



LIVING DOLL

Closed for Winter star Natalie Imbruglia on the film's Adelaide premiere and why she cherishes our city.

Reasons to love Adelaide, Pages 6-7

Picture: Noelle Bobrige

Secret heritage list

By ADAM TODD

HUNDREDS of city properties - including pubs, shopfronts and houses - have been grouped on a secret local heritage list collated in confidence by Town Hall.

Interim protection orders will

be placed on listed properties before owners are notified of their inclusion on the register - expected to be rubber-stamped by the City Council this month - to prevent their demolition.

City developers aware of the survey are predicting a fierce backlash once the list - compiled

on the advice of independent consultants Donovan & Associates - is made public.

Maras Group chairman and East End landlord Theo Maras said property owners were in the dark as to whether their holdings were affected.

"Nobody is aware of the list

because it's been very tightly contained, but I think there will be a lot of people absolutely and totally opposed to it," he said.

"It's immoral, it's self-serving, it's divisive.

"I don't think that it does anything for heritage, for certainty, for investment and certainly it

does nothing for the image of our state as something that looks forward."

Property Council state director Nathan Paine said the survey would have a negative impact on the value of listed properties, (see separate story).

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Secret city divide

Owners to feel crunch

FROM PAGE 10A

The survey in Town Hall's first heritage survey zone and is expected to be cleared off by the council as a confidential list (this month).

The *City Messenger* under stands there are about 800 properties on the list, but not many public, social organisations on the list and family streets and many houses throughout the square area.

It is understood many of the properties in the list were included in the 1993 survey but those removed because of other property type or owners at the time.

The list will need to be reviewed and approved before the consultation can start which could take several weeks or months away.

Cr Anne Moran predicts a "boom" would erupt once property owners found out their buildings were on the list.

"There's an explosion now because nobody knows what we're doing, but wait until those letters go out and people realise that they're listed," she said.

Cr Moran and Richard Hayward tried to bring the matter out of confidence at last week's



HERITAGE BATTLE: Maras Group chairman Theo Maras is critical of the secrecy surrounding Town Hall's heritage list, and, right from top, Cr Sandy Wilkinson, Cr Anne Moran and Nathan Paine.

annual meeting, so the full list would be viewed by the public before it was finalised. However, besides Lord Mayor Michael Harbison and Cr Bill Zaharis, they did not have the support of other councillors.

The previous City Council undertook a similar survey of the North Adelaide area in 2007, but all deliberations were held in public.

Cr Hayward said Town Hall should not be heritage listing "behind people's backs".

Cr Sandy Wilkinson said he supported keeping the list a

secret. He said many properties listed in the 1993 survey, but objected to, had since changed hands. "People's attitudes and understanding of heritage has evolved since then too," he said.

The 1993 survey, known as Townscape, caused an uproar when about 450 city property owners objected to being listed. One listed property that was dropped, circa-1850s Edgehill, on the Mills/Strangways terrace corner at North Adelaide, was eventually demolished.

TOWN Hall's confidential heritage survey will have a negative impact on the value of listed properties, the Property Council says.

North Adelaide National Park said it was the wrong time to be undertaking a heritage survey.

"We're not opposed to reasonable heritage listings in the CBD, but we are at the moment in terms of the global financial crisis," he said.

"It certainly will have an impact on the value of properties, particularly as it's all up to the state as to which properties are going to be listed."

Paine cited the example of listing a one-storey heritage property in a suburb where zoning slashed the site's potential land value.

"The council has been secretive in the way it's doing this and I'm starting to hear murmurs of concern about what this will mean for potential developments and buildings in the city," he said. "The guidelines as to what constitutes a heritage property and what doesn't haven't really changed (since 1993 when the last survey was undertaken), it just seems that we're going through the process again."

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NRM Update

Tackling pest species head on.

Combating pest plants and animals is a key ingredient in effectively managing our precious natural resources. The Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges Natural Resources Management (NRM) Board funds skilled staff like David Hughes and Police Sailer to work close with property owners to help combat the spread of invasive species.

Board officers, across the region, provide professional assistance in weed identification and advice on control measures.

Learning about responsible property ownership.

Each year, many people look for a free change sweeping up for a better lifestyle. David says that some people who do rural living are some that fall away from what they are getting into when it comes to management. There is a number of legal responsibilities including weed removal, pest animal control and watercourse management.

People considering taking on a new property are encouraged to find out more about the responsibilities of property ownership. For more information contact your nearest NRM Board - Lobethal 8389 6166, or phone 8551 2421, David 8551 7700

www.admnrmsa.gov.au

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