



No fan of 'ugly building'

JOHN MASANAUSKAS

A SENIOR Naphthine Government minister has slammed heritage groups for trying to save ugly buildings.

Planning Minister Matthew Guy has queried Heritage Victoria's recommendation that the former Hoyts Cinema Centre in Bourke St be heritage-listed.

Mr Guy said the Hoyts building and the Total carpark on the corner of Russell and Lt Bourke streets were considered worthy due to their modernist "brutalist" style.

"I don't think we should be saving ugly buildings in Melbourne," he said.

Developer AXF has submitted an application for a 68-level hotel-apartment complex for the Total site.

Tristan Davies, from Melbourne Heritage Action, said the Hoyts and Total buildings were landmarks. But Tony De Domenico, from developers' lobby the Urban Development Institute of Australia, said: "There are some people who don't want any change at all in the way Melbourne looks."