



26 February 2010

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

Tasma Terrace
4 Parliament Place
East Melbourne
Victoria 3002

Email: info@nattrust.com.au
Web: www.nattrust.com.au

T 03 9656 9800
F 03 9650 5397

Dear Mr Madden,

RE: HOTEL WINDSOR

You are no doubt aware that many hundreds of objections to the Hotel Windsor proposal have been lodged directly with you via our website www.savethewindsor.com. I consider that both the Trust's and the community's opinion about the scheme has been made very clear.

These objections, many of which were copied to the Trust, were addressed to yourself as Responsible Authority. They addressed matters concerning the impact on height limits and heritage controls in the Bourke Hill precinct. We trust that the submissions have been properly recorded as objections. The Advisory Committee appointed by yourself met in December with limited terms of reference requiring that only the developer and the City of Melbourne be heard. We understand that only around 35 submitters received notification of the hearing, and therefore query what happened to the other submissions.

We of course deplore any notion that community consultation may be manipulated to achieve certain outcomes and therefore we welcome your public commitment that full probity will indeed be applied to the planning process. The question will now be whether the community will now accept any decision by you on the matter as being fairly based.

As per discussions with your DPCD, Executive Director of Planning Services, David Hodge, community advocate groups like the Trust can help ensure robust community engagement - if we are engaged as part of a democratic and transparent planning process. The current unfortunate situation reinforces the need to ensure a transparent engagement process, which can only deliver better outcomes.

Yours sincerely,

Martin Purslow
Chief Executive Officer

COPY