

Lisbon, 27th November 2017

**Subject: Letter of Support
Preservation of the Australian Paper Mill Power House (by Mussen, Mackay and Potter, Alphington,
Melbourne, Australia, 1954)**

Docomomo International – the International Committee for Documentation and Conservation of Buildings, Sites and Neighborhoods of the Modern Movement – wishes to express concern that the Australian Paper Mill Power House (by Mussen, Mackay and Potter, Melbourne, Australia, 1954) is facing likely demolition.

The Power House is a complex of vertically proportioned boiler house and a lower turbine hall. Unusually for an industrial structure, it was designed by architects working with engineers, rather than just a utilitarian structure. The dominant feature of the building is the tall glass and metal framed curtain wall of the boiler house, the first large-scale glass curtain wall in the State. Glass curtain walls were symbol of modernity, and of the modern movement itself which Docomomo was formed to educate and advocate for.

According to recent correspondence, Docomomo International painfully realizes that the Planning Minister of Victoria has recently overruled a recommendation by Heritage Victoria to preserve the Power House. We understand that this is the first time in the 40-year operation of the heritage process that a minister has intervened in this way. We are concerned for the fate of other important modernist places that may be deemed 'ugly'.

Modern industrial structures in Europe have been preserved, and thoughtfully repurposed to function as community spaces, museums and workspaces. We are saddened to see that the same future cannot be envisaged in a country like Australia.

We call for the Power House to be protected and recognized as having universal cultural value.

Docomomo International wishes to express its full support for all the efforts that may be carried out in order to respect the integrity of this important building, taking into consideration the history of the Power House and the will to maintain its authenticity for future generations.



Ana Tostões
Chair of Docomomo International