

News Release

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Tony Piccolo MP

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Libs Set To Demolish Heritage Bill

The State Liberal Opposition has signalled its intention to oppose a bill introduced by Light MP Tony Piccolo that would give greater protection to heritage zones in commercial areas.

Mr Piccolo's Private Member's Bill has the support half of all independents but will likely fail because no Liberal Party member (in either house) is likely to cross the floor and support the Bill.

Mr Piccolo said the Bill is likely to be one vote short, and it is very disappointing that no Liberal in either House of Parliament has been prepared to put aside partisan politics in support of protecting our heritage.

"The Liberal party makes such a song and dance about their member's right to exercise a conscience vote on any matter, but when it comes to the crunch they all buckle under the pressure"

"Not one Liberal, including local Liberals have been prepared to stand up and be counted on this issue"

"Yet again the Liberal opposition has put up another road block and run for cover, the short sightedness of those opposite is simply pathetic" said Mr Piccolo

Mr Piccolo said while the Bill affords streetscapes more protection from painting which detracts from other historic buildings, importantly the Bill, removes an existing anomaly in the application of the Development Act where there is no change in land-use but a change in tenancy or landowner.

"The Bill will create a level playing field for all businesses in historic conservation zones, particularly in country and regional towns"

"After all, this is not a Labor government Bill ... which one might expect the Liberals to oppose for purely political reasons. Instead, I moved this as a Private members Bill hoping that members of parliament might accept it in a bi-partisan way."

"I am sad to say the liberals wouldn't support the Bill - even after I amended it to address their concerns."

The Gawler Council, the Local Government Association and the Planning Institute support the Bill.

Mr Piccolo said he was always open to suggestions to improve the Bill.

The Bill goes to a final vote in the upper house shortly.