



Warrnambool Planning and Heritage Group Inc

“Providing a resident voice on planning
and heritage issues in Warrnambool”

Heritage Victoria
Level 4, 55 Collins Street
Melbourne VIC 3000

January 12, 2012

Re: Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) H2101

Dear Sir/Madam,

We wish to draw your attention to the serious state of disrepair at this site. The factory buildings listed as B1 on the register include the round room, which has had broken windows for quite some time, allowing weather into the building. The whole site is falling more and more into disrepair with broken windows and looking very run down and uncared for.

We are particularly concerned about the safety and look of the water tower, which appears to be significantly deteriorating with rust becoming more and more apparent. The water tower is a significant and unique landmark on our city skyline. We would hate to lose it and worry that we will see it roll down the hill one day soon where it will be lodged under the railway bridge or continue onto the east Warrnambool primary school! The last structural assessment report we've seen is from 2004 and while we understand some works were done since that assessment, we would like to see an ongoing maintenance and repair schedule drawn up.

Warrnambool doesn't exactly have a proud record for looking after buildings and structures of state significance listed on the Victorian Heritage Register. We really hate seeing the steady deterioration of the Fletcher Jones site (which to us really holds national, state and local significance), and fear it will end with everybody just wishing the place is demolished as happened with the very public, long drawn out saga of 94 Merri St (H1944). We wonder what are the lessons from that 10-year process for all of us?

Please let us know how and when the structural integrity of the water tower is due to be assessed again. A series of fines does not appear to do much in terms of the care and maintenance of the site – is there another way here that means we end up with something that can work and that honors the social, historical and aesthetic significance this site has for the people of Warrnambool and Victoria?

Yours sincerely

Julie Eagles
Warrnambool Heritage and Planning Group

cc Warrnambool City Council (WCC) City Growth Department and all WCC Councillors