

No heritage listing for pool

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MONASH Council has resisted a Heritage Council of Victoria recommendation and declined to list the Oakleigh pool site for local heritage protection.

Last week, the Heritage Council of Victoria upheld an earlier recommendation by Heritage Victoria that the pool was of local, but not state, significance.

HCV chairwoman Chris Gallagher

said the pool was “locally important in terms of its aesthetic, architectural, historical and social values”, but any decision on local heritage protection rested with Monash Council.

She said a local heritage listing would “provide statutory recognition of the pool’s heritage values and the opportunity for ongoing community input to any future decisions which potentially affect the local heritage significance of the place”.

No submissions were received dur-

ing a 60-day submission period.

In June, the council announced a \$7 million redevelopment of the site, including the refurbishment of the swimming and diving pools and change rooms — one year after the council voted to close the site.

A Monash Council spokeswoman said it had not changed its position about leaving the pool off the heritage register.

Asked if the pool’s redevelopment would be affected if there was local

heritage protection, the spokeswoman said: “There is no local heritage listing.”

Community Life Action Group spokeswoman Julie Clearwater said local heritage protection would give “more certainty” that the pool would remain.

Oakleigh and District Historical Society vice-president Helen Gobbi said the Heritage Council of Victoria decision gave greater moral obligation for the council to protect the pool.