



No overlay on former manse

The former manse building adjacent to Wesley Church in Victoria St, Warragul has been removed from heritage overlay.

In considering planning scheme amendment C86 for the Warragul and Drouin town centres, Baw Baw Shire Council went against the advice of an independent planning panel and abandoned the heritage overlay for the site.

Property owner Bruce Jones has made several submissions to council in relation to the property that he, and Cr Tricia Jones owns. He also made a submission to

the independent planning panel.

Cr Jones declared a conflict of interest in the matter.

Making a final plea for council to remove his property at 60 Victoria St from the heritage overlay, Mr Jones said when he purchased the property it was in the business one zone and had no overlays.

"Your reason for wanting a heritage overlay is to have control over future development of the site.

"We acknowledge the need for controls on developments in the central business district and

acknowledge the need for sympathetic development next to Wesley.

"But this can be done in other ways other than an overlay. You can be assured whatever we do will be in keeping with the surrounding area," he said.

The panel report presented to council said while the panel understood Mr Jones' argument, it was similar to many other submissions in that the value and economic viability of the site was not relevant to the central question of whether heritage values existed.

"The panel is satisfied

that the heritage value of the manse is such that it should have the heritage overlay applied," the report said.

Crs Bill Harrington and Debbie Brown successfully moved council abandon extension of the heritage overlay over the property at 60 Victoria St.

Cr Mikaela Power spoke against it. She said because of its location in the town, council would not want another supermarket on the site.

"The current owner may not do that, but the potential is there," she said.