

MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA



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9 July 2013

Coroners Court of Victoria
Level 11
222 Exhibition Street
Melbourne, VIC, 3000

Dear Sir/Madam,

Coroners Court Investigation into the death of Hayden Curtis

The Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) as the statutory peak body for local government welcomes the findings of the Hayden Curtis inquest and is willing to assist where possible.

The MAV notes that recommendation two and eight identify the MAV as the appropriate entity responsible.

In addressing recommendation two we have advised all Municipal Building Surveyors to be aware of the risks associated with demolition, alterations and extensions of old buildings and chimneys.

However, we would like to advise the Court that since the introduction of the *Building Act* in 1994, property owners have had the choice as to who issues their building permits and it is estimated that 92% of all building permits are now issued by Private Building Surveyors, not Municipal Building Surveyors.

To assist in the communication of concerns about the risks of demolition, alterations and extensions of old buildings and chimneys, the MAV suggests that the Victorian Building Authority, as the entity responsible for providing oversight of the building system, develop a communique for all building surveyors and applicants informing of the hidden risks associated with renovating older buildings.

Should you wish to discuss this matter further please contact Gareth Hately, Senior Planning Adviser on 03 9667 5596 or ghately@mav.asn.au.

Yours sincerely

Rob Spence
Chief Executive Officer

cc: Mr Dennis Hogan
Director, Regulatory Development
Victorian Building Authority