

MEDIA RELEASE

NATIONAL TRUST OF AUSTRALIA (QUEENSLAND) REQUESTS NEW MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT TO ISSUE A STOP WORK ORDER!

The National Trust of Australia (Queensland), Australia's largest non-profit community organisation for the protection of heritage, has requested the new Minister for the Environment and Great Barrier Reef to make a Stop Order under the Queensland Heritage Act for a proposed Retirement facility at Lutwyche, Brisbane.

This is the first time in its 54 year history that the National Trust of Australia (Queensland) has requested a Stop Order on behalf of the community.

The proposed development of a retirement facility at Lutwyche will have a considerable, negative impact on the heritage significance, heritage setting and significant view lines of the historic residence *Conon*.

Conon is listed as a heritage item on the Brisbane City Council and Queensland Heritage Registers, as well as the National Trust's own Heritage register. Conon is one of Brisbane's ***earliest surviving houses*** which sit within a substantial garden – this makes a major contribution to the aesthetic significance of Conon. The site is surrounded by later suburban houses but the house and its garden retain a nineteenth century ambiance. More recent development is not apparent from within the site and outward views are protected.

Says CEO Jonathan Fisher:

The National Trust of Australia (Queensland) is not anti-development for development sake, but seeks dialogue with developers and the decision authorities to develop sympathetically. In this case it appears an advantage of the failure to list the acquired tennis court adjacent to the property of Conon has been used by the developers and council to avoid Impact Assessment and Community Consultation.

Jane Alexander, Senior Advocacy Advisor for the National Trust states:

The community was given no opportunity to make a submission or provide feedback on this development. They did not know about it until Council internally approved the project as Code Assessable development. We are asking the State Government to step in and make a Stop Order to allow time for robust impact assessment and community consultation to occur. We believe the retirement village requires a re-design that allows for a greater buffer between the properties and a stepped back building which places the bulk of the height and scale away from the heritage property Conon.

For further information or queries:

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