frank Riley informed Aerospace Heritage Queensland of the interest shown by Victoria Barracks Historical Society Brisbane in the site and asked if both Aerospace Heritage Queensland and Victoria Barracks Historical Society could work amicably together as joint heritage bodies on the heritage site. Subsequently, the two bodies have mutually cooperated together and find they have numerous common interests

5.5 A joint meetings was held on January 24 2006 to consider the Productivity Commission's Draft Report of December 2005, with a view to making a submission at the meeting to be held in Brisbane on Friday 3rd 2006. A further meeting will be held on Sunday 29th January.

5.6 The two bodies, representing Aerospace and the military, working together with common objectives to preserve, conserve and utilize the Heritage listed properties at Eagle Farm, will establish a trust for joint usage of the sites for historic, educational and cultural purposes.

6 SUBMISSION.

6.1 The Productivity Commission needs to recognize that the Eagle Farm heritage complex has relevance to Australia in view of its important part in World War 11 and its on-going importance in the development of Australian inter-State air travel in the immediate post war period. It should also recognize the importance of this site to our American Allies. It was the USA that developed Brisbane's Eagle Farm Airport from swampy land inhabited by cows and flying training groups.

6.2 The Productivity Commission should be made aware of the complexity during the negotiating phase, for heritage conservation initiatives when the three tiers of government are involved and **should provide guidance and where necessary, assistance in developing protocols to encourage cooperation between the three tiers of Government with the relevant community organizations.** It is noted that although "Government Owned Places" is mentioned on draft report page XL and "Assessing government's involvement" is mentioned in Para 7, no recommendations for evolution of protocols between the three government levels and the representatives of the community is made.

It should be noted, that failure to provide the mechanism for fruitful cooperation between the three tiers of Government, in conjunction with community bodies would inevitably result in neglect,

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under utilization and deterioration of the Eagle Farm site unless protocols for mutual cooperation are put in place. Failure to preserve the site will receive international scrutiny.

6.3 It is also noted that due to the difficulty of negotiating with the three tiers of Government, including Brisbane City Council and the concomitant difficulty of structuring a suitable Association / Trust with the various community groups which will be acceptable to Brisbane City Council and State Government, in accordance with requirements for accountability to regulatory bodies, it has been quite impossible to enter a Submission to the National Heritage Investment Initiative under the Grants Programme, applications for which closed on 20th January 2006.

7 CONCLUSION

7.1 A further meeting will be held on Sunday 29th January, to consider additional individual submissions or to review, make amendments or endorse this submission.
I propose forwarding this submission within the one-week period before the hearing date.

Richard Hitchins
Coordinator Aerospace Heritage Queensland
Meeting Convener.

Friday January 27th 2006

8 CORRIGENDUM

8.1 The Eagle Farm Heritage Committee meeting held on Sunday 29 January noted numbering error of Paragraphs 6.1 & 6.2 of this Submission. This error has been corrected, as suggested.

Note: Minutes of the 29.01.06 meeting will be circulated under separate cover.

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MINUTES OF MEETING SUNDAY 29 JANUARY 2006

THOSE ATTENDING

Dr Astrid Vallati, MD, JD,	Victoria Barracks Historical Society Brisbane
Mr Leo Walsh,	Victoria Barracks Historical Society Brisbane
Mr Mike Adams	Aerospace Heritage Queensland
Mr John Sutherland	Aerospace Heritage Queensland
Mr Roger Marks	Aerospace Heritage Queensland
Mr John Bencke	Aerospace Heritage Queensland
Mr Richard Hitchins	Aerospace Heritage Queensland

OBJECTIVE OF MEETING

To prepare for public hearing in Brisbane, Friday 3 February as convened by Australian Government Productivity Commission on subject of Conservation of Australia's Historic Heritage Places.

DOCUMENTS REVIEWED

- 1 Productivity Commission 2005, **Conservation of Australia's Historic Heritage Places**, Paper and Draft Report, December.
- 2 Submission paper, **Eagle Farm Community Heritage Project**; Author Richard Hitchins.
- 3 **Eagle Farm Heritage Trust, Trust formation proposal**; Author Dr Astrid Vallati.
- 4 Submission, **Heritage Comments** papers, following review of Productivity Commission papers; Authors Mike Adams and Roger Marks.

MINUTES

The meeting was commenced at 2.0 pm at the Victoria Barracks Historical Society's premises Church Street, Fortitude Valley.

Richard Hitchins opened the meeting by reporting his telephonic communication with Productivity Commission's Jill Irvine and Garry Samuels, as a result of which, a copy of the Productivity Commission, Draft Report was subsequently received by post.

The draft report had stipulated that written comments for presentation at the hearing should reach the Commission at least one week prior to the hearing date.

R Hitchins had forwarded a submission by e mail to the Productivity Commission on Friday 27 January, thus meeting the Commission's requirement relevant to the hearing.

The submission had **focused on the Eagle Farm community proposal** and the associated problem of dealing with the three tiers of Government associated with the site.

The submission had been forwarded by e-mail to the other committee members of Eagle Farm Heritage project and a further copy had been e-mailed to Mr Frank Riley, BCC Manager City Assets for his information.

Time had been of the essence.

Mr Hitchins moved that the submission be endorsed as the committee's input to the public hearing and debate..

A paragraph numbering error (para 6.1 and 6.2) was noted and after undertaking to correct this error, the submission was adopted. The motion was passed

Mr Mike Adams and Mr Roger Marks had both reviewed the Productivity Commission's proposals concerning the wider matter of Heritage listing, including those related to private property and had prepared notes.

It was noted that although these were too late for consideration as submissions at the Brisbane public hearing, the opportunity for further comment would be acceptable if received by the Commission by Friday 24 February.

It was moved that Mike Adams and Roger Marks complete their comments concerning the wider aspects of the Commission's proposals and it was agreed that these should be discussed by the committee at a meeting to be held in two weeks time, i.e. Sunday 12 February 2006.at 2.00 pm. This would also permit consideration of points raised at the public hearing .

Dr Astrid Vallati tabled copies of the Eagle Farm Heritage Trust draft of Trust formation proposals This draft document was prepared to cover organizational, legal and financial parameters and reflected his knowledge of these matters from his experience as Barrister-at-law. The Trust Formation Proposals included considerations of 1. Leasing Contracts, 2. Sub-leases for separate Societies, 3. Common Areas, 4. Arrangements for income and outgoings, 5. Future Considerations.

Dr Astrid was thanked for his important input which lays a firm foundation for future development.

Mike Adams reported that he had sent a letter to Mr Frank Riley requesting an update on plans for the Eagle Farm site and had noted the elapse of twelve months since discussions had been held.

The suggestion by Frank Riley that Aerospace Heritage Queensland could forge a working relationship with the Victoria Barracks Historical Society had been followed up and a harmonious relationship between the two bodies had evolved. (This had resulted in joint celebration of the Victory in the Pacific with a fly-over of WW11 aircraft over the Queen Street Anzac square ceremony)

Four Committee Members expect to attend the Productivity Commission's hearing at Mercure Hotel on Friday 3rd February.

Minutes compiled by Richard Hitchins, meeting convener
Coordinator Aerospace Heritage Queensland
Monday 30th January 2006.