9th June 2014

The Manager Australian Heritage Strategy Submissions Heritage Branch Department of the Environment GPO Box 787 Canberra ACT 2601

Dear Sir Madam,

The Draft Strategy for Australia`s Heritage of April 2014 is supported by the Nepean Historical Society but we do wish to express concern that the Commonwealth is proposing to devolve responsibility for heritage and environment matters to the States. Although it is proposing “call in powers” for the Commonwealth to override any decisions by the State, such powers may be limited and it may not be possible for the Commonwealth to effectively monitor decisions about to be made by the States.

In this context we again wish to submit that the Collins Settlement Shire Heritage area HO255 be declared a National Heritage site. This proposal has been submitted to the Heritage Council in previous years without success. It is the site of the first official British settlement in Victoria in 1803 under Lt David Collins. The settlement comprised 458 people at Sullivan Bay, Sorrento and consisted of convicts, free settlers, soldiers and administrators. The site would also be suitable to be highlighted by tourist authorities with its memorial listing the names of those who landed, the existing visitors centre, interpretive signage and views of Port Phillip. Some further development of the site is necessary for visitors and projects such as clearing weeds etc from the Western Sister would be suitable for the Green Army. The settlement was also the site of the first indigenous attack in Victoria by spear throwers against a lunch time group who repelled the attack by firing shots, possibly wounding the leader.

For your consideration

Yours sincerely

Doreen Parker President

Copies to

Cr Tim Rodgers Cr H. Fraser

The Hon. Martin Dixon, Minister for Education and Member for Nepean Nepean Ratepayers Association Nepean Conservation Group Mr Dale Kelly, Heritage Planner Sorrento Chamber of Commerce