



# Media release

**The Hon Matthew Guy MLC**  
Minister for Planning

Thursday 14 November, 2013

## New management plan for World Heritage site

The Royal Exhibition Building and Carlton Gardens will be preserved for future generations under a new world heritage management plan approved by the Victorian Coalition Government.

“In most great cities there is one building that sums up its spirit and history. In Melbourne this is the Royal Exhibition Building,” said Planning Minister Matthew Guy.

The Minister has approved a management plan for the world heritage listed site developed by the Steering Committee for the Royal Exhibition Buildings and Carlton Gardens after extensive public consultation.

“This plan ensures that the Royal Exhibition Building and Carlton Gardens can continue to be enjoyed by all Victorians while demonstrating a commitment to preserving the site for future generations,” Mr Guy said.

“It provides for it to continue to function as a venue for exhibitions and events as it has since 1880, while also fostering public access and interpretation.”

The plan contains detailed conservation policies and seeks to ensure that the local, state, national and world heritage values are fully protected and conserved.

The Royal Exhibition Building and Carlton Gardens was placed on the World Heritage Register in 2004.

Built in 1880, the Royal Exhibition Building is the only surviving example in the world of a Great Hall from a major international exhibition that is still used for its original purpose today.

The surrounding Carlton Gardens are included in the World Heritage listing.

Museum Victoria is responsible for the stewardship of the building and the City of Melbourne has responsibility for Carlton Gardens.

World heritage recognition requires the Minister to appoint a Steering Committee to prepare such a plan for each listed place. A draft plan was released in 2011. Extensive public consultation occurred and public submissions were sought. An amended management plan incorporating the Committee’s response to the community feedback was then developed.

The approved plan will now be sent to the Federal Government for transmission to the UNESCO World Heritage Centre in Paris.

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