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**UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE
RESPONSE TO DRAFT REPORT OF THE PRODUCTIVITY COMMISSION
INQUIRY INTO THE CONSERVATION OF HISTORIC HERITAGE PLACES**

The University of Adelaide is the owner and manager of 31 heritage listed buildings.

It should be noted that it willingly accepts the responsibility of conserving and maintaining these buildings, as it recognises the value of such historic structures. These buildings are an important part of the physical identity of the University of Adelaide and are part of the built heritage of the City of Adelaide and of South Australia.

The cost of maintaining these buildings and ensuring that their heritage qualities are conserved, while continuing to adapt them for current University requirements, is substantial.

While the draft report deals with the issues of potential voluntary listing and heritage agreements for private property, it does not address the funding needs of institutions such as universities, which are not owners of private property and rather, hold and manage a large amount of property specifically for the public good.

It would seem that the commission's draft report does not fulfil the requirements of the terms of reference which ask for review and analysis of the impact, among other things, of the incentives available for conservation of such places as the university's historic buildings. The only recommendation relating to incentives, which deals with a single system of negotiated agreements with private owners, would appear unwieldy and expensive to implement and does not address the university's need for additional public funding for conservation. The external funding resources currently available to the university are inadequate to meet the significant costs associated with maintaining its heritage listed buildings.

We suggest that a more comprehensive analysis of the opportunities for additional incentives for institutional owners is needed and further suggest that it should be the aim of the inquiry to address this important issue in its final recommendations.

Yours sincerely
PAUL DULDIG
Executive Director, Finance and Infrastructure

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