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6 December 2010

The Honourable Ted Baillieu MP
Premier
325 Camberwell Road
Camberwell
VIC 3124

Dear Mr Baillieu,

Bacchus Marsh Avenue of Honour

You may be aware that the National Trust of Australia (Vic), working together with the local Avenue Preservation Group, has been campaigning for more than a year to have the Bacchus Marsh Avenue of Honour preserved in its entirety.

The Trust believes that an alternative route for the proposed new linking road to the realigned Western Highway must be found in order that the Avenue be preserved. The proposed roundabout and tree removal would desecrate a world class war memorial that could be argued to be amongst the finest avenues of Dutch Elms in the world. It is hard to imagine that desecration of a war memorial to accommodate trucks would be considered anywhere else in the world, particularly as we approach the centenary of the First World War in 1914 and centenary of Anzac in 1915.

Whilst the matter is to some extent in the hands of Heritage Victoria as they weigh up the permit application, we consider that the complex matter of road and traffic solutions is unlikely be adequately resolved through the limited mechanisms and criteria of the *Heritage Act*. We would urge you to require VicRoads and Moorabool Shire Council to find an alternative solution to traffic and roads that will not impact on the Avenue.

Should your office wish to discuss this matter, I can be contacted on 9656 9808.

Yours sincerely

Martin Purslow
Chief Executive Officer

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