

Update, January 2023

In a submission to Heritage Victoria in September 2022, the RHSV objected to a proposal to install freestanding, lockable shipping container pods within Sheds A and E at the Queen Victoria Market. It argued that the proposed changes would disrupt sight lines in and along the open sheds, and fundamentally change the basic nature of the site as an open-air market with shed roofs for shelter. It argued that the proposal represented a massive loss in the essential heritage values of the most historic part of the market and a serious threat to its social and cultural significance.

On 20 December 2022, the Executive Director of Heritage Victoria conditionally approved a permit for the installation of twenty shipping container pods within Shed A in the Upper Market and various infrastructure in Sheds B, C and D in the Upper Market, for a trial period of no more than two years.

The RHSV's key concern is the effect of closing off the interface with Peel Street, which we believed would disrupt view lines and customer access to traders around the northern sections of Sheds B to D. A condition of the approved permit is the retention of pedestrian access between Sheds B and C, from Peel Street to Centre Walkway. An additional concern is the cumulative impact of introducing fixed structures across the sheds. Heritage Victoria has noted the potential for cumulative and ongoing visual harm and has issued the permit for a trial period of two years only.