

### **3. Submission Details**

I object to the issuing of a permit and urge the Executive Director, Heritage Victoria to refuse the application on the following grounds:

#### **1. The strong heritage value of The Brick Pressing Shed (B5) and Steam Engine House (B6).**

- The Brick Pressing Shed (B5), Steam Engine House and the equipment in the Brick Pressing Shed, are listed on the Victorian Heritage Register and have been acknowledged as key heritage sites by Heritage Victoria, Moreland Council and The National Trust. The Former Hoffman Brickworks is a rare record of the industrialised brick making process and provides a valuable snapshot of an original industrial process within an original site.

#### **2. Previous commitments to restore the buildings and equipment.**

- The development of the site was originally granted on the provision that the funds would be used to restore and maintain the heritage core. Unsurprisingly the site has been left to decay since its initial development despite the explicit agreement of the developers that they would maintain the site. In taking full advantage of the numerous concessions granted to them by Moreland council and Heritage Victoria on the basis of future restoration the developers should be held to their original obligations. The same developers are now seeking to demolish the site citing its poor condition as grounds for demolition despite its poor condition being due to their own negligence and inadequate maintenance. This should not be used to justify demolition.

#### **3. The proposed demolition.**

- The proposed demolition of the two buildings is highly damaging to the integrity of the site and will result in a negative, irreversible impact on the cultural heritage significance of the Brickworks. The removal of equipment including the brick presses, hoppers and chutes, and relocation of "some" of these elements to a interpretive centre, will result in the loss of an authentic, original industrial processing site. Instead of an authentic display, these important artefacts will be placed without original context in an "interpretive centre". What could be more appropriate than the site as it is for authentic interpretation?

#### **4. The proposed development.**

- The proposed development will completely dominate the surrounding heritage area and make a mockery of the site's conservation. The attempt to "recreate" the shapes of the engine house and brick pressing shed, might I add amongst a 7 story apartment block, is ambiguous and will completely dissolve the iconic facade of the existing site. It is evident from the proposed blueprints that this is not a sincere attempt to emulate the

original building. Whats left of the site, the remaining three chimneys, will disappear into the overbearing apartments planned.

The Former Hoffman Brickworks is a rare and valuable heritage asset which should under no circumstances be handed over to the very developers who failed to uphold their obligation to its preservation. I strongly object to the permit application submitted by Sungrove and hope that you will carefully consider the grounds outlined above and the impact it will have on this unique site.

Yours sincerely,

Sebastien Donnadieu