



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **South Australian Heritage at Risk**

**Friday, November 2 2007**

**EMBARGOED UNTIL 11am Saturday 3 November**

The National Trust today announced its 'Our Heritage at Risk' national top ten list in Hobart, Tasmania.

The list comprises the ten most important heritage places under threat in Australia. It was derived from over 60 nominations across the country.

Two places in South Australia - Port Adelaide and the Adelaide Park Lands - are on the list because they are of the highest heritage significance and subject to immediate threat of destruction.

At Port Adelaide the State Government, through its agency the Land Management Corporation, is partnering developers in a two billion dollar waterfront project. This involves razing the historic boatyard area near the Birkenhead Bridge and evicting the last three operating boatyards in Port Adelaide.

Other concerns include plans to erect apartment buildings between Hart's Mill and the water and the future of the Radio Shack, historic cranes and two historic vessels, the Falie and the Nelcebee.

Ian Stephenson, CEO of the National Trust of South Australia, says the decision of the State Government in this matter is of concern.

"It is most ironic that the new development is called Newport Quays, but involves destroying the last working boatyards", Mr. Stephenson said. "The balance between development and the retention and use of historic buildings is appalling. With fifty hectares of developable land, the consortium's plan to destroy the boatyards to build apartments just looks like greediness."

The Park Lands are the most distinctive and unique asset of Adelaide's cultural landscape. Since their dedication in the 1830s almost a third has been alienated. The proposal is to erect a three storey building 200 metres long in Victoria Park, primarily to house private boxes for viewing a motor race which is held for four days a year.

The project will destroy the open character of the Eastern Park Lands with the construction of a large building in its centre. It will make the historic grandstand redundant, as it will no longer be able to be used to view horseracing and it will alienate additional areas of public open space with auxiliary car parks and fencing

"It is unthinkable to imagine a world class city like New York treating Central Park this way", Stephenson said. "In 1851 when the British Government wanted to hold an exhibition in Kensington Gardens they commissioned a prefabricated modular structure which could be easily erected and dismantled – the famous Crystal Palace. Surely, if Britain could manage it 150 years ago then Adelaide can show it really is a technological leader by coming up with a modern equivalent for a demountable facility in the Park Lands."

**For more information please call Ian Stephenson (0417 883 010) or Tony Kearney (0408 232 740)**