



**Diggers Rest Residents Assoc. Inc.**  
PO Box 106, Diggers Rest VIC 3427  
ABN: 13 860 996 706 Incorp: A0039717L

**President:** Bob Rau - Mob: 0427 024 620  
E-mail: [president@drra.org.au](mailto:president@drra.org.au)  
[www.drra.org.au](http://www.drra.org.au)

11 February 2009

Mr Steve Finlay  
Development Planner  
Shire of Melton  
232 High Street  
Melton Vic 3337

Dear Sir

Re: Application for Planning Permit No PA 2008/2070/1  
Demolition of a building DIGGERS REST HOTEL affected by a Heritage Overlay  
Control

I hereby respond on behalf of members of the DRRA and concerned residents with respect to the proposed demolition of the burnt out remains of what was the Diggers Rest Hotel.

The overwhelming response from members and residents was as follows:

- We note that the building is of local importance from an architectural perspective and of State value from an historical perspective – accordingly our members and residents were strongly of the view that it is imperative to retain something of the historical integrity of the Hotel.
- That demolition was premature until an assessment of structural integrity was conducted by qualified / independent / engineers / building scientists.
- Was / is it necessary that total demolition be conducted i.e. can a part of the original portion be saved and reconstructed.

If the building is deemed essentially unsafe and requires demolition, then:

1. Rebuild so that something of the original appearance (i.e. of old 1854 section) be retained e.g. front façade.
2. Rebuild further back from existing footprint – so as to obviate front of building car parking.

3. Provide ample off street car parking.

We apologise for our late submission; however, we have had to arrange meetings to discuss this issue, which takes time.

Should you have any enquiries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours truly,

R. H. Rau (Bob)  
President