

# Heritage assets

HOW refreshing to read architect Garry Forward's Talking Point article (*Mercury*, July 25) expressing a view consistent with many who are concerned with the Liberal Government planning agenda. Forward clearly exposed the myth the Government's new statewide planning scheme provides a simpler, cheaper, faster and more certain process. As Forward points out, the new scheme is framed on subjective, discretionary provisions that lead to community division, planning appeals, delays and higher costs for everyone. Forward also expresses concern over the future of our urban heritage, which is a view consistent with those who have a desire to see our built heritage protected, enhanced and remain a valuable asset.

Transition of heritage properties to commercial opportunities is potentially a game changer. The original Battery Point Planning Scheme, and those responsible for its drafting 40 years ago, saved the Salamanca warehouse buildings and many other assets. If our planning minister cannot grasp the potential of our urban heritage, maybe the minister for heritage can.

*Mercury*

12 August 2017

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