



PORT MELBOURNE HISTORICAL AND PRESERVATION SOCIETY ABN 67 050 276 976
INC

PATRON: LIANA THOMPSON
THE LAST MAYOR OF PORT MELBOURNE
www.vicnet.net.au/~pmhps

C/O PORT MELBOURNE TOWN HALL
CORRESPONDENCE TO P.O. Box 552
PORT MELBOURNE Vic 3207

1 5th February 2006

Mr Neil Bryon
Presiding Commissioner Heritage Inquiry
Productivity Commission
P.O. Box 80
Belconnen, ACT 2616

Dear Mr Bryon,

PRODUCTIVITY COMMISSION DRAFT REPORT ON THE CONSERVATION
OF AUSTRALIA'S HERITAGE PLACES

The Port Melbourne Historical and Preservation Society makes the following submission to you in response to this draft:

Implementation of the key recommendation [8.1] would result in a substantial loss of heritage buildings.

It places the value of the individual's property rights above the value of the cultural benefits to the community as a whole of historic heritage places. This Society strongly disagrees with this view.

Recommendation 9.2 would in effect make state and local governments bear the cost of negotiating conservation agreements with private owners, apparently without regard to the financial benefits which might accrue to the private owner if the agreement cannot be made. Nor does any recommendation deal with the proven danger to privately owned heritage properties during this period of negotiation.

We agree with Simon Molesworth, Chair of the Council of National Trusts, that if the key recommendations were implemented, they would fundamentally damage the Australian system for identifying and protecting heritage places, and would therefore be detrimental to heritage nationwide [page 10, Trust News vol 34 Number 3].

Yours sincerely,

Secretary