

## Caulfield Racecourse (PROV H2415)

Q and As – 21 October 2022

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### The Place

Caulfield Racecourse was formally established as a racecourse reserve in 1876, although races have been run in this location since the late 1850s. It is one of Victoria's and Australia's premier racecourses, and one of only three major metropolitan racecourses in Victoria in operation since the nineteenth century. Since 1879 it has been home to the Caulfield Cup, an internationally renowned handicap race, and a key qualifying event to the Melbourne Cup. The collection of historic buildings and structures demonstrate the development of the place throughout the twentieth century and represent important race day functions including the preparation of horses, betting, officiating of races and the provision of hospitality.

### What has happened?

On 27 January 2022, the Heritage Council served an Interim Protection Order (IPO) for Caulfield Racecourse. The IPO had the effect of immediately including Caulfield Racecourse in the Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) until the Heritage Council makes a determination to include or not include the place in the VHR or withdraws the IPO.

Heritage Victoria was required to make a recommendation to the Heritage Council on whether to include the place in the VHR within 60 days of the IPO being served. On 16 March 2022, the Executive Director, Heritage Victoria recommended to include Caulfield Racecourse in the VHR. A hearing is being held in November 2022 after which time the Heritage Council will determine to include or include the place in the VHR.

At the time that the IPO was served, a major redevelopment of Caulfield Racecourse had commenced. Since January 2022, Heritage Victoria has issued a number of permits and permit exemptions for works.

On 21 October 2022, a heritage permit with conditions was issued by the Executive Director for the most substantial part of the redevelopment. The permit allows for:

*Works associated with Work Packages 3 and 4 to the Northern Precinct including Demolition works (including to some historic 1950s Day Stalls, the Maple Building, and the temporary removal, storage and relocation of Canary Island Date Palms), Construction works (including new subterranean and ground level horse race day infrastructure, administration building, and public forecourt to Station Street), Conservation works to the 1920s Day Stalls (including dismantling, storage, and reconstruction), Afternoon Tea Building, Betting (Totalisator) Board and Scratchings Board Building, and associated hard and soft Landscaping works.*

The permit was issued for the following reasons:

- The works, alone and in combination with previous approvals, will result in a substantial physical and visual change to the Place.
- The works are required to facilitate the current and ongoing use of the Place, contributing to the continuation and protection of the Place's historic use as a racecourse. The historic and ongoing use of the place as a racecourse contributes to its cultural heritage significance. Therefore, a level of development to ensure that the Place meets contemporary industry standards is considered appropriate.
- The permit requires the retention of two Elms (Trees 5 and 6) and the retention of additional 1920s and 1950s Day Stalls. Together with conservation works to the Day Stalls, Betting (Totalisator) Board Building, Scratchings Board Building and Afternoon Tea Building these actions are important in mitigating the loss of heritage fabric and permanent change to the Place. The conservation works to the Main Gate approved under a previous permit exemption is also considered to be a mitigating action.

- The new forecourt design and replacement of the main gatehouse with a new entry, including two entrance portals, will alter the relationship between Caulfield Racecourse and Caulfield Railway Station (H1665). It is understood that there are operating requirements to change the entrance structure including public safety. Limiting the height and visual prominence of the entry portals will go some way to limiting the impact of these works.
- Refusal of the application would impact the ongoing economic functioning and sustainability of the Place.

**What happens now?**

The Heritage Council can be requested to review the Executive Director's decision to issue the permit. The request can only be made by the permit applicant, owner or government asset manager, or a person with a real and substantial interest in the place.