



23 April 2018

Mr Steven Avery
Executive Director
Heritage Victoria
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Re: HMVS Cerberus—Application from the City of Bayside to install monolithic concrete core

Dear Mr Avery,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the current permit application regarding *HMVS Cerberus*. The National Trust of Australia Victoria's mission is to inspire the community to appreciate, conserve, and celebrate its diverse natural, cultural, social and Indigenous heritage.

From the outset, I note that the National Trust of Australia (Victoria) does not have the in-house technical expertise to comment in detail on the proposed methodology, or the merits of alternative methodologies.

However from a best-practice conservation perspective, the National Trust submits a strong preference for any stabilisation works to be reversible, allowing for future conservation, documentation, and interpretation. It is our understanding that the Friends of the Cerberus have made a submission which recommends the use of a polyurethane/tank foam solution. **We would expect that all possible alternatives, include the proposals put forward by the Friends of the Cerberus, be explored prior to a decision regarding the current permit application.**

Nevertheless, we recognise that the current application before the Executive Director is for a concrete infill solution. We therefore make the following comments in regard to the advertised permit application.

Our understanding is that the proposed works would not be reversible, and if approved, would result in a significant and permanent adverse impact to the identified heritage values of the HMVS Cerberus.

Should these works be approved, we would therefore expect that the conditions of any permit would include a requirement to somewhat mitigate this impact through the restoration of public access to the site, and a comprehensive program of interpretation both within the City of Bayside, and also accessible more broadly, given the national significance of the place.

Furthermore, any permit should include a requirement to record as much as possible of the *Cerberus* via remote video and still photography prior to infill works being undertaken. Evidence relating to the *Cerberus* should be recorded systematically, with a full photographic record made available to the public.

In conclusion, it is the National Trust's view that stabilisation works should be reversible, allowing for future conservation, documentation and interpretation, and that all possible alternatives to the current concrete infill solution should be considered and exhausted prior to a decision regarding the current permit application.

Nevertheless, we recognise that the task before the Executive Director is to make a determination on permit application as it stands. We acknowledge the high level of interest in this national heritage site, and also the complexities arising from the public safety issues associated with *HMVS Cerberus* which have already resulted the loss of human life. We understand that these competing considerations need to be balanced in the determination of this permit, and also note that action to stabilise the wreck is now a matter of urgency.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'F Watson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Felicity Watson
Advocacy Manager