



23 April 2018

Cr Laurence Evans
Mayor
Bayside City Council
PO Box 27
Sandringham VIC 3191

6 Parliament Place
East Melbourne
VIC 3002

Email: conservation@natstrust.com.au

Web: www.nationaltrust.org.au

T 03 9656 9818

Re: Ordinary Council Meeting 24 April 2018—Agenda Item 10.1: *Bayside Mid-Century Modern Study*

Dear Cr Evans,

We write in regard to tomorrow night's Agenda Item 10.1 *Bayside Mid-Century Modern Study*. The National Trust of Australia (Victoria) strongly opposes the recommendation to pursue Option 1, to proceed with a 'voluntary nomination process' and Option 2 to 'abandon the study completely', and we strongly implore Councillors to **vote for Option 3 to 'proceed with the mid-century modern study as planned'**.

The National Trust strongly believes that places of cultural heritage significance play a significant role in defining the identity of a municipality, and should be assessed and protected for future generations on this basis. As noted on Council's website: 'mid-century modern architecture contributes to the area's historical development and contributes to the liveability and character valued by the community'. Indeed, in the context of architectural development in Victoria more broadly, the cultural landscape of mid-century architecture in the Bayside municipality is incredibly significant. Correspondingly, it is identified as a priority in the Bayside Heritage Action Plan 2017, which has been adopted by Council.

We therefore believe that the protection of post-war heritage in Bayside is strategically justified, and that the approach recommended in Option 1 would lead to the loss of places of demonstrable heritage significance to the municipality, contrary to the objectives of the Planning Scheme.

We note that Council resolved unanimously [Ordinary Council meeting 25 July 2017] to 'conduct a Mid-Century Modern Heritage Study in Black Rock and Beaumaris, which aims to identify properties from this era for potential heritage protection'. We further note that following this decision, Council's Planning Department proceeded to set out the process and timeline for which they would commission this heritage study and potentially prepare a Planning Scheme Amendment. Based on the strategic work that has been undertaken to date, we were therefore surprised to learn that the future of this heritage study is now in doubt.

In response to Option 1 to be considered by Councillors [Ordinary Council Meeting 24 April 2018], the National Trust strongly advises against the adoption of a 'volunteer nomination approach' for the heritage study. While there is merit to the idea of community participation in the identification of places of potential significance, we do not consider this to be an acceptable alternative to a comprehensive study undertaken by a qualified heritage

professional. We strongly believe that this approach lacks strategic justification, does not represent orderly planning, and would undermine the purpose and function of the Heritage Overlay.

The National Trust strongly encourages Council to proceed with the study, and we believe that that Council's resources would be more effectively spent on the commissioning and completion of the Heritage Study, and a subsequent Planning Scheme Amendment. Should budget constraints be an issue, there may be an opportunity to develop a staged approach to the study.

The National Trust sympathetic to the tensions that exist within the community regarding the application of the Heritage Overlay to private residential properties. However given the recognised importance of post-war architecture in the Bayside municipality, we strongly believe that the net community benefit of the recognition of these heritage places outweighs the impact on individual owners. Furthermore, we believe that these issues are best addressed through the Planning Scheme Amendment process, and should not pre-empt the preparation of a comprehensive study.

We recognise that the preparation of a comprehensive study and Planning Scheme Amendment requires courage on the part of Council, and a strong commitment to heritage. However we believe that such courage and commitment is well justified, and that there is an opportunity for the City of Bayside to show leadership in the recognition of post-war heritage.

We note the recent successes of the City of Whitehorse and Frankston City Council in implementing post-war heritage studies, which required many competing issues and views to be balanced. Should the Heritage Study proceed, and a Planning Scheme Amendment be initiated, the National Trust will be pleased to provide support to the City of Bayside during this process.

Based on the views expressed above, we implore council to oppose Option 1 and Option 2 to implement a 'voluntary approach' or abandon the study completely. **Instead, we ask that Council supports Option 3**, to proceed with the mid-century modern study as planned, and uphold Council's commitments outlined in the Bayside Heritage Action Plan 2017.

Please don't hesitate to get in touch with me on 9656 9837 if you have any questions regarding the above, or if you would like to discuss this in further detail.

Yours faithfully,



Felicity Watson
Advocacy Manager

Cc. Cr Alex del Porto
Cr James Long BM JP
Cr Michael Heffernan
Cr Sonia Castelli
Cr Clarke Martin
Cr Rob Grinter