

## **No.2 Goods Shed, 733 Bourke Street and 707 Collins Street Docklands, Melbourne (VHR H0933)**

### **Q & As**

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#### **What is the No.2 Goods Shed?**

The No.2 Goods Shed is included in the Victorian Heritage Register (VHR H0933) and is significant as the largest and most architecturally elaborate nineteenth century railway goods building in Victoria. The massive scale and grand style of the building demonstrates the importance of railways in the economic development and population growth of Victoria in the late nineteenth century.

The No.2 Goods Shed was built in 1889-90 and was used for receiving and distributing goods throughout Victoria. It originally measured 385 metres in length until the extension of Collins Street in the early 2000s required the removal of nine central bays. It comprises three parallel gable roofs supported by cast iron columns and brick walls which originally enclosed tracks and platforms. A two-storey administration building with clock tower is located at the southern end. It was converted for use as offices in the early 2000s.

#### **What has happened?**

On 4 April 2022, Heritage Victoria received a permit application for proposed works at the No.2 Goods Shed which included demolition, dismantling and partial reconstruction to allow for the construction of two towers on either side of Collins Street. Conservation and reconstruction works were also proposed.

On 5 January 2023 the Executive Director, Heritage Victoria refused the application on the grounds that:

- The demolition and partial reconstruction of additional bays of the No.2 Goods Shed on either side of Collins Street would cause substantial visual and physical harm to the cultural heritage significance of the place. It would permanently, irreversibly and further diminish the understanding of the place as Victoria's longest and most substantial goods shed.
- The construction of two towers on either side of Collins Street would have significant physical and visual impacts on the place. They would further disrupt the already compromised understanding of the visual and physical connections between the north and south sections of the No.2 Goods Shed.
- The scale and bulk of the proposed new towers would overwhelm and dominate the No.2 Goods Shed and obscure views to the north and south sections from Collins Street.
- The reasons provided to justify demolition of these elements are not based on a sound heritage approach, but on the commercial development of the place.
- The negative impacts of the proposal outweigh the benefits. The benefits could be achieved without construction of the two towers.
- The current uses are reasonable. The evidence provided suggests that they are viable and generate sufficient income to cover the costs of conservation and maintenance.

#### **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.