

Mr Steven Avery
Executive Director
Heritage Victoria
Level 10, 2 Lonsdale Street
MELBOURNE VIC 3000

17 April 2023

Dear Mr Avery

Re: Permit Application P37911 – Caulfield Racecourse (H2415)

I refer to a request for further information (RFI) received from Heritage Victoria, dated 22 February 2023, in relation to permit application P37911 for the construction of a new two-storey ‘Glasshouse’ building and associated landscaping works at the north-east end of the racecourse. This correspondence has been prepared on behalf of Melbourne Racing Club to provide the additional information requested in the RFI.

The information requested in the RFI is in relation to a referral response from the City of Glen Eira which raised concern with the proposed tree removal, particularly as related to the removal of two English Elm trees within the proposed car park area. The referral response states that the arborist report included as part of the permit application documentation had recommended these trees for retention. It is noted however that there was a discrepancy in the application documentation – the Landscape plan prepared by Arcadia (Issue 3, 18 August 2022) indicated that the arborist recommendation was to retain and implement tree protection measures for trees 11 and 12. However the Preliminary Arboricultural Assessment prepared by McLeod Trees (V3, 19 August 2022) recognised the removal of the English Elm trees (nos. 11 and 12) as part of the proposed works and did not recommend these for retention.

Notwithstanding this discrepancy, the proposed car park configuration has been revised to allow for the retention of the two English Elm trees in the existing location. These revisions are shown on the enclosed revised Landscape plan - Caulfield Racecourse Glasshouse Town Planning Report, prepared by Arcadia (Issue 4, 7 March 2023), submitted for endorsement to replace the previous application documentation. An updated Preliminary Arboricultural Assessment prepared by McLeod Trees (V4, 15 March 2023) and updated HIS addressing the revised proposal also accompanies this correspondence.

The proposal for tree removal within the car park area has been reduced and now comprises a total of six trees, five of which were previously identified to be removed (tree nos. 8, 9, 10 - Acacias, 14 – Banksia, and 16 – water gum), and additionally one tree which is now proposed for removal as a result of the car park reconfiguration to retain the English Elm trees. This is tree no. 7, which is a juvenile cypress tree to the west of the two English Elms. This tree was identified as being of low arborist value in the Arboricultural Assessment as submitted with the application documentation (McLeod Trees, 19

August 2022) and in the updated report as appended (McLeod Trees, 15 March 2023). From a heritage perspective, this is not an established tree which contributes to the landscape setting of the racecourse.

Subsequently to the preparation of the City of Glen Eira referral response, the racecourse has been included in the Victorian Heritage Register. The VHR statement of significance for the place states that the place is significant including for the 'remaining mature trees in the northern precinct which enhance the setting of the collection of historic buildings.' None of the trees proposed for removal are included as part of the surviving mature trees in the northern precinct of the racecourse. There will be no adverse heritage impact from the reconfiguration of the car park and removal of six trees as proposed.

This response is provided to assist in the assessment of permit application P37911 for the proposal for a new two-storey 'Glasshouse' building and associated landscaping works at Caulfield Racecourse.

I trust the information submitted provides the additional information as requested, but please contact the undersigned on [REDACTED] should any additional information be required.

Yours sincerely
Lovell Chen



Michelle Knehans
Senior Associate