

28 April 2017

Hon Dr David Kemp
Chair
Australian Heritage Council
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Re: Assessment of St Kilda Road and Environs, Melbourne, for National Heritage List

Dear Dr Kemp,

The National Trust of Australia (Victoria) writes to support the inclusion of St Kilda Road and Environs on the National Heritage List.

The National Trust of Australia (Victoria) is an independent not-for-profit organisation established in 1956. The mission of the National Trust is to “inspire the community to appreciate, conserve and celebrate its built, natural and cultural heritage”.

The National Trust considers that Melbourne's radial boulevards are critical to the heritage of the city and nation, and contribute significantly to the image and character of Melbourne. St Kilda Road an outstanding example of a turn-of-the-century grand boulevard, and a rich and unique cultural landscape which tells a complex and important story about the history of the nation.

Having reviewed the evidence provided in the nomination to the National Heritage List by the Hon Barry Jones AC and Tom Harley, dated 16 January 2017, we submit that St Kilda Road and Environs reaches the threshold for inclusion on the NHL under the following criteria:

- a. *the place has outstanding heritage value to the nation because of the place's importance in the course, or pattern, of Australia's natural or cultural history*
- b. *the place has outstanding heritage value to the nation because of the place's importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of:*
 - i. *a class of Australia's natural or cultural places; or*
 - ii. *a class of Australia's natural or cultural environments;*
- c. *the place has outstanding heritage value to the nation because of the place's importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics valued by a community or cultural group*

While not relevant to considerations under Section 324JN of the *EPBC Act*, we note the current threat to the heritage values of St Kilda Road and Environs posed by the Melbourne Metro Rail Project. It is the position of the National Trust of Australia (Victoria) that impacts associated with the project must be minimised and carefully managed, and that heritage considerations should be at the forefront of future decision-making about this important place. The National Trust has previously provided submissions to this effect to the 2016 Melbourne Metro Rail Inquiry, as well as in response to a December 2016 permit application advertised by Heritage Victoria. We therefore appreciate the

opportunity to support the inclusion of St Kilda Road Environs on the National Heritage List, and we look forward to the recommendation of the Heritage Council on this matter.

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