



CARLTON RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Carlton Residents Association Discussion Paper Response to the: Review of the Royal Exhibition Buildings and Carlton Gardens World Heritage Management Plan.

The Carlton Residents Association would like to offer their sincere thanks for the opportunity to be included in the consultation for this significant review and look forward to further involvement.

Response to WORLD HERITAGE MANAGEMENT PLAN

We believe that a high degree of coordination is needed for the management of the Royal Exhibition Buildings, the Museum, The Carlton Gardens and the World Heritage Environs Area.

Some residents believe that there are some shortcomings in management at the moment. These could be remedied within the existing structure or by adopting another management model.

We do not offer any suggested details here.

Responses to the Four Component Documents that assist in the overall management of REB&CG.

Attachment A. Conservation Management Plan. (MV & COM)

- We do not encourage any commercial activities in the REB, Museum and Carlton Gardens other than the existing uses. For special exhibitions there is of course, the need for commercial uses for the duration of the exhibition. For example in the annual Garden Show.
- Signage projects would have to be very carefully handled as they can easily lead to visual pollution as well as an invitation to destruction by graffiti vandals.
- Introduction of World Heritage days could be very worthwhile.
- Periodic assessment of tree health is crucial.

Attachment B. Carlton Gardens Master Plan. (COM)

- We recommend that the whole area of the Carlton Gardens as well as the Exhibition Reserve be managed by one body.
- Fully agree with retention of the tennis courts, basketball court and playground.
- The state of the aging trees is of great concern – can we share the arborist who looks after the Fitzroy or Botanical gardens?
- Many residents of Carlton have been using the gardens for 50+ years, and while many improvements have been noticed we believe this unique site deserves at least as much care and attention as the nearby Fitzroy gardens and the Botanical gardens.

Attachment C. REB & Exhibition Reserve Master Plan (MV)

- Management should arrange a well designed screen with retractable gates to screen the waste bins on the south side of the REB.
- As stated in Attachment A, signage projects would have to be very carefully handled as they can easily lead to visual pollution as well as an invitation to destruction by graffiti “artists”.
- Capital works prioritised – the gravel forecourt is an ugly dust bowl (fine in Paris but not here) and we would suggest some beautifully designed capital works as befitting its status.



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Attachment D. World Heritage Strategy Plan

- Buffer Zone. We support the rewording of the Statement of Significance and also agree that the Statement of Significance should apply to the whole buffer zone. The concept of an area of greater sensitivity within the World Heritage Environs Area should now apply to the whole WHEA.
- The World Heritage Environs Areas are currently controlled by the Planning schemes of Melbourne and Yarra. The controls cover Heritage protection, Building form and sight lines to and from the REB. The two Councils take the Planning Scheme controls for WHEA into account when assessing planning applications.
- A change is needed so that the REB and the CG are made a referral authority. As Heritage Victoria has the necessary expertise, they could become the referral authority acting on your behalf. This will give weight to the control in the WHEA in line with the World Heritage obligations.
- Other Changes. The Referral Authority status should also be introduced for changes made by the Victorian Government bodies or by the two Municipalities (and in rarer cases by the Commonwealth). The changes could include the following – Buildings or structures on Municipal or Government land sub- stations, council buildings etc. Public areas including roads and parks. This would include road works, signs, landscaping etc. Public transport and associated structures. Hospitals, educational buildings etc. Heritage and other buildings on streets surrounding Carlton are particularly important including both private and public uses such as St. Vincent's Hospital.
- Design and Development Overlays. Because of the World Status and State significance of the site and its environs, we urge the Minister for Planning and the Melbourne City Council to amend planning schemes and be ever diligent and protective of the whole environs area. The recent approval by the Minister for Planning of the Heritage Policies Review Planning Scheme (C258) is nothing short of a disaster for the Heritage of the City of Melbourne. The impact on the Carlton Community of the new inventories and policies cannot be over emphasised.
- Visual Aspects of the Site. We fully agree that the visibility of the REB is an important aspect of its prominence especially within the buffer zone and the locations for view considerations of the Dome and Drum must include all transport intersections. This is another reason for extending the WHEA.
- Planning Scheme Amendments. We agree that the preparation and approval amendment of planning (C154) and (C118) within the WHEA is carefully and openly dealt with the approval of all stakeholders.
- Best Practice. We agree that the REB is a rare and outstanding building. A site such as this, worthy of World Significance should be mentioned in clause 15.03 of the State Planning scheme (Heritage) and in the State Policies for Tourism and Community Facilities.
- The CRA has made submissions regarding the WHEA that include the extension of the WHEA, in line with your consultant's recommendations. Also the inclusion of pockets of land that are currently not included such as 125-139 Rathdowne Street, Carlton.
- Description. It is our understanding that the 125 – 139 Rathdowne St., a significant early 20th century three storied brick building, is the former Children's Hospital nurses' home – and then became St Nicholas Hospital. (See plaque at the corner of Pelham and Rathdowne Streets)
- Design and Development Overlays. We propose that a consistent set of DDOs covering all areas of the WHEA be marked as a top priority.
- Governance and Management Control. We can see an urgent need for State level management controls especially in the areas of the Carlton Precinct (H01)

Trish O'Loughlin, Peter Sanders, Ewan Ogilvy for CRA

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