**Royal Exhibition Building and Carlton Gardens**

**World Heritage Management Plan Steering Committee**

**Minutes – Meeting No 17**

**Date: Monday 28 September 2020**

**Time: 3 00 – 4 00 pm**

**Venue: via Zoom**

**Members:**

Steven Avery (Chair) Executive Director, Heritage Victoria, Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP)

Emma Appleton Director, City Strategy, Strategy Planning and Climate Change, City of Melbourne

Lynley Crosswell Chief Executive Officer, Museums Victoria

Richa Swarup Senior Adviser City Heritage, City of Yarra

Felicity Watson Advocacy Manager, National Trust of Australia (Victoria)

**Apologies:** Emma Appleton

**Officers attending**

Chris Dupe, Museums Victoria

Michelle Stevenson, Museums Victoria

Kevin Walsh, City of Melbourne

Tanya Wolkenberg, City of Melbourne

Amanda Bacon, Heritage Victoria, DELWP

Hannah Fairbridge, Heritage Victoria, DELWP

Megan Rowland, Heritage Victoria, DELWP

**17.1 Welcome and introduction - Steven Avery**

The Chair welcomed and thanked those attending and acknowledged the Traditional Owners whose land the meeting was held on.

**17.2 Adoption of minutes of previous meeting (30 July 2020) (*Attachment 1*)**

No comments in relation to the minutes of the previous meeting were raised. The minutes were adopted as per the agenda recommendation.

**17.3 Matters arising from previous meeting**

The Chair raised that item 17.4 was outstanding. Amanda Bacon advised that Heritage Victoria hope to progress this before the next Steering Committee meeting.
The Chair advised that all other matters have been progressed and are included as agenda items for discussion.

**17.4 Conflicts of interest**

No conflicts of interest raised.

**17.5 Community consultation summary report (*Attachment 2*) – Hannah Fairbridge**

Hannah Fairbridge gave an overview of the community consultation summary report. Hannah advised that the report was at draft stage and thanked those that had reviewed and provided feedback. Felicity Watson gave positive feedback raising that the reach and level of engagement was pleasing to see.

City of Melbourne representatives raised the issue of publishing during Council caretaker and election period, advising that nothing is to be published during this time to comply with policy. Brief discussion on this issue was held. The Steering Committee agreed to delay publication of the report until the end of caretaker and election period on October 24th.

**Motion:** Amend recommended action to allow the Steering Committee to approve the consultation summary report (subject to any changes by the Steering Committee) and agree to its publishing on Engage Victoria after the end of Council caretaker and election period.
**Moved:** Richa Swarup
**Seconded:** Steven Avery

 **17.5.1 Publishing submissions – for discussion**

Hannah Fairbridge gave an overview of this item, raising previous actions and decisions made in relation to the publication of submissions. After brief discussion the Steering Committee agreed that recommended action three was the most appropriate.

**Motion:** Confirm that the summary of the submissions provided on page 25 of *Attachment 2* is sufficient to fulfil the recommendation at this stage, provided that submissions are published in full upon completion of public advertising of the draft Attachments A – C.
**Moved:** Steven Avery
**Seconded:** Lynley Crosswell

**17.6 Update on review and timing of World Heritage Management Plan component documents**

**17.6.1 Heritage Management Plan (formerly Conservation Management Plan) – Chris Dupe**

Chris Dupe updated that the consultants (Lovell Chen) had received all public and stakeholder feedback in relation to the Heritage Management Plan (HMP). The HMP will not be finalised until the proposed Attachment E is completed as these documents need to feed into one another. The Steering Committee asked for a copy of the first draft.

**Action:** Chris Dupe to circulate first draft of HMP to Steering Committee when complete.

**17.6.2 Master Plans (Carlton Gardens, and Royal Exhibition Building and Exhibition Reserve) – Chris Dupe and Kevin Walsh**

Kevin Walsh advised that work on the Carlton Gardens Master Plan had progressed. Chris and Kevin have had joint discussions regarding both Master Plans. Community engagement for both Master Plans may occur simultaneously. Kevin advised that the timing of the Carlton Gardens Master Plan depended on the proposed Attachment E but could be early 2021.

Chris advised that Museums Victoria were seeking expressions of interest for the undertaking of the review of the Royal Exhibition Building and Exhibition Reserve Master Plan.

Chris and Kevin advised that a joint workshop on both Master Plans would likely occur in the near future.

**17.6.3 World Heritage Strategy Plan for the World Heritage Environs Area – Amanda Bacon**

Amanda Bacon advised that the first draft of the Strategy Plan had been received. Amanda advised that due to the depth and complexity of the Strategy Plan the date for public advertising is likely to be pushed out to allow sufficient time for review. There is no statutory requirement that the plan must be advertised this year. Advertising will likely be delayed and will take the Christmas/New Year period into account.

**17.6.4 First Peoples engagement – Chris Dupe**

Chris Dupe advised that Museums Victoria had received a full proposal to undertake the entire project including consultation and engagement with Traditional Owners and other Aboriginal communities. Chris advised that current funding would not cover the entire proposal. Funding avenues are currently being looked into by all agencies. Amanda Bacon advised that there would be a funding update before or at the next Steering Committee meeting. The Chair raised that this addition is crucial to the World Heritage Management Plan review.

**17.7 World Heritage governance models and best practice report – (*Attachment 3*)**

Amanda Bacon advised that this report had been developed following a request of the Steering Committee at the last meeting.

Megan Rowland advised that governance of the Steering Committee was the most common issue referred to in the fifteen written submissions received during the first phase of consultation. The intention of the report was to undertake a desktop comparison between governance models of other World Heritage sites. Input from Helen Lardner in her capacity as President of ICOMOS Australia was received. Megan advised that the report aims to give the Steering Committee an understanding of what strategies for future change could be considered in the short term.

The Chair opened the floor to discussion. The Steering Committee discussed the report and considerations including whether the EPBC Act had any relevant provisions, funding, resourcing, whether other World Heritage sites allow for community input, the existing provisions of the Heritage Act and the opportunity to engage legal experts in the discussion. The Chair suggested holding a separate out of session meeting to discuss the issues raised in the governance report. The Steering Committee agreed to this.

**Action:** Heritage Victoria to consider format of a separate workshop on this topic and propose a suitable time and date to the Steering Committee.

**17.8 CSIRO Climate Change and Australia’s World Heritage properties project – (*Attachment 4*)**

Kevin Walsh gave an overview of the work the CSIRO are undertaking at World Heritage properties. Kevin advised that he has prepared a response in relation to the Carlton Gardens on behalf of the City of Melbourne. The information required is very technical and will result in lessons for the management of the Carlton Gardens. It is likely some of the information can be built into the Master Plans. The Chair offered the assistance of Heritage Victoria specialists if the City of Melbourne require further input.

**17.9 Other business**

The Chair opened the floor to any other business.

Richa Swarup raised that a member of the City of Yarra Heritage Advisory Committee has previously sat on the World Heritage Management Committee of the Edinburgh World Heritage site. The Steering Committee agreed it could be worthwhile to bring this experience to the governance workshop.

Tanya Wolkenberg raised that City of Melbourne were undertaking a bicycle lane upgrade on Rathdowne Street which involved bluestone removal. Tanya advised that City of Melbourne was in discussion with Heritage Victoria regarding these works.

**17.10 Next meeting/ frequency of meetings (*Attachment 5*)**

The Steering Committee agreed that the next meeting to be held would be the governance workshop. The Steering Committee agreed to a meeting in 4 – 6 weeks.

**Action:** Heritage Victoria to propose next meeting time and develop agenda for governance workshop.

**Meeting concluded at 4 00 pm.**