

## Queen Victoria Market (VHR H0734)

Q and As – 20 December 2022

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### The Place

The Queen Victoria Market is of historical, archaeological, social, architectural and aesthetic significance to the State of Victoria and is included in the Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) under the *Heritage Act 2017*. There are around 2,400 places and objects in the Victorian Heritage Register located across Victoria. Any changes to state listed heritage places and objects require a permit or a permit exemption from Heritage Victoria.

The Queen Victoria Market is one of the great nineteenth century markets of Victoria and has been in continual operation as a retail market since the 1870s. The Queen Victoria Market is the site of Melbourne's first official cemetery, which was in use between 1837 and 1854, and intermittently from 1854 until its final closure in 1917.

### What has happened?

On 16 February 2022, Heritage Victoria received a heritage permit application for a proposal to install shipping container pods within Shed A and infrastructure to allow for storage and business-to-business operations in Sheds B, C and D in the Upper Market of Queen Victoria Market.

The proposal was to allow for safe and secure storage for trader boxes and to formalise the business-to-business trader area which had been established during COVID conditions. The proposal also included provision for freestanding lockable shipping container pods in Shed A.

The permit application was publicly advertised between 31 August and 13 September 2022 and 56 submissions were received. 39 submissions supported the proposal and 17 submissions cited concerns relating to heritage impacts.

On 20 December 2022, a heritage permit with conditions was issued by the Executive Director for the following reasons:

- The proposed works contribute to the ongoing viability of the historic use of the place, which contributes to its significance, as well as its protection and conservation.
- Although there is concern that the works cut off a significant proportion of the open sheds from public access both physically and visually and that the historic use of the place is changed, it is noted that change has occurred at Queen Victoria Market over time and that some level of change will be required into the future to ensure the place remains relevant and viable.
- There is potential for cumulative and ongoing visual harm and it is therefore recommended that the permit be issued for a trial period of two years only.

The conditions of the permit required the removal of the shipping containers proposed to be located at the ends of Sheds B, C and D, as well as the retention of pedestrian access between Shed B and Shed C, from Peel Street to Centre Walkway.

### What happens now?

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