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27 October 2016

The Hon Richard Wynne
Minister for Planning
Level 16, 8 Nicholson Street
EAST MELBOURNE VIC 3002

CC: Mr Ben Rimmer, CEO, City of Melbourne

Re: Demolition of Corkman Irish Pub, 154–160 Leicester Street, Carlton

Dear Minister Wynne,

We write on behalf of the undersigned organisations and individuals in regard to the recent demolition of the Corkman Irish Pub, formerly known as the Carlton Inn. Historical information obtained by the National Trust indicates that this hotel dated to 1856, when it was first licensed by R Hepburn, who the previous year had acquired a group of three bluestone cottages on the site, which became known as “Pelham Cottages”. Available information indicates that materials from the original cottage, including bluestone walls and convict hand-pressed bricks, still remained in the hotel until it was demolished on the weekend of 15 October 2016. The hotel was licensed continually from 1856 to 2016, making it a community gathering place for 160 years. It is recognised in the Heritage Overlay for the City of Melbourne as one of the oldest extant buildings in this part of Carlton. Now, as you are aware, all that remains are piles of contaminated rubble in Carlton and also in Cairnlea.

As a result of public concern regarding these events, the National Trust of Australia (Victoria) (NTAV) convened an urgent summit of stakeholders on 21 October 2016, which was attended by community representatives, incumbent councillors and candidates for the City of Melbourne, Melbourne Heritage Action, the CFMEU, Victorian Trades Hall Council, Melbourne Law School Students, Carlton Residents Association, and the Department of Environment Land Water & Planning.

Following this meeting, we resolved to write seeking an urgent review of penalties under the *Planning & Environment Act 1987*. We note that under Section 127(a) of the *Planning & Environment Act*, any person who is guilty of an offence against this Act for which a penalty is not expressly provided is liable to “a penalty of not more than 1200 penalty units” (\$186,552).

The NTAV submits that these penalties are inadequate to act as either a deterrent to property developers, or as a punitive measure after the fact. The NTAV further submits that a distinction should be made in the Act between penalties levied against individuals and body corporates, to ensure that commercial property developers are penalised at levels commensurate with the profit generated through commercial developments.

We would welcome the opportunity to meet with you at your earliest convenience to discuss this matter further. Please contact Felicity Watson on 03 9656 9818 or felicity.watson@nattrust.com.au to arrange a meeting.

Yours sincerely,



Simon Ambrose
CEO, National Trust of Australia (Victoria)

On behalf of:

Melbourne Heritage Action

Scott Colvin, Resurrect the Corkman Working Group

Shaun Reardon, CFMEU and Building Industry Group of Unions

Ewan Ogilvy, Member, Carlton Residents Association

Greta Bird, Member, Carlton Residents Association

Abigail Belfrage, Professional Historian

Jessica Adams, Leicester Street, Carlton Resident

Anthony van der Craats, Life member and former member of the Board of the National Trust of Australia (Victoria)

Phil Cleary

Michael Kennedy