



## **ROYAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA INC.**

239 A'Beckett Street, Melbourne 3000

2 June 2020

### **Submission to Future Melbourne Committee**

#### **Agenda Item 6.4 Market Square Charter and Place Name**

We welcome the opportunity to comment on the proposed Market Square Charter.

We regret that the RHSV was not consulted in the drafting of the Charter. We have been stakeholders in major city issues for 109 years and we are located a short block from the site. Moreover, as an organisation, we have been intimately involved in QVM issues.

We put a great deal of effort into the People's Panel and we regret that Council has so far not acted in accordance with many of the Panel's key recommendations (see Appendix, below). Fortunately, Future Melbourne Committee is now considering the Charter. We see this as an opportunity to revise the Charter, which we see as urgent on three key fronts.

1) The Charter in its present draft fails to recognise and include that the QVM space now used as a car park is an integral part of the QVM heritage site, both for heritage and for planning purposes, as well as an integral part of the market and its functioning.

The Market Square/existing car park is an integral part of the Queen Victoria Market. It is included in both the National and Victorian heritage registration of the market. The extent of heritage registration extends to Franklin Street and reflects the fact that the whole of the site has been part of the market since its inception in 1878 and that it includes the Franklin Street stores as well as the burial sites of the market's pre-history. Any works or alterations there are subject to Heritage Victoria's approval and beyond that to the Commonwealth Heritage Division/Australia Heritage Council.

We are particularly concerned that, from the Preamble, the draft Charter speaks of the site as 'public open space' either without reference to its position as an integral part of the QVM heritage site or at best mentions that position as an afterthought.

We submit the Preamble should begin as follows: 'Market Square is the name now given to an open space within the Queen Victoria Market heritage registered place, a place of and for the community.'

We further submit that language throughout the Charter should reflect this description of Market Square.

2) The Charter in its present draft presents Market Square as operating independently of if not in opposition to the major trading functions of the Queen Victoria Market. Maintenance of the QVM as a traditional market is fundamental to its heritage status. All market spaces, including Market Square, should support this basic function, without which the heritage function of the space would be at risk.

We note that the ‘Background’ section correctly lists the significant functions of the space in appropriate order. The wording of the first two is acceptable as it stands:

- Market Square is on the lands of the Eastern Kulin...
- The square is within the site of Melbourne’s first official cemetery...

The third point (‘also shaped by its relationship to the Queen Victoria Market’) needs revision as follows:

- Since 1878, what will now be known as Market Square has been part of the Queen Victoria Market, now a heritage site. Its function as part of the QVM continues to evolve but it will remain an integral part of the market’s functioning. Future open space and recreational uses must ensure that neither its inclusion in a heritage site nor its role in the market’s functioning are compromised.

The Principles need to be revised and prioritised in line with the Background section with our proposed revision.

3) Given the changing circumstances, the Charter should ensure flexibility of use of Market Square in the future.

We submit therefore that the Charter should include the December 2020 resolution of Council that the design include ‘a requirement for robust surfaces and paving treatments in appropriate areas to meet the operational needs of traders and the community at QVM, including vehicle access at designated times’. This amendment would make Market Square flexible and able to respond to changing conditions in the future.

4) We submit finally that Charter should include reference to management of the Heritage Market Square Open Space through a steering committee to include representative stakeholders, traders, the National Trust, the RHSV and Friends of Queen Victoria Market, to safeguard the above

Subsequently, a representative project steering committee should be constituted to oversee the design brief for the Market Square in the light of the People’s Panel recommendations and of changes in social behaviour post-Covid-19. Such a committee must involve trader representatives elected through their association as well as other stakeholders and heritage organisations.

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