



THE CARLTON RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION INC. NEWSFLASH

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The Carlton Residents Association Inc.
PO Box 1140 Carlton, 3053
carltonresidents@gmail.com
www.carltonresidents.org.au
A0034345G ABN 87 716 923 898

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Working groups

Parkland and Streetscapes

The CRA response to the Melbourne Planning Scheme Amendment regarding Sunlight to Public Parks

SUBMISSION TO FUTURE MELBOURNE COMMITTEE 17 August 2021

To: The Lord Mayor and Councillors - City of Melbourne

Item: **6.2 Melbourne Planning Scheme Amendment C278 Sunlight to Public Parks**

This submission highlights key matters addressed by the Carlton Residents Association (CRA) during the Panel Hearing. The Association believes that the resolution of these matters would assist the Council in managing the future planning of Carlton.

- For the Carlton area, our historic and generous median strips have provided valuable open space for our residents for decades. **Because Am C278 only applied to those spaces zoned as Public Park and Recreation Zone (PPRZ), these valuable spaces receive no protection at all with the current amendment.** Since there are other significant open spaces within the Carlton area (like the Royal Exhibition Building (REB) and Museum Forecourt) that also receive NO protection, this serious omission must be addressed.



The REB and Museum Forecourt has a very contentious status under the current Planning Scheme Amendment.

Although the whole precinct is designated as a Type 1 Park, the Forecourt area does not have a Public Park and Recreation Zoning!

- The decision of the Council to designate Argyle Square as a Type 2 Park (with less onerous sunlight protection) was justified by the Council's representatives at the Panel Hearing by limiting the application of the Type 1 typology to parks in "low-scale areas of three storeys or less". **To treat Argyle Square, which is covered with a preferred (but discretionary) maximum height of four storeys, as a GROWTH area is contentious. It has resulted in this Square being treated in the same way as University and Lincoln Squares, where 6 to 15 storey buildings may be permitted (DDO61).** We don't believe that this is the intention, given the cultural and economic importance to Carlton of respecting the low-rise mixed use buildings in that iconic part of Lygon Street bordering Argyle Square. Designating Argyle Square a Type 1 park would be more respectful of this cultural and economic context.
- The other major problem highlighted by the Association during the Panel Hearing concerned the imposition of the new sunlight protection control (DDO8) over areas of Carlton where NO Park Types were identified. **At no stage during the Panel Hearings could ANYONE clarify the purpose of some of these controls.** For example, there are currently NO parks of any type to the immediate south of Elgin Street. Unless an affected Park can be identified, the DDO8 controls have no purpose.
- **Finally, the lack of any height controls over non-residential uses (in some residential zones) and other areas of Carlton, while identified as a problem during the Panel Hearings, has not been addressed.** While the proposed World Heritage Environs Area Planning Scheme Amendment may address this problem in those areas to the immediate north and west of the World Heritage site, the lack of height controls in other areas of Carlton remains a serious problem.

In the Association's view, the resolution of these issues would help to reduce inconsistencies and strengthen the Council's planning efforts for Carlton over the medium to longer term.

Ewan Ogilvy and Peter Sanders

(For the Carlton Residents Association Planning Group)

Traffic, Transport, Parking and Noise Abatement

Traffic in Carlton is a major influence on our quality of life. Although we have an excellent public transport network and good cycling and walking access, there are challenges from vehicular traffic – noise congestion, safety and air pollution. Our streets can be improved by good landscaping and by careful traffic management.

Existing CRA Policies

We have an existing policy – ‘CRA – Transport, Traffic and Parking Policy 2015’.

We prepared a ‘Response to the Draft (City of Melbourne) Walking Plan – 2014-2017’ that effectively became our policy.

Around the same time we made submissions to the City of Melbourne (CoM) for bicycle paths and parking. These policies can be accessed on the CRA website. The website also has a document titled ‘Activities and Achievements of the CRA’ including a section on ‘Transport, Traffic and Parking’.

Existing CoM Policies

In 2019 the CoM finalised and endorsed their ‘Transport Strategy 2030’. As the title suggests the policy document is a guide document for transport.

The report is wide reaching and covers road planning for local, secondary and bypass roads; bicycle paths; off street parking; public transport – trains, buses and trams; emissions and pedestrian ways and safety.

Proposed CRA action

The CRA Committee has agreed to see where we should modify our existing Traffic and Transport policies.

We will appreciate any suggestions from members and will welcome anyone with expertise to assist us (please contact the CRA: carltonresidents@gmail.com).

Associated Groups

Friends of the REB and Carlton Gardens

Be vigilant!

The old Cancer Council Building - the eyesaw on the corner of Rathdowne Street and Victoria Parade - an ugly piece of visual pollution that has been sullyng this beautiful heritage area for nearly a generation. What's to be done we ask? Why is it taking so long for something to be done we ask? Councils, mayors, governments have come and gone and still nothing..... residents and Melbournians alike have discussed it, called the council, spoken to our local member but there it is – in front of us each day and waiting for a fire to start there one night.

Recent developments on the other side of the Carlton Gardens should be making us even more anxious about the old Cancer Council site. We know about the proposed development of the St Vincent's site and another site in Gertrude Street – both within the environs of the World Heritage Area. What we didn't know was the devious pathway that was being attempted to get the development underway. The skulduggery that has occurred was found by a diligent resident across the park in Fitzroy.

If the devious plan hadn't been found, both these developments could have gone ahead without going through the proper authorities...and this gets us to the old Cancer Council Building.

Are the developers also waiting to see the outcome of Gertrude Street and St. Vincent's development?

This should not be allowed to happen!

Working together is the key here.

To find out more - come to a Carlton Residents Meeting or talk with one of the Committee members.

Trish O'Loughlin

carltonresidents@gmail.com



The eyesaw on the corner of Rathdowne Street and Victoria Street.

This is not the only one!

A review of the Strategy Plan for the Royal Exhibition Building (REB), Carlton Gardens (CG) and the World Heritage Environs Area (WHEA)

Friends of the REB and Carlton Gardens *continued*

This review is underway. The CRA has been active in making submissions for protection of these World Heritage areas.

A submission was submitted on 20 September.

We have supported, in principal, many of the recommendations including-

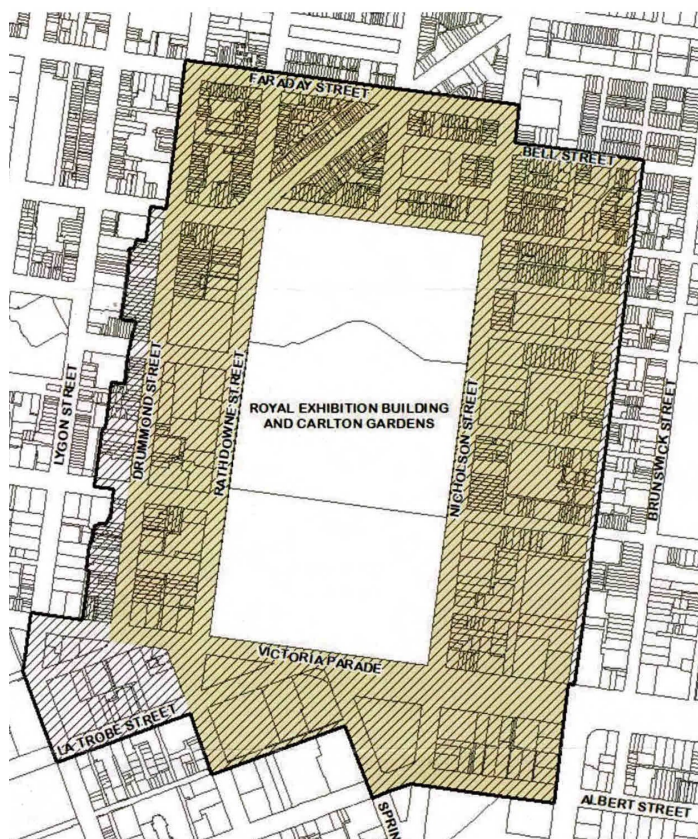
- The extension of the WHEA to include properties on the west side of Drummond Street from Victoria to Grattan Streets.
- The removal of areas of greater and lesser significance and placing heritage controls over the whole WHEA.
- The inclusion of areas not currently in the WHEA such as the area around the former Children's Hospital in Rathdowne Street.
- Strengthening protection of views to and from the REB.

We have noted our concerns for some of the recommendations including-

- Why aren't the boundaries of the Heritage Overlay (HO) areas extended to coincide with the extended WHEA?
- Heritage Overlay HO992 boundaries are confused.
- Confused boundaries of the areas HO809, HO109 and HO81
- The Draft Statement of Significance is not included in the Draft Strategy Plan.
- The Draft Development Guidelines for the WHEA creates confusion over the extent of the expanded WHEA and the Statement of Significance.
- The importance of the proposed Built Form Guidelines.

The City of Melbourne (CoM) has made a submission that is generally in line with our submission but goes further in strengthening controls on maximum building heights in the WHEA. And some other issues. We disagree with the desire of CoM to not have Heritage Victoria acting as a Referral Authority for sites on the Heritage Register.

Refer to the [CRA website](#) to see the full submission



Current extent of the World Heritage Environs Area for the Royal Exhibition Building and Carlton Gardens, shaded yellow. The proposed expansion of the west and south-western boundary in the City of Melbourne and eastern boundary in the City of Yarra is shown hatched in black and white.

Urgently needed: CRA Membership Officer

Role:

- Keep a data base of members
- Keep a mailing list of members for label printing
- Check for new members in Bendigo Bank and Trybooking
- Respond to each new member
- Maintain a list of member email addresses in Gmail.
- Prepare labelled Newsflash envelopes
- Send out membership reminders

If you are able to offer your services to CRA in this way please email: carltonresidents@gmail.com with subject: Membership Officer

**CRA is nothing
without its members**

From local councillor Oliva Ball

Friends and neighbours,

It's been a whirlwind since I was elected to Melbourne City Council in November last year. I would say I'm the only Carlton resident on Council, but we have lately been joined by the Lord Mayor! Of course, we don't have wards in the City of Melbourne – the electorate is undivided – so I do not represent Carlton as such, but I have lived here on and off for 17 years and before that spent many years in Carlton as a student, so it is my home and my heartland.

Council Plan and Budget

Council has been incredibly busy putting together a 4-year plan for this term of council – some of you may have attended the community consultations held at the Church of All Nations. [The Council Plan](#) and [Budget](#) are available online. I would draw your attention to page 148 of the Budget for a snapshot of Carlton, our council services and key initiatives and investments in this part of the world.

I write this in the week the [6th IPCC report](#) was released. Catastrophic climate change is not a future risk, but a present reality. *The Guardian* has summarised [extreme weather events in just the month](#) of July. There can be nothing more important at any level of government than urgently and significantly reducing our greenhouse gas emissions and making a just transition to zero carbon. I encourage you to review [Council's climate and biodiversity emergency plans \(pp26-27\)](#) and welcome your feedback. We are also considering what Melbourne as a city can do ahead of the COP26 global meeting in November.

Review of our electoral system overdue

As the state capital, the City of Melbourne is different from other municipalities in a number of respects, one being the way our elections are run, as per our own legislation, the *City of Melbourne Act 2001*. We directly elect our mayor and deputy mayor, for example. Many people don't realise that only in the City of Melbourne do businesses have two votes. That may be why we have [the richest and most male electoral roll in the country, and the only one that regularly returns a majority of non-resident councillors](#).

The 78 other councils in Victoria had new governing legislation in 2020, with the City of Melbourne left out. Melbourne City Council voted unanimously on 27 July for a review of our electoral system, asking the Minister for Local Government, Shaun Leane, to consider "[donation reform across the whole local government sector, as well as a review of the City of Melbourne Act](#)," and to commence both reviews in 2022 to ensure completion in time for the 2024 Council election.

Food & garden waste collection

If you live in a house or single-storey apartment building, you should have a new lime-green-lidded bin for weekly collection of 'food organics and garden organics' (FOGO), plus a bench-top caddy and free, biodegradable bin liners in which to collect your kitchen scraps.

Your kitchen and garden scraps will be turned into compost to fertilise our parks and gardens. This saves heaps of food waste going to landfill where it benefits no-one and emits dangerous greenhouse gases.

Recycling (yellow bin) is now collected fortnightly, and you should have received a calendar for your fridge showing which weeks the recycling is collected.

Addressing FOGO in high-rise apartments comes next.

What can you put in the lime-green bin? This and other [questions answered here](#). Phone 9658 9658 to swap any of your bins for one bigger or smaller (120 or 240 litres).

Vaccine drive—Royal Exhibition Building hub on our door step

It has to be one of the most beautiful vaccination centres in the world; what a treat to see inside this World Heritage Listed gem without furiously penning exams! You may see Council's 'Vaccine Hero' promotions about. We aim to be the most vaccinated city in Australia, safeguarding public health and ending the need for lockdowns. Best to [book online](#) or phone 1800 675 398. Dial '0' for an interpreter. *Continued on page 6*



Habitat planting in Royal Park.

Photo: Katie Johnson, Hyperlocal

Continued from page 5

Temporary park at the Corkman site

A new pocket park has at last been created at the site of the illegally demolished Corkman pub/Carlton Inn on the corner of Leicester & Pelham Streets. There are still a few things to finish, such as a footpath around the park, but as you can see, it has some benches, a few trees and garden beds.



Council meeting in Carlton

A Council meeting is coming to Carlton on **Tuesday 16 November at 6pm** (date and venue not confirmed at the time of writing: [check here for updates](#)).

It will be a meeting of the Future Melbourne Committee (FMC), which is a delegated committee of Council comprising all the same people as Council, but it's FMC that decides planning applications, which are often of keen interest to residents.

Hyperlocal News reckons it's the [first time in living memory](#) a council meeting has been held outside Town Hall. I look forward to seeing you there.

Cr Dr Olivia Ball

Topical issues

City of Melbourne (CoM) News

Media announcement: Relief for ratepayers as Council absorbs fee increase

Saturday 21 August

The City of Melbourne is discounting rates for all commercial and residential ratepayers across the municipality at a total cost of \$4.8 million.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp said Council was absorbing the cost of this year's rate increase, in response to the devastating economic impacts of COVID-19.

"Rates are necessary to support vital community services and infrastructure and we are legally required to issue them at this time, but we also know that conditions are incredibly tough, so we're doing what we can to take some pressure off for the second year in a row," the Lord Mayor said.

"This year, we're keeping rates low while delivering historic levels of infrastructure and initiatives to create jobs, support businesses and ensure Melbourne remains a safe, clean and resilient city."

City of Melbourne was entitled to implement the Victorian Government's 1.5 per cent rate cap but made the decision to apply a 1.5 per cent rates discount, cancelling out the rates increase this year.

Finance, Governance and Risk lead, Councillor Philip Le Liu, said the decision to apply a discount to the rate increase was made earlier in the year, when councillors endorsed the 2021-22 budget.

"All of the city's 128,000 commercial and residential ratepayers will receive a discount, totalling \$4.8 million. Around half of ratepayers will receive a discount between \$10 and \$50, with an average discount of \$37," Cr Le Liu said.

"The discount will be clearly identified on a rates bill, but the amount of the discount on individual bills will differ depending on the valuation of their property.

"Rates change every year as property values change, so some ratepayers may still see their total bill go up because their property value may have changed relative to others."

Property valuations are market-driven and determined by the Victorian Government.

Any ratepayer affected by COVID-19 and having difficulty paying outstanding rates is able to apply for rate relief through the [City of Melbourne Rates Financial Hardship Policy](#).

Earlier this year Council endorsed a record budget of \$789.9 million, focused on investments in events, infrastructure and cleaning to support our economic recovery.

Rates contribute to around 67 per cent of Council's revenue. Rates notices have been issued.

City of Melbourne (CoM) News continued

On the hunt for Superb Fairy-wrens in Parkville

City of Melbourne is planning strategic vegetation works to improve habitat and ecological connectivity for small birds like the Superb Fairy-wren, within our municipality.

We want to find out where Superb Fairy-wrens are living and foraging in the city, particularly within the Parkville area.

Superb Fairy-wrens are an ideal study species for this project because their presence or absence is closely linked to habitat quality, and they are easy to identify.

We are collaborating with BirdLife Australia, RMIT University, the University of Melbourne, and the broader community to record: sightings, movement patterns and other information on these birds.

How you can get involved

If you're visiting Royal Park, Princes Park or the Melbourne Cemetery, keep an eye out for Superb Fairy-wrens and [submit your sightings \(or absence of sightings\)](#).

Interested participants can record their observations via the [Birddata App](#) between September and November 2021.

For more information about the study, or to get involved, visit the [City of Melbourne website](#).

From Friends of Queen Victoria Market

Heritage matters – no one understands this better than the residents of Carlton.

Since 2018, Queen Victoria Market (QVM) has been bestowed elevated heritage status by its inclusion on the National Heritage Listing and continual operation as a retail market since the 1870s. This iconic site, right on your doorstep, has major heritage significance as one of the great 19th century sites and the only one surviving from a group of important central markets built by the corporation of the City of Melbourne.

Carlton residents - you are blessed with proximity to QVM. An appeal to you all in troubled times - if you haven't done so in the last little while, grab your shopping trolley, take a friend and really enjoy the safe shopping under the open sheds to explore and buy the freshest, most diverse produce at the best prices on offer in your neighbourhood inside the allowed zone!



Sadly the threat of COVID-19 has made entertainment and interaction with others limited. So make shopping at QVM your BIG outing. Buy produce from different stalls, meet traders, actually see more people in comparative safety. Enjoy that experiential wellbeing that shopping at QVM gives while also supporting the 600 small businesses that trade there.

In spite of the threat to redevelop the site in the 70s, Vic Market survived through the hard work of community activists whom, like ourselves, were/are passionate about maintaining QVM's significance and its ongoing role

and continued popularity as a fresh meat, vegetable and general merchandise market and meeting place for locals and visitors alike. We assure you it's a far cry from conventional supermarkets and shopping centres.

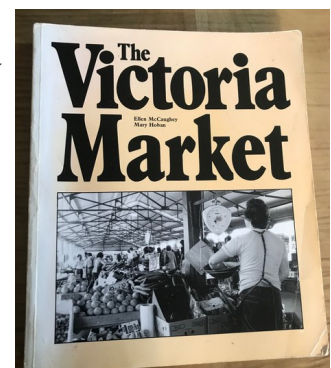
Highly recommended reading: *The Victoria Market* by Ellen McCaughey & Mary Hoban, first published in 1984 – a fabulous book about the hidden complexity of market life as well as its rich history. Unfortunately, long out of print but provides an excellent lockdown activity to hunt down a used copy on-line. I was lucky to find an autographed copy.

All for now.

Mary-Lou Howie

President Friends of Queen Victoria Market Inc

www.facebook.com/FriendsofQueenVictoriaMarket



Carlton community update from your State MP Ellen Sandell

I wanted to share two important issues I'm working on for the Carlton and North Carlton community.

Urgent funding needed to fix Carlton North Primary School

Carlton North (Lee Street) Primary School is a great school, but like many of our heritage inner-city schools, it's in desperate need of repairs.

Before lockdown, I toured the school with the Principal and staff and saw the maintenance needs for myself. The school lacks a proper fire alarm system, one of the bathrooms is so old and smelly the kids will not use it, and tree roots are causing cracks and are tripping hazards.

Unfortunately, that's not all. There are sewerage pipes in the ground that are old and need urgent relining, the playground equipment is 30 years old and many of the buildings have no cooling and get incredibly hot in warmer months.

While the school staff have done their best, the maintenance challenges have gotten to a point where they simply cannot be met without new and additional funding from the state government.

I'm working with the school community and calling on the State Government to provide this urgently needed funding. I've written to the education Minister with a list of the school's needs, and also asked him in Parliament to tour the school with me.

Following this advocacy, we've already had some promising news, with the school building authority already promising to meet with the school to discuss the needs.

In the May State Budget I was proud to have helped secure more than \$7 million to repair another heritage school, Kensington Primary School, and I will be working hard with the Government to similarly secure funding for Carlton North Primary.



Greens State MP for Melbourne Ellen Sandell meets with Carlton North Primary staff to discuss the repairs needed at the school.

New plants and trees to improve Melbourne General Cemetery



Greens State MP for Melbourne Ellen Sandell meets with a local resident to discuss an initiative to improve the historic Melbourne General Cemetery

The last 18 months has shown all of us how much we need and value green open space. And in the inner city, every patch of green space is precious!

For residents in Princes Hill and Carlton North in particular, I know the Melbourne General Cemetery has been a welcome respite during lockdown; a place to walk, reflect and spend time outdoors.

Unfortunately, the historic cemetery is a little worse for wear. While there are some green areas, it's largely barren with a lack of tree cover or vegetation. A group of dedicated residents want to see the cemetery improved, with new trees and plants, and I'm pleased to be supporting their efforts. Recently I called in Parliament for the State Government to help fund this great initiative and am advocating to the Board of Trustees to make it happen.

The Victorian Government has shown strong support for local parks and green areas in the last few years and it would be great to see them continue this by supporting the greening of this iconic and historic place - to honour those who've come before and provide a beautiful space for those to come.

If you have any ideas for local initiatives, you'd like to see me working on, I'd love to hear from you:

office@ellensandell.com