Delia Taylor

Over the past seven years Delia Taylor has worked in the group now known as Heritage Assets, Building Victoria, and has spent periods in administration of heritage legislation at the Historic Buildings Council [now the Heritage Council]. Privately, Delia is involved in active conservation advocacy through City Watch, a small but influential group of design professionals concerned about urban conservation issues. She is also a Councillor of the National Trust of Australia.

An occupied building is a maintained building [abstract]

The Heritage Assets branch of the Office of Building, Department of Planning and Development, has been involved in the re-planning and restoration of a number of the significant 19th century government buildings in Melbourne and country Victoria. The buildings that will be discussed include the Supreme Court of Victoria, the Old Treasury Building and the Bendigo Court House. These buildings had fallen into patterns of under and inappropriate use, and in the case of both court buildings, noises were beginning to be made about the unsuitability of the buildings.

By the development of pro-active, use-focussed conservation policies, the Heritage Assets branch has been able to foster and encourage incremental restoration, and through this process has built a base of goodwill and trust with the client groups. Successful restorations in major public buildings tend to have a flow-on effect through government departments and we believe this work, in association with the typological surveys being undertaken within the branch, will add to the viability and revived interest in many otherwise neglected smaller country and suburban buildings.

In providing for new uses, the Heritage Assets branch looks to the original intended functional and circulation planning of a building, and through the evaluation of the significance of these spaces, provides clues for the adaptation and re-use of the building.

The branch is always keen to evaluate the opportunities of old and new technology and is looking for smarter ways to achieve servicing reticulation through buildings, and restoration and preservation of their surfaces.

The philosophies and practice of the Heritage Assets branch of Building Victoria is discussed, including specific case studies.