# Royal Exhibition Building and Carlton Gardens World Heritage Steering Committee

Minutes

# Meeting #1 FY 22 – 23

**Date:** Tuesday 26 July 2022

**Time:** 1 – 3pm

**Venue:** Microsoft Teams meeting

## Item 1. Introduction

The Chair welcomed and thanked those attending the meeting and acknowledged the Traditional Owners across Victoria whose land the meeting was held on. No apologies were recorded.

The Chair asked members to raise any real or perceived conflicts of interests. No conflicts were raised, the Chair confirmed that the agenda would proceed.

The Chair thanked Therese McCarthy and Rachel Jackson from GML Heritage for their attendance at the meeting.

## Item 2. Confirmation of Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The Chair gave a summary of the decisions made at the previous meeting, held on 27 April 2022. The Chair asked the Committee to move that the draft minutes of the previous meeting be adopted. **Moved:** Sophie Handley

**Motioned:** Lynley Crosswell

## Item 3. Acknowledgment of Country discussion and adoption

The Chair introduced the meeting paper provided at attachment two and asked Hannah Fairbridge to provide an update.

Hannah summarised the meeting paper and asked the Committee to discuss or raise any questions. No questions were raised so the Chair asked the Committee to move that the recommended Statement of Acknowledgment be adopted for use.

**Moved:** Richa Swarup

**Motioned:** Lynley Crosswell

## Item 4. Terms of Reference and membership update

The Chair introduced the meeting paper provided at attachment three and asked Rebecca O’Brien to provide an update.

Rebecca spoke to the draft Terms of Reference and provided background information on the advice received by DELWP Legal in relation to alternate members. Advice received was that alternate members could not be appointed to the Steering Committee, as the legislation in the *Heritage Act 2017* does not provide for this.

The Steering Committee discussed the Terms of Reference, noting that additional members could be appointed to the Committee. The Steering Committee noted that if additional members were appointed to the Committee, each represented organisation would retain one vote to ensure equity.

Rebecca additionally advised that members of the Committee who are not Victorian Public Sector employees would be eligible for payment subject to approval by the Minster for Planning.

The Chair noted that one Steering Committee member would send feedback on the Terms of Reference to Heritage Victoria following the meeting and asked that subject to that feedback the draft Terms of Reference be moved for adoption.

**Moved:** Sophie Handley

**Motioned:** Lynley Crosswell

## Item 5. Submissions into Strategic Vision

The Chair introduced the meeting paper provided at attachment four and asked Hannah Fairbridge to provide an update.

Hannah spoke to each of the six submissions received when the draft *Steering Committee Strategic Vision* document was publicly advertised on Engage Victoria. Hannah raised the recommended responses outlined in attachment four and invited the Steering Committee to discuss.

Steering Committee members noted the submissions. Meeting attendees raised that a piece of work to cross reference the actions in the Overview Site Management Plan and the Strategic Vision would need to be completed.

Hannah spoke to the next steps, advising that the recommended responses will be incorporated into the document and it will be circulated for adoption. Hannah raised that the next Steering Committee meeting in September would discuss the approval process and final publication of the document.

The Chair asked that the recommended responses to each submission be adopted.

**Moved:** Sophie Handley

**Motioned:** Richa Swarup

## Item 6. WHMP second draft

The Chair introduced the meeting paper provided as attachment four and asked GML Heritage to run the discussion.

Therese thanked the Steering Committee and working group members for their comments and advised that the feedback was being worked through to be implemented in the next draft. Therese raised that GML Heritage had reviewed some of the feedback provided to-date and spoke to the approach that was being taken to resolve the feedback:

## Web accessibility:

* GML Heritage liaising with internal production team to work through issues
* Therese advised there may be changes to some of the graphics in the report

## Reference to drafting status of other parts of the WHMP:

* The current draft report was written when the other reports were in draft stage, some have now been finalised
* The language in the report will be neutralised so reference to progress of other reports is less specific and holds up over time

The Steering Committee agreed to the recommended approaches.

A Steering Committee member raised that the Heritage Management Plan and the Overview Site Management Plan should be cross referenced so no duplication occurs. GML Heritage advised cross referencing is being

completed during the drafting stage and that a table at the beginning of the report sets out the direction of each document. GML Heritage agreed to take on the feedback and that the Overview Site Management Plan had to have fundamental information but avoid duplication. A Steering Committee member commented that the relationship between the Strategy Plan and the Overview Site Management Plan should be clear and described in the document.

## Expert advisory committee:

* GML Heritage advised that since the last meeting the form that an expert advisory committee would take has been adjusted
* Steering Committee members agreed, noting that expert advice could be drawn upon as needed and that the Steering Committee needs support and connections to assist in the funding that is required to deliver the plan. Suggestion that there should be more emphasis on funding.
* The Chair agreed that funding was an issue and that it is intended that the Site Management Plan forms the basis for a budget bid. The Chair advised that any budget bid would clearly need to state where funding is required
* A steering Committee member queried whether it would be possible to set a minimum funding amount identified with opportunity to have additional budget where needed
* The Chair advised that Victorian Government funding is restricted to a three-year timeframe
* GML Heritage advised that one of the recommendations in the report was to undertake a feasibility study which would provide a tangible financial figure on implementation of the plan
* GML Heritage summarised, stating that the report needs to clearly articulate funding requirements and include a more flexible option for the provision of an expert advisory committee

## Community involvement:

* GML Heritage raised feedback in relation to community involvement and advised that the report would be amended in line with feedback
* The Steering Committee discussed the works approval processes flow chart. GML Heritage advised the flow chart did not represent formal approval, but a knowledge sharing process
* It was raised that the flow chart should ensure that the Executive Director, Heritage Victoria is not conflicted in their role of Steering Committee Chair and Statutory decision maker under the Heritage Act
* GML Heritage summarised, stating that the report needs to articulate the relationships between each document, and that the role of the Steering Committee is communicated and reflects the Terms of Reference
* GML heritage advised that the next steps were to work through the feedback provided for the final draft

## Other comments:

* The Steering Committee raised the recommendation included in the Overview Site Management Plan in relation to way-finding and interpretation.
* It was raised that each management agency may have its own interpretation and wayfinding strategy, and raised that it may be more efficient to draw on work that has already been completed to formulate the overarching interpretation strategy.
* The Chair raised that the role of the Committee should be articulated as being to review or advise, or endorse rather than to facilitate or prepare.
* The Steering Committee agreed that the role is to provide cohesion across the management organisations, and it was suggested that language such as advocacy.
* The Steering Committee raised that the reason the interpretation strategy was included as a recommendation was to ensure that the history of the area within the WHEA was understood, the Steering Committee has a role in advocating to ensure that occurs.
* GML Heritage raised that in some places the report refers to the Steering Committee, but that encompasses the other management agencies who will need to input as part of their role. GML Heritage advised this would be more clearly reflected in the report.
* It was raised that the plan needs to reflect the outcome of the Strategy Plan submission and hearing process which is ongoing. It is important to ensure the documents are coordinated.
* The National Trust member raised that on page 72 of the report states that there is no community or independent organisation represented, the Steering Committee agreed this is the role of the National Trust. GML Heritage to amend.

## Item 7. Wrap up and confirmation of next steps

The Chair closed off discussion in relation to the Overview Site Management Plan and outlined the next steps advising the following:

## Next steps:

* GML Heritage will incorporate written and verbal feedback and circulate a final draft for review by 2 September;
* The Steering Committee will have until its meeting on 15 September to review;
* The Steering Committee will either approve the final draft at its 15 September meeting;
* The Overview Site Management Plan will then be publicly advertised for 60 days – this is likely to be between September – November.
* The Steering Committee will then need to hold a hearing, which is likely to be early 2023;
* The Steering Committee will need to consider how it wants to run any hearing, a paper will be prepared in time for the December meeting;
* The Steering Committee will then be required to give the Overview Site Management Plan to the Minister for Planning for approval, anticipated to be April 2023.

The Chair asked the Steering Committee to raise any other matters or issues.

Amanda Bacon provided an update on the progress of the WHEA Strategy Plan. The Steering Committee was advised that the WHEA would be gazetted in the coming week, and that the consultants Hansen Pty Ltd would update the Strategy Plan. Amanda advised that at this stage exploration of further expanding the WHEA would not be undertaken.

A Steering Committee member raised whether the Heritage Council report that the Minister requested would be made public, Amanda to follow up.

A Steering Committee member queried how definitive the decision is and whether it would be contemplated at the hearing, Amanda advised that affected land owners would be consulted but that the declaration of the WHEA would not be a matter for the hearing.

The Chair thanked GML Heritage and the Steering Committee for their attendance and the work completed to- date on the draft Overview Site Management Plan.

*Meeting concluded at 2:12 PM*