

Yarra City Council – Councillors briefing 12 August 2019

Item: Management by Council of Heritage Referrals from Heritage Victoria

Questions Raised and Suggestions Made by Community Heritage Group Representatives.....

Item	Issue	Questions Raised and Suggestions Made
<p>Question (a)</p>	<p>What process do other Councils use?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attendees queried what other Councils do and suggested Melbourne, Port Phillip, Moreland and Ballarat Councils as examples. • Contact has been made with those Councils and the answers noted therefrom is as follows in (a) (i) to (a) (iv) hereunder.
<p>Answer (a) (i)</p>	<p>Melbourne City Council</p>	<p><i>By Delegated Officers.</i></p> <p>Upon receipt from HV:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • registered and referred to Heritage Advisor for comment and query if need extra time to respond; • referred to Statutory Planner in relation to the associated planning application issues; • if a sensitive issue, Councillors are advised; and • do not place signs on property or forward notices – that is function of HV. <p>Response is thus provided to HV by Delegated Officer.</p>

<p>Answer (a) (ii)</p>	<p>Port Phillip City Council</p>	<p><i>By delegated officers.</i></p> <p>Upon receipt from HV:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • registered and referred to Heritage Advisor to assess the degree of impact on local area or if of particular community interest; • referred to statutory planner in relation to the associated planning permit application; • maybe referred to other Units if relevant (e.g. Recreation Unit if impacted on significant facility); • response then forwarded to HV. • only referred to Councillors (or Ward Councillor) if of significance; • do not place signs on property or forward notices – that is function of HV. <p>Response is thus provided to HV by Delegated Officer</p>
<p>Answer (a) (iii)</p>	<p>Moreland City Council</p>	<p><i>By delegated officers.</i></p> <p>Upon receipt from HV:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • registered and referred to the relevant Statutory Planner; • referred to Heritage Advisor for comment/advice; • do not place signs on property or forward notices – that is function of HV. <p>Response is thus provided to HV by Delegated Officer.</p>
<p>Answer (a) (iv)</p>	<p>Ballarat City Council</p>	<p><i>By delegated officers.</i></p> <p>Upon receipt from HV:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • registered and referred to Heritage Advisor to assess the degree of impact on local area or if of particular community interest; • only referred to Councillors if considered to be of public or high profile interest; • no referrals have been referred to a Council meeting in the last 3 or so years; <p>Response is thus provided to HV by Delegated Officer.</p>

		<p>Note:</p> <p><i>A listing of the HV Referrals received and a summary of the responses submitted is listed on the Council's Heritage Advisory Committee meeting agenda for information only.</i></p>
Further Suggestions Presented	How can the community be alerted about HV Applications and Referrals?	Following general discussion, a number of questions and suggestions were presented as noted in the rows below together with relevant comments thereon.....
Question (b) (i)		<i>Establishing a special page on Council's website to specifically list HV applications received?</i>
Answer (b) (i)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The uploading of HV Referrals onto Council's website will be a manual task and will in effect be a duplication of information on the Heritage Victoria website.
Question (b) (ii)		<i>Placement of the "Yellow" Planning application signs on the subject site?</i>
Answer (b) (ii)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As the processing of HV Heritage applications is an HV statutory function it is not the role of a Council to place such signage on the subject property. Such an action would require Council obtaining approval of the property owner to place such signage and would if approved by such owner, incur a cost to Council.
Question (b) (iii)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Encouraging HV to use the website: https://www.planningalerts.org.au/ as a community notification.</i> <i>As a point of interest, the full list (ever-growing!) of municipalities covered by the program is listed on the site:</i> <p>https://www.planningalerts.org.au/authorities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Advice provided is that:-</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>The site is run by volunteers, and the "scrapers" which trawl council websites for the data are written by volunteer computer programmers!).</i>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>The upshot is, if there's any public website where information on planning applications is provided then updates on it can be subscribed via this service.</i> ○ <i>If Yarra publishes applications relating to heritage places on the Yarra website then the Yarra "scraper" could theoretically pick it up and notify residents who've elected to subscribe for such alerts.</i>
Answer (b) (iii)		The operation of the referenced website is noted. Also noted, is that the process of uploading data to the reference website is a voluntary process.
Question (b) (iv)		<i>Making Council's responses to HV Referrals public via the Council website?</i>
Answer (b) (iv)		The information is already displayed on HV's website. Having regard to the manual task required to upload the same data to the Council website, it would be easier to place a quick-link to the HV website and viewers would always have quick access to the HV website.
Question (c)	Suggestion that Yarra's current process does not "tap" into heritage knowledge, held by people in the local community.	<i>It was proposed that by Council providing some public notice of HV Referrals received, it would offer a mechanism to enable expert and historic knowledge held in the community, to be provided to Council as part of their assessment process of the HV Referral?</i>
Answer (c)		Council engages professional Heritage Advisors who present high quality reports to Council as required.
Question (d)	Quality of Heritage Advice	Suggestion that there is a potential to have access to "knowledge in community", which could enhance the quality of heritage advice.

Answer (d)		Any person is able to present submissions in response to HV applications.
Question (e)	The Determinations made by the Heritage Council on heritage application are final.	Q. Can they be appealed to the Supreme Court?
Answer (e)		This has been checked and the response is Yes, but only on a point of law.
Question (f)	HV Referrals	Q. Do we respond to all HV Referrals?
Answer (f)		All referrals from HV are responded to.
Question (g)	HV Referrals	Q. Do all HV Referrals get diverted to a heritage Advisor and is the Advisor selected based upon their particular experience?
Answer (g)		Yes, the Statutory Planning Department refer all HV applications to their Heritage Advisors. The three advisors have different experience and based on the scale of the project the Referral is directed to advisor with the relevant experience.