

Gate G Justification – Heritage Victoria

Gate G

Proposed relocation of Gate G and a new fence construction works, a permit application would need to clearly articulate why such changes are required under s101(2)(b) of the Heritage Act 2017 which relates to 'the extent to which the application, if refused, would affect the reasonable or economic use of the registered place or registered object'. Rationale for reasonable use in this case should discuss what purpose the proposed changes would serve the place (i.e., for safety, visitor experience and/or maintenance) and appropriate response to heritage values (i.e., original heritage fabric, addition of new fabric). Any new proposed City Gate entrance and associated new fencing (to respond to the proposed realignment of the fence line) would also need to be carefully designed to minimise impact on the Temple of the Winds, rockery and escarpment. Previous feedback given on the Draft Melbourne Gardens Master Plan in 2019 noted that Heritage Victoria would strongly support and encourage the identification and relocation of significant plantings.

Issue	Resolution
Safety/Security	
Fence Safety - The current fence line has spikes on the top of all vertical members as well as barbed wire strung above the fence panels to act as an added deterrent to fence scaling due the fact that most panels do not have sufficient height. This practice does still occur resulting in injury and risk of litigation.	Proposed replacement fence panels will be 1.8m which is high enough to deter most scaling attempts. The new panel will not have spikes on vertical members and will not require barbed wire to make up additional height.
Locked in Patrons – patrons on occasions are still onsite after closing. This can be unintentional or intentional. When this occurs, the mechanism to gain exit is to call the after-hours security number and wait for someone to arrive to site to open a gate. Some patrons are impatient and take the undesired act of scaling the fence.	Installation of an automated after-hours gate opening (and closing) mechanism.
Site Security – due to the height of current fence and integrity of gates unauthorised access into the Royal Botanic Gardens is easily achievable if someone has the inclination to do so.	Restoration and resetting of gates to allow for appropriate security integrity. Replacement of fence panels to increase fence height to a secure height.
Visitor Experience	
Currently existing fence line and gates disrupt the natural flow of the landscape character between the Domain Parklands and the Royal Botanic Gardens. Existing gates and surrounds are not befitting of a world class botanic garden.	Re-positioning of G Gate and the fence line closer to the Temple of the Winds and creating a rich planting around the gate in the Guilfoyle style will greatly enhance this as a botanically rich entrance into a world class botanic garden. The position of the new gates close to the recently renovated Temple of the Winds with its renovated Guilfoyle rockeries and escarpment, magnificent vistas across the

	<p>Northeast of Melbourne, and the proposed new planting will provide an outstanding visitor experience.</p> <p>The position of the gates has been sensitively selected so that site lines to the Temple of the Winds are not compromised.</p> <p>There will be an opportunity at this entry point to interpret the layered and rich history of Place.</p> <p>The removal of the fence between G Gate and Lych Gate will allow for a continual flow of the current "park like" landscape character, creating a seamless transition between the Domain Parklands and Royal Botanic Gardens. This will also allow garden elements of the Domain such as the Fern Gully Grotto and the Pillars of Wisdom to be better integrated into the total landscape.</p> <p>Any significant rare or threatened plant material that currently sits outside the proposed new alignment will be relocated to within the gardens and integrated into the new planting design.</p> <p>Realignment of the gates and fence will increase 24/7 green space available to the public.</p>
Plant material	Improve planting and build on the current collection of plants that prevails in this area with a focus on succulent species
Original Heritage Fabric	
The proposed changes may present a risk to existing heritage fabric	<p>The Royal Botanic Gardens are committed to retaining and restoring Lych Gate in its current location. Any restoration works will be dependent on securing funding.</p> <p>The Royal Botanic Gardens are committed to working with Heritage Victoria to appropriately acknowledge the historic alignment of the gates and fence.</p>
Economic Use	
The Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria, like most organisations, are under increasing pressure to increase revenue streams to ensure long term viability. One of the ways that has been identified to do this is through functions and events, while limiting impacts of overall site amenity.	The Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne Master Plan 2020 – 2040 identified the area between the Temple of the Winds and the current G Gate fence alignment as a suitable location for a small amphitheatre and the necessary discrete infrastructure.

	<p>The realignment of the fence would enable the Royal Botanic Gardens to further explore this option with the relevant stakeholders including a shared use opportunities with the City of Melbourne.</p> <p>Support for the relocation of G Gate is not seen as an endorsement of the amphitheatre project.</p>
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