

## Queen Victoria Market (VHR H0734)

### Q&As

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#### Background

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 on 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?

There are guidelines developed in 2011 for the design requirements of stalls, refrigeration units, cool rooms and signage for Sheds A, B, H and I. These can be accessed at <http://images.heritage.vic.gov.au/attachment/65305>

In April 2021, Heritage Victoria requested the removal of a non-compliant refrigerated display unit which had been installed in I Shed at Queen Victoria Market. The unit did not conform to Queen Victoria Market's '*Guidelines for refrigerated storage within the Open Sheds*' or '*Food stalls in Sheds A, B, H and I*' and was subsequently unplugged and covered.

On 25 June 2021, a permit application was lodged with Heritage Victoria for the reinstatement of the refrigerated display unit. The permit application was publicly advertised for two weeks from 14 July 2021 and there were 69 public submissions made.

In determining a permit application, the Executive Director of Heritage Victoria must consider a range of factors including the impact of proposed works on the registered place, and reasonable and economic use of the place, any submissions made in the public advertisement period and other factors.

On 13 October 2021 the Executive Director determined to refuse the permit for following reasons:

- The refrigerated display unit is proposed to address changing consumers expectations and Food Safety Standards – both of which could already be addressed within the existing Guidelines in terms of low height display units and under bench refrigeration/storage.
- The approval of the refrigerated display unit would set a precedent for other fresh produce traders within the Sheds that would lead to significant change in traditional display methods of produce.
- The absence of tall stall structures under I Shed is paramount to maintaining the visual setting of the place.
- Refusal of this application would not affect the reasonable use of the registered place to the extent that under bench refrigeration and cool rooms are already available to the tenant to address the longevity of produce and applicable Food Safety Standards.
- Refusal of this application would not impact the financial viability of the 'Queen's Harvest' tenant continuing its current market operation.

#### What happens next?

The owner or a person with a real and substantial interest in the place may request a review of the Executive Director's determination to refuse the application. A request for a review must be made to the Heritage Council of Victoria within 60 days of the refusal of the application.