



Queen Victoria Market revamp go-ahead

VIC NEWS

Heritage concerns over council's \$250m plan for Queen Victoria Market redevelopment

Ian Royall, Herald Sun

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HERITAGE concerns have emerged over Melbourne City Council's plans to dismantle and modify the landmark sheds at Queen Victoria Market as part of the site's \$250 million redevelopment.

Renovation of the sheds, built between 1878 and 1922, risks damage to their integrity, according to heritage and building experts.

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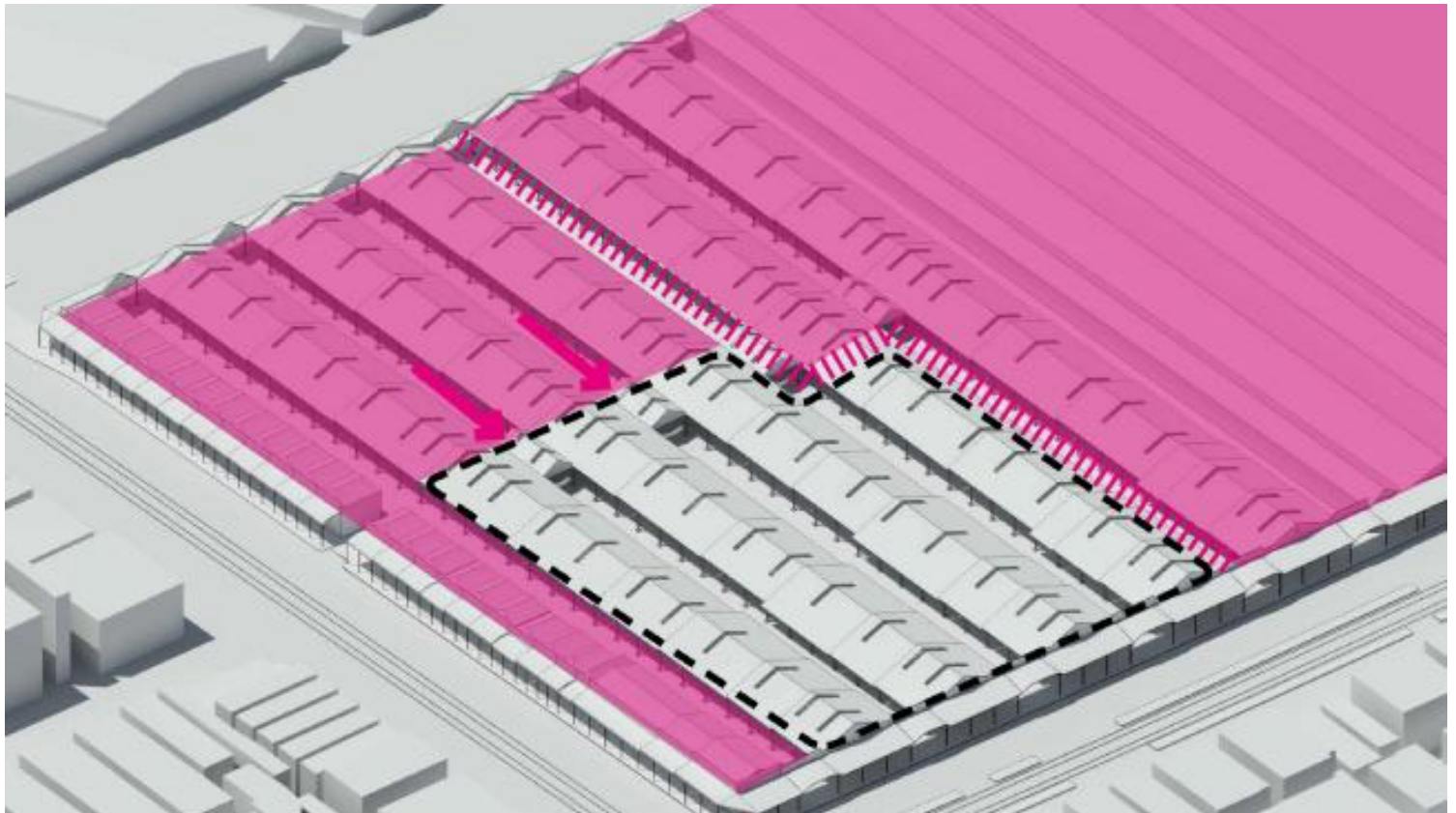
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Submissions to Heritage Victoria have revealed concerns over the council's proposed rebuilding of sheds A to D as well as doubts about excavations for three levels of underground storage and car parking.



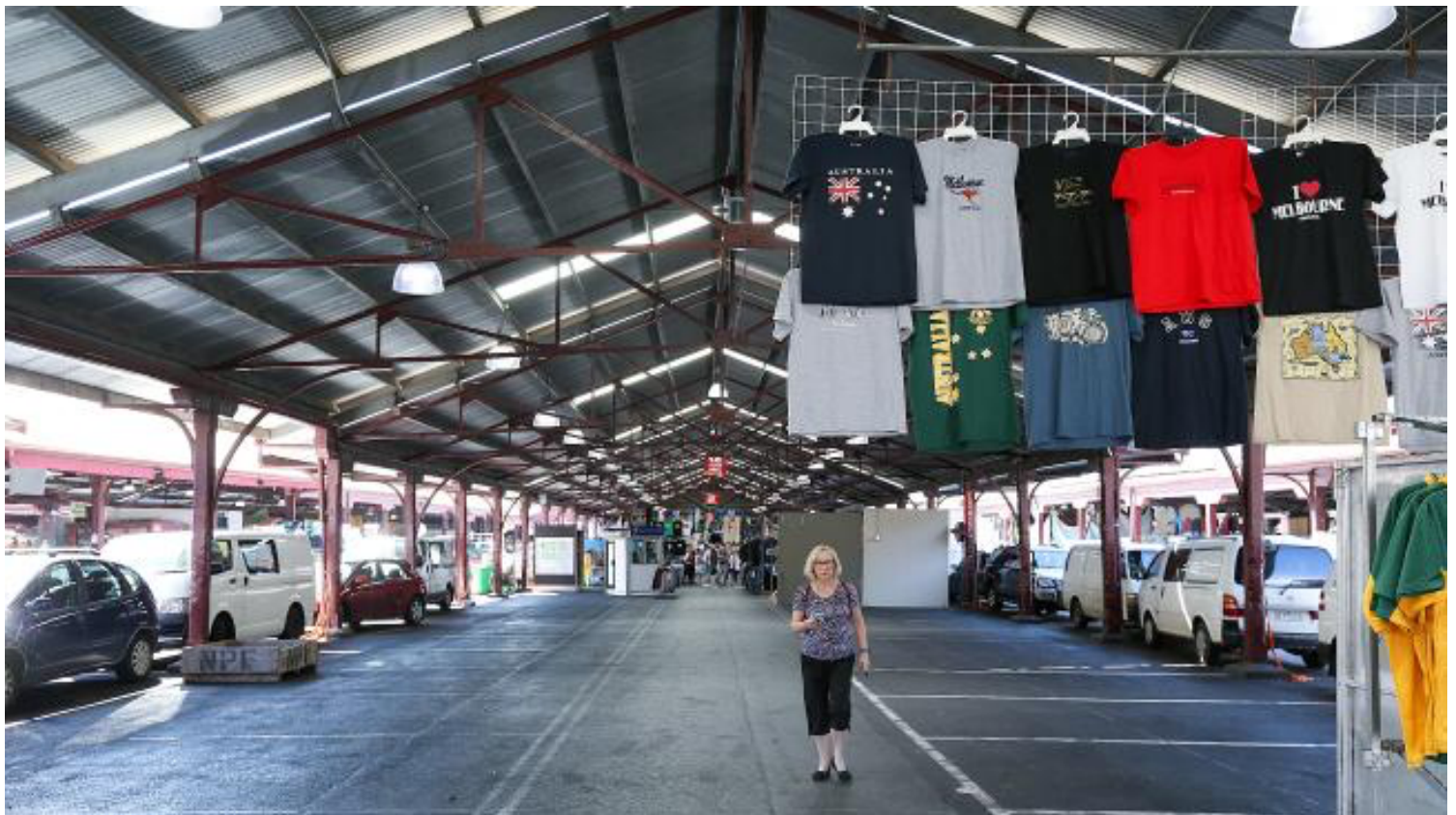
📷 The proposed design of the Peel St lift and service entry at Queen Victoria Market. Picture: Grimshaw Architects



📷 The proposed below-ground operational area of the A to D Sheds at the Queen Victoria Market.

Heritage Victoria is assessing the council's permit application and has received about 1600 submissions, mostly objections. No date has been given for its recommendation.

Professor Charles Sowerwine, of the Royal Historical Society of Victoria, said the council wanted to build five "intrusions" into the Victorian-era fabric of the market. They were lifts and stairwells, which would provide access via Peel St to the three underground levels, and the raising of the Shed D roof to allow truck access.



📷 The northern end of four sheds will be excavated. Picture: Ian Currie

"These intrusions constitute a massive assault on the integrity of the heritage design," Prof Sowerwine said.

He also queried the need for underground storage at all because he was told by a council officer that traders would be able to unload at their stalls anyway.

"Why would they (traders) bother to drive underground, unload their set-up and their goods onto forklifts, drive to the lift, wait for the lift, and then drive to their stalls? So why bother to excavate?" Prof Sowerwine said. "(The RHSV) objects strenuously to the alteration of so much of the historic fabric of sheds A-D and to the loss of the market's social significance."



📷 Concerns have been raised over the ability to retain the heritage worth of the Queen Victoria Market sheds if removed and modified. Picture: Ian Currie

Building consultant Drew Wadsworth, in his submission, queried the ability to properly rebuild the sheds.

“In 50 years of statutory duties, I have never seen a demolition plus re-erection which maintains the integrity of the historic construction successfully,” he said.

In her submission, market and economics expert Jane Stanley said she was alarmed at the scant regard the plans demonstrated for the market’s cultural significance.

The Friends of Queen Victoria Market lobby group has also lodged an 89-point objection.

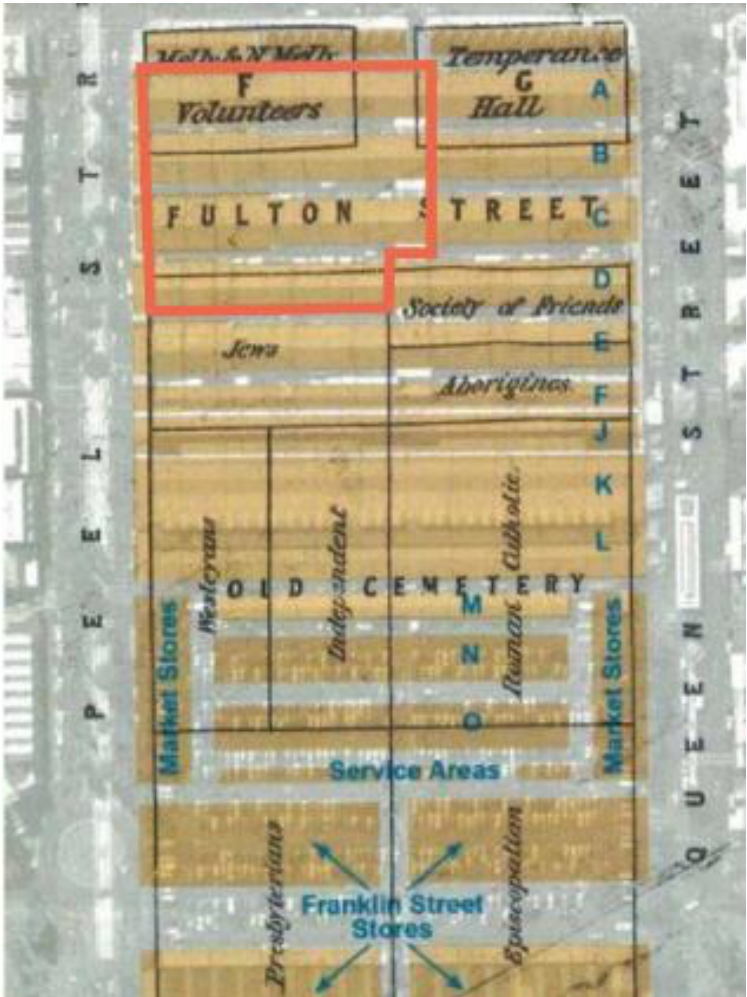
Nine councillors endorsed the proposals in August. Cr Jackie Watts was the only one opposed.

The council has said structural reinforcing would take place on the sheds, plus improved roofing and solar panels. The underground zone would also accommodate 220 car spaces for customers.

It is believed contractors have started scanning the surface to examine the underground under the sheds.

Any excavation was not expected to interfere with any burial grounds. The Jewish graves in the area were exhumed almost 100 years ago.

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📷 Map of the Old Melbourne Cemetery, currently the site of the Queen Victoria Market. The red line indicates the location of the proposed underground operations.



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