

Submission to Darebin General Council Meeting

18<sup>th</sup> May, 2020

From Maria Poletti, DADA President

DADA would like to be very clear that we have never ever considered a heritage overlay the only tool for the protection of our beloved Preston Market but as the first in a suite available to ensure that the market is protected from destruction and can operate in the manner most valued by the community.

Having said that, we want to be sure that a heritage overlay is applied in the most effective manner. Council now has the third piece of evidence that Preston Market qualifies for heritage overlay. The RBA review is unequivocal; “The Preston Market has been determined to be of local historical, aesthetic, technical and social significance. As such, it is recommended that the appropriate level of heritage protection for the site is sought/enacted.”

A key consideration, in the RBA review, is the recommendation to **reinstate** particular distinctive elements of the design which have been removed or obscured. Reinstate is to restore (someone or something) to their former position or state. We do not believe the intent is to reinstate at a different site.

We note that the assessment tool to track changes is lacking any statement on reinstating the distinctive elements of the design and would like to see that remedied. The assessment tool makes an assumption that the market will be redeveloped, see objective one. It is becoming more probable that it won't.

On the possibility of moving the market to the edge of the site the RBA review is equivocal; ‘It **might** be possible to relocate the market buildings on the broader site ....’.

It is clear in the review that this is a very low priority, considerably lower than preserving the significant attributes of the market in place.

This solution to freeing up the site for more intense development would not be supported by the wider community and should not be considered until council does the work on preparing and presenting a Heritage Overlay, A Conservative Management Plan, a Structural Analysis and a Master Plan as recommended in the report conclusion.

Given Council has now refused the extension of the planning application for the site, a decision we hope you are prepared to defend, if necessary, at VCAT, we do not think there is the same time pressure to complete the process and would rather see it done properly than quickly.

We agree that the interim heritage overlay should be strengthened and extended until the four recommendations are completed. We do not think council should hold another ‘Have Your Say’ round until the community can see in full what these things may mean.

Thank you.