

OUR HERITAGE AT RISK 2008

The Australian Council of National Trusts announced on Saturday 25 October its 'Our Heritage at Risk' national top ten list at Currumbin Sanctuary, Queensland.

Burnie's Portside building is Tasmania's sole inclusion on the list which was derived from over 70 'Our Heritage at Risk' places throughout Australia identified by the Trusts earlier this year.

Portside building is an important part of Burnie's rich modernist influenced architectural inheritance and one that is more cohesive and apparent than that of any other city in Tasmania.



An inter-war Functional style building was designed by leading Tasmanian architect S.W.T Blythe and occupies a prominent position on the southern edge of the Burnie CBD.

The Portside building is owned by Burnie City Council, who has shown a lack of willingness to consider clever and inspired re-use of this building.

The Council has suggested that if the site is to be re-used then the current building would need to be demolished, which contravenes precedents for commercially successful adaptive re-use of heritage buildings within and beyond Tasmania.

The Trust believes that due to the considerable community concern surrounding Portside's survival, an opportunity exists to the council for re-use of the building that incorporates Burnie's rich architectural heritage which would make a vibrant contribution to the commercial life of the city.

For more information on 2008 Our Heritage at Risk lists visit www.heritageatrisk.org.au