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Company:	Heritage Victoria		
Attention:	Permits		
Fax No:	Phone No:		
From:	David Wixted		
Date:	8 Jan 2024	No of pages:	+ 1 (including cover)
Your Ref:	Our Ref:		
Re:	Works to H1147 Herald Sun Sign Permanent Works to be undertaken; application for a permit		

The owners of the common property for this site are making an application for changing the neon signs to one using a "LED neon" in lieu of the existing neon tubes – this is a more recent alternate technology to historic Neon.

There has previously been a discussion on this issue and an email emerged from [REDACTED] [Heritage Victoria] in January 2022 on this subject and is attached.

Background: In June 2022, I was engaged to help the owners via The Bentleigh Group to look at this issue. I made the Bentleigh Group aware that in order to make an application there was a costly procedure to follow.

The email from [REDACTED] [Heritage Victoria] sets up something of a *Catch 22* in that some experimental work has to be done at full scale in order to apply for a permit or rather, test the effect of making a permit application. Over the last 6 months the Bentleigh Group have been in discussion about this situation with the owners and this has now led to the letter R being lit in rope neon.

This follows from 2 permit exemption applications; the first resulting in 2 trials which proved to be unsuccessful. The last Exemption covered the letter R which is close to the desired result being close in appearance to the existing original neon work although slightly brighter.

A fascia cover has been placed over the letter R in the HERALD SUN sign. The original letter has not been demounted nor has its existing fascia been removed or changed but it has a new cut out fascia placed over it. Attached to this fascia is the illuminated LED neon rope in the same arrangement as the existing sign.

The letter A [HERALD] has been repaired as neon to allow a better luminance comparison. This did not need any kind of authorisation as it's simply a repair of the gassing and tube electrodes.....*cont'd p2.*

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It is presumed this new letter **R** will be in place during the application period (as a minimum) so that Heritage Victoria and other referral agencies (National Trust and MCC) can make a judgement about the effects of the proposal which may include issues about brightness and colouring as outlined in the email from [REDACTED] [Heritage Victoria].

There is no other simple cost effective manner of doing this as the proposal has to be measured against the existing (lit) sign at night time and to this end the letter A is being repaired.

This application is NOW FOR A REPLACEMENT OF ALL THE SIGN USING A NEON ROPE LETTERING SYSTEM.

Possible Outcomes:

There are two possibilities with follow on actions:

Refusal: The applied fascias (R + L) will be removed and the neon tubes will be replaced back onto the original faces of the sign. The sign will then be back to its original condition.

Permit: The letters will have the existing neon tubes removed and a new fascia placed over each of the existing letters cut to size and LED neon rope attached to these fascias.

Regards

David Wixted
Principal architect
8 Jan 2024
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