



7 August 2018

Future Melbourne Committee
City of Melbourne
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Re: Agenda Item 6.4—Queen Victoria Market Precinct Renewal Program—New Engagement Approach for the delivery of Market Infrastructure

Dear Councillors,

The National Trust of Australia (Victoria) is pleased to provide our strong support for the proposed new engagement approach regarding the Queen Victoria Market Precinct Renewal Program.

We are also pleased to note Council's adoption on 31 July of new governance arrangements for the Queen Victoria Market, including greater trader, customer and community input on key renewal and strategic operational considerations.

The proposed People's Panel engagement approach is consistent with our response following Heritage Victoria's refusal of the City of Melbourne's heritage permit application, imploring Council to work with Heritage Victoria, traders, the community, and the National Trust, to reach an equitable outcome which respects the heritage of the market, and provides for much-needed maintenance and conservation works.

This approach recognises the cultural and social significance of the Queen Victoria Market, which is now recognised at a national level.

We welcome the use of a deliberative engagement methodology which is not based on a pre-determined outcome, providing an opportunity for consultation to meaningfully influence the renewal process, and provide greater transparency of decision-making.

We support the proposed provision of detailed information to participants regarding the issues being considered as part of the renewal process, including heritage, safety and compliance, and commercial issues, to facilitate meaningful discussion and analysis.

While we understand the City of Melbourne's desire for the renewal process to move forward, we encourage Council to ensure that adequate time and resources are provided for this process, to ensure that the outcome is meaningful, transparent, and one of integrity, which can provide a greater level of confidence and certainty for both the City of Melbourne and community stakeholders moving forward.

The National Trust of Australia (Victoria) would be happy to participate in this initiative, and provide any further support which may be of assistance. We commend the City of Melbourne for embarking on this process of consultation, which reflects the high level of significance of the market to the community, and the complexity of the issues facing the market.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'F Watson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Felicity Watson
Advocacy Manager