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4 December 2009

The Hon. Justin Madden
Minister for Planning
DPCD
Level 17
8 Nicholson Street
Melbourne 3000

Dear Mr Madden,

RE: HOTEL WINDSOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE

I have received advice of your decision to set up an Advisory Committee to consider the Windsor Hotel application. The Terms of Reference (TOR) for the Committee require the Committee to hear only from the City of Melbourne and the applicant.

DPCD has advised the Trust that it considers the email objections sent to yourself, of which we are aware of more than 200, will only be considered by Heritage Victoria. Could you please clarify why these objections, addressed to yourself as Responsible Authority and addressing matters concerning the impact on height limits and heritage controls in the Bourke Hill precinct, being matters previously confirmed to the Trust as being planning scheme matters and not *Heritage Act* matters, are now only to be considered by Heritage Victoria? Why is the content of those submissions not relevant to the Advisory Committee?

The National Trust is extremely concerned that, in hearing only from the applicant and City of Melbourne, and in the absence of hearing from the National Trust and other objectors on this matter, the Committee will not be fully informing itself. I refer you to the Barwon Heads Bridge Advisory Committee report in 2007, which was informed by submissions from many parties, including the National Trust and other objectors.

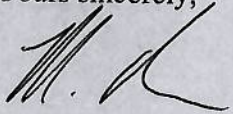
I also note that the 'background' provided in paragraphs 2 & 3 of the TOR is misleading. Paragraph 3 refers to 'Part demolition of the rear and side sections of the hotel' when in reality total demolition of the rear and one side is proposed. Paragraph 4 states that 'The main Victorian hotel building fronting Spring Street will be retained with internal refurbishment and some external alterations.' The Hotel Windsor is *one* building – there is no 'main' hotel.

I also note that the Committee is to consider the potential of the application for the economic benefit for the State. I am aware that Heritage Victoria has received an economic argument for the application it is considering but has refused to release the information.

I request that the National Trust be allowed to be heard by the Committee and refer you to paragraph 8 of the TOR whereby the Advisory Committee shall inform itself in anyway it sees fit.

I am available to discuss this important matter 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