

29 May 2018

The Hon Richard Wynne MP
Minister for Planning
Level 18, 8 Nicholson Street
East Melbourne VIC 3002
Email richard.wynne@parliament.vic.gov.au
Tel. 8663 0964

Subject: Matters that requires your urgent and immediate attention

Dear Minister Wynne

We the undersigned members of the Preston Market Community reference Group are writing to you to express our serious concerns regarding a number recent developments associated with the Preston Market site that requires your urgent and immediate intervention.

On Monday 21st May 2018 the Darebin Council decided at its meeting to belatedly release the Preston Market Heritage Study and Peer Review reports. While we are pleased it has finally done so, nevertheless it is yet to follow through with a resolution to seek a heritage overlay and interim heritage protection leaving the market completely exposed to heritage vandalism in the future.

Minister, please note that the Heritage Study clearly recommends that the Preston Market complex comprising the original footprint of the market buildings, the built form, structural elements particularly the space-frame, the internal pedestrian 'streets' and interior elements is of local significance. Furthermore, one of the key findings states that Darebin Council includes Preston Market in the Heritage Overlay of the Darebin Planning Scheme.

Additionally, the heritage study recommends that Darebin Council consider undertaking further research to determine whether two aspects of Preston market may potentially be of state significance, namely the space frame technology, given its early use at Preston market and most notably, but not limited to, the importance of the market to represent a key aspect of post war migration history in the northern suburbs of Melbourne.

On Wednesday 23rd May 2018 with great anticipation we attended the first meeting of the Preston Market Reference Group but contrary to our expectations we were again very disappointed to learn that the role of the reference group is rather limited, restrictive and more importantly the reference group cannot recommend that a heritage overlay and interim protection or permanent heritage controls be applied.

This is serious and of immediate concern to us and undermines the integrity of the joint VPA/Council consultation process. We were also informed that the times lines for developing the new Incorporated Plan have been extended to the end of October contrary to the original time table that had been set. This is unwarranted and unnecessarily delays the process of making a decision before

the government enters into a caretaker period given the state election will be held in late November 2018. Frankly, this places the Preston Market to the mercy of the Preston Market Developments Pty Ltd, (the developers).

In light of these concerning developments the undersigned and our constituents, which amount to many thousands of residence, seek your indulgence and call on you to urgently consider our requests as follows;

- Immediately apply a Heritage Overlay process to the market site
- Immediately apply interim or permanent heritage protections to safeguard the market against heritage vandalism
- Undertake and/or commission that further research be carried out into the state significance of the market
- Immediately scrap the extension of the new timelines for Community Reference groups
- Agree to urgently meet with us as a matter of priority to discuss our concerns about this significant site that is of importance to the community and the state of Victoria.

In conclusion we would greatly appreciate if you can provide us with a response before the next Community Reference Group meeting on Thursday 7th June 2018, so we can consider our future role as reference group members.

Yours sincerely

Anne Laver	President, Darebin Ratepayers Association
Stewart Midgley	Darebin Appropriate Development Association
Manny Spiteri	Advocate for Preston Market Traders
Nalliah Suriyakumaran	Chairperson Darebin Ethnic Communities Council
Leanora Spry	Community Member

cc. Mayor of Darebin City Council
Darebin City Councillors
Sue Wilkinson - CEO Darebin City Council
Hon Robin Scott MP - Member for Preston
Stuart Moseley - CEO VP
John Casey - Strategic Planning Manager VPA