

## **Review of the World Heritage Management Plan for the Royal Exhibition Building and Carlton Gardens**

Author: Margaret O'Brien  
23 May, 2020

### **What is the WHMP?**

The Management Plan provides information on the World Heritage, National Heritage, State Heritage and Local Heritage values of the REB and Carlton Gardens. It also provides detail on the statutory and management framework that will ensure these values are protected and conserved.

This is the first time since the WH citation in 2004 and the preparation of the current set of plans, that a review has been undertaken. The review is therefore very important for the future of the WH site and also for the protection of the remaining heritage and living history that characterises the areas in the EA and surrounds. It is therefore a rare opportunity for all in the community, to have our say.

The WHMP is a series of separate plans - REB and Carlton Gardens Conservation Management Plan (attachment A), Master Plans for the Carlton Gardens (B) and REB Reserve/Museum (C) and the EA strategy plan (D). There is attachment E, the Report on the Public consultation for the WHMP (2012). The review will have several sequential phases relating to the different parts of the Plan.

The first Plan to be reviewed is the WH Environs Area Strategy Plan; Strategy Plan, and attachment D in the WHMP. The strategy plan concerns the buffer zone, that is, the Environs Area around the WH site, around the REB and the Carlton Gardens. The strategy plan describes the significance of the EA in contributing to the WH values of the site. The plan, sets out the statutory planning controls and decision making for development within the EA and for views relating to the REB. The EA on the eastern side of the WH site is in Fitzroy, within the City of Yarra and the remainder within the City of Melbourne.

### **Who manages the WHMP review?**

Heritage Victoria, and a WH management steering committee, is responsible in Victoria for managing the review process. Victoria's Minister responsible for Heritage approves the plans. The plans then pass to the federal Minister for Heritage for final approval. - This is because, a WH citation is between a country and UNESCO and includes obligations for the conservation, protection and reporting on, the WH site.

### **Timetable for the Review of the World Heritage Management Plan for the REB and Carlton Gardens**

The review will have a number of phases. Details will be announced publicly by Heritage Victoria. The Engage Vic website will be source for information and the community consultation arrangements.

The entire review process will probably extend through 2012. Thereafter ministerial approvals will be at pleasure of Ministers.

Below is an outline of the timetable.

1. Key stakeholders: April 14 - 6 May. A discussion Paper, on the Strategy Plan (approved 2009) was circulated to selected stakeholders.

The discussion paper covered the heritage significance statements and the size of the EA, and the gaps and failings in the current strategy plan to protect the area.

A number of special interest groups were selected to submit on the discussion paper. Locally, the Fitzroy Residents (FRA), the Friends of REB and Carlton Gardens (FREBCG) and the Fitzroy History Society (FHS) made submissions. The City of Yarra and Yarra's Heritage Advisory Committee, made submissions. Submissions are not made public but summaries are included in reports.

2. Community consultation: Commences early June 2020 - Consultation is on the strategy plan (2009) and the WHMP (2013)

Consultation on the WHMP will include its component parts (attachments A-D).

Attachment A, the draft CMP will be available public comment. Current CMP was reviewed and revised by MuseumsVic.

Also included will be the WHMP discussion paper and a survey.

3. Public submissions on the strategy plan: Commences late 2020 - Committee of the Heritage Council, is responsible.

4. Public consultation on the WHMP including attachments A-D: Commences mid 2021 - Ministerially appointed committee, is responsible. Committee, Chaired by Exec Dir, Heritage Victoria, and reps from MuseumsVic, Cities of Melbourne and Yarra and National Trust.

Reviews of the WHMP attachments - A, B and C, will be done internally before the public consultation, from early 2021 until mid 2021.

Public consultation will include a Discussion Paper to assist community through the process, and the revised Master Plans for Carlton Gardens and the REB and Exhibition Reserve.