COUNCIL IN BID TO STOP DEVELOPERS DEMOLISHING BUILDING

The building is the subject of a planning permit application for its demolition, with developers hoping to build six double-storey units on the site.

The council refused the building application in August last year, but the decision was appealed and will now go to a VCAT hearing on April 14.

However, a motion was passed at last week's council meeting to protect the building by applying to provide it with a heritage overlay.

The council had received 12 submissions about the proposal, 10 of which were in support of the overlay, while the other two submissions were opposed — one of which came from the owner of the site.

The house is considered historic because it belonged to Mr Taylor, an agricultural machinery designer, who lived on the site from 1931 and had the house built in 1938, where he lived until his death in 1987.

Mr Taylor invented a number of top-of-the-line harvesters.

The council’s chair of administrators’ John Watson has said the council is continuing efforts to provide heritage protection for the historic building.

He said the council would ask the Minister for Planning to appoint an independent panel to review unresolved submissions relating to the proposed amendment.

“Amendment C180 is proposed to recognise the former Sunshine Boys Hostel as a building of individual heritage significance,” Mr Watson said.

“The Durham Rd property has a general heritage overlay as part of the McKay Housing Estate precinct, requiring a permit before any of its buildings can be altered or demolished.

“However, the house does not have an individual heritage overlay.”

“The introduction of a heritage overlay amendment is aimed at ensuring that any alterations and additions to heritage buildings do not impact negatively on the heritage quality,” Mr Watson said.