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10 January 2011

Hon. Terry Mulder MLA  
Minister for Transport & Roads  
115a Bromfield Street  
Colac VIC 3250

Dear Minister

### **Bacchus Marsh Avenue of Honour**

I refer to the recent decision by Heritage Victoria to refuse to grant a permit (Permit Refusal P15769 issued 20 December 2010) for the application by VicRoads to construct a new roundabout, remove elm trees and replace trees and name plaques in the Bacchus Marsh Avenue of Honour.

For more than a year we have been campaigning with the local Avenue Preservation Group to have the Bacchus Marsh Avenue of Honour preserved in its entirety and we welcome this decision by Heritage Victoria. Mr David O'Brien, recently elected MLC for Western Victoria (and in whose electorate the Avenue stands), assisted us greatly during the course of proceedings under the *Heritage Act* with both pro-bono legal advice and appearance on behalf of the Trust at a Registration Hearing before the Heritage Council in August 2010.

I am writing to you to request a meeting to discuss future options for the Avenue that will enable preservation in its entirety. I refer to your *Policy and Plans for Veterans' Affairs* in which the Liberal National Coalition promises to maintain Avenues of Honour and that every effort will be made to ensure that all options are considered at Bacchus Marsh, and destruction of trees will be "the last option".

As we approach the centenary of Anzacs in 2015 and centenary in 2018 of the planting of this Avenue by the local community to commemorate its servicemen, it is vital that road solutions be found that do not compromise the integrity of the community's living memorials. It is also vital that Victoria matches at home the expectations that we have overseas for monuments to Australian servicemen.

Like the National-Liberal Coalition, we believe that an alternative route for the proposed new linking road to the realigned Western Highway must be found in order that the

Avenue is preserved in its entirety, and also to address the traffic and safety issues in Bacchus Marsh. I would welcome the opportunity together with senior members of my advocacy team to meet with you and Mr O'Brien in the very near future at a convenient time. I can be contacted by telephone on 9656 9808.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Purslow', written in a cursive style.

**Martin Purslow**  
Chief Executive Officer

cc. Mr David O'Brien, MLC for Western Victoria