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FRIENDS OF OLD MOAMA

"Dedicated to the preservation of our heritage"

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Date 11.03.2013

Mr. G. Murdoch
General Manager,
Murray Shire Council,
PO Box 21,
MATHOURA. 2710.

Dear Mr. Murdoch,

The Friends of Old Moama have become increasingly concerned about proposed development within close proximity to the Old Telegraph Station in Chanter Street. As you are aware, this section of Chanter Street between Winall Street (now the levee bank) and Victoria Street encompasses the area that was the original settlement of Moama.

We understand that present changes in the zoning of the area incorporated into the LEP do provide greater restriction upon the level and type of development control that may occur, but are not convinced that the outcomes will always be considered to conserve the historical context of the area.

The Friends seek to strengthen the level of development control within the area and would expect Murray Shire to be supportive of our efforts to protect important heritage on behalf of present and future residents of Moama. It is our belief that this can best be achieved by Council giving due consideration to incorporating Old Moama as a Heritage Precinct in the LEP.

Although there are few surviving buildings and relics now, this should not be misinterpreted as a distraction from the high level of local significance the wider area encompasses. Old Moama demonstrates clearly both social and historical values. The buildings, particularly the Telegraph Station, also are of aesthetic value in the local context.

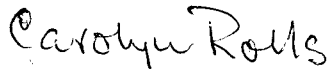
We understand that to have 'Old Moama Heritage Precinct' incorporated into the LEP, certain steps need to be taken – preparation of Statements of Significance for each of the remaining buildings and relics located within the area, together with a Statement of Significance for the Precinct. This will outline key aspects of *How*, *What* and *Why* the building relic or precinct is significant and provide guidance on how change is managed within the precinct. The Friends have undertaken research on most of the buildings concerned and would be happy to provide this information.

While our main reason for making this approach is as stated - greater protection from unsuitable development - we also believe there would be considerable tourism benefits from being able to 'market' this section of Chanter St. as 'Old Moama Heritage Precinct' or 'Old Moama Heritage Conservation Area'.

Few people coming to Moama today are aware of the compelling story of this once bustling centre of activity that was a fundamental - yet somewhat forgotten - part of the stock route that facilitated the movement of cattle and other livestock from southern Queensland and northern New South Wales into Victoria, through the use of Maiden's early punt. The annihilation of the settlement by the 1870 flood adds interest to the story. We believe incorporating the area as a special precinct in the LEP would enable Old Moama to be promoted to tourists, bearing in mind that in future years we look forward steamers carrying passengers able to disembark in the vicinity of Maiden's Punt Reserve.

We welcome the opportunity for further discussion on this matter.

Yours sincerely



**Carolyn Rolls
Hon. secretary**