

6 February 2018
Representation regarding Planning Application 17-822
83 Melville Street Hobart – former Forestry Tasmania Headquarters

The Tasmanian Chapter of the Royal Australian Institute of Architects, now trading as the Australian Institute of Architects (herein referred to as 'the Institute'), provides the following representation with respect to the proposed development at 83 Melville Street, Hobart.

It is important to note that this representation neither aims to support nor oppose the proposed development. It simply intends to provide information to the Tasmanian Heritage Council for the purposes of their consideration. The Institute has no intention of appealing whatever decision the Tasmanian Heritage Council makes.

The Institute would like to ensure that the Tasmanian Heritage Council is aware of the following:

The Forestry Tasmania Headquarters Building received the RIAA Tasmania (Recycled Buildings Award) in 1998, along with the BHP Colorbond Steel Award and was a finalist in the National Architecture Awards.

The building was also awarded the Australasian Lightweight Structures Award, also in 1998 (meeting criterion (e)).

The building was designed by Robert Morris-Nunn and Associates – a multi-award-winning architectural firm responsible for many of Hobart and Tasmania's important cultural buildings, many of which involve the adaptive reuse of culturally significant buildings.

The building's structure was designed by engineer Jim Gandy, who is a recipient of the Institute's Tasmanian Chapter President's prize because of his contribution to significant Tasmanian architecture (meeting criterion (g)).

The building was highlighted in the publication on Tasmanian architecture, *Architecture from the Edge*, by Barry McNeill.

The building has also been featured in the architectural journals, *Architecture Australia*, *Architectural Review Australia* and *Japan Wood* (meeting criterion (h)).

The Institute, through its national heritage policy, considers that the successful adaptive reuse of heritage buildings is an integral component of the conservation of places of cultural heritage significance, and encourages and promotes this through its annual awards program. We believe that successful adaptive reuse projects enhance the heritage values of the existing building, and subsequently, the elements of adaption should likewise be recognised as culturally significant.

We trust that the significance of this important adaptive reuse building meets the relevant criteria of the Historic Cultural Heritage Act 1995 and this will be considered in the evaluation of the current application for alterations to this building.