

19 April 2022

Mr Steven Avery
Executive Director Heritage Victoria
PO Box 500
East Melbourne

Sent Electronically geoff.austin@delwp.vic.gov.au

Dear Mr Avery,

Submission Caulfield Racecourse Reserve - Heritage

The Caulfield Racecourse Reserve Trust would like to thank you for your letter dated 16 March 2022 advising of the recommendation to include Caulfield Racecourse Reserve on the Victorian Heritage Register and confirm the Trust's correspondence of 22 March addressing the directions provided.

The Caulfield Racecourse Reserve Trust supports the inclusion of the Caulfield Racecourse Reserve on the Victorian Heritage Register, is making this submission and will not be requesting a hearing.

The Trust has previously written to the DELWP planning facilitation team and the Minister for Planning seeking an integrated approach to planning controls across the Reserve and within the Precinct.

The Trust would like to draw your attention to a few background documents:

- An independent review by the Victorian Auditor General Office (VAGO) on the former Trusts operations
- A Bi Partisan committee review
- The *Caulfield Racecourse Reserve Act 2017*
- The Second Reading speech introducing the Act to Parliament and the need to address the historic imbalance
- The Issues and Opportunity paper undertaken by the Trust when appointed in 2018 identifying the diverse and divergent views within the Community
- The Land Management Plan developed by the Trust to ensure the Reserve delivers on its three purposes being racing, recreation and a public park.

The Trust has undertaken extensive consultation with the Community and key stakeholders in understanding the issues and opportunities at the Reserve and within the precinct, then applied this in developing a Land Management Plan for the Reserve. This work was undertaken through open consultation with the Community and with stakeholders.

The Trust is supportive of the Caulfield Racecourse Reserve being included on the Victorian Heritage Register and agrees with the assessment on the significance of the Reserve in particular the racing elements to Victoria.

The Trust will not be providing commentary on areas outside the Reserve, which may have once been part of the Reserve or used for racing related activities.

The Trust would like to draw to your attention to the following:

- The Reserve was and still is set aside for three purposes being racing, recreation and a public park
- Prolonged community campaign to gain access to the Reserve led to the formation of the Trust and its specific purpose to plan for, manage and develop the Reserve for the three uses.
- The second reading speech by the Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change, when introducing the *Caulfield Racecourse Reserve Act 2017*, specifically spoke to addressing the historic imbalance of uses at the Reserve.

The Trusts view of the assessment undertaken is:

- Criteria A. Agrees with the Executive Director assessment, however, would like to highlight the absence of investment has led to the flat and the undeveloped nature of the Reserve middle and the Reserve delivering on its three purposes.
- Criteria B. Agrees with the Executive Director assessment when considered in the context of other racing sites within Victoria and racing is not considered to be endangered. The Trust does agree the Reserve is unique in being set aside for three purposes being racing, recreation and a public park, although the historic balance of uses has not been evident, however could be achieved through delivery of the LMP.
- Criteria C. Agrees with the Executive Director assessment, noting the site has evolved substantially over time and notes the Reserve will need to continue to evolve to achieve contemporary expectations for access, inclusion and safety.
- Criteria D. Agrees with the Executive Director assessment, as it relates to racing infrastructure, noting the absence of any commentary on the flat (middle of the Reserve), stables areas or the use of the Reserve for a public park or Recreation.
- Criteria E. Agrees with the Executive Director assessment and contends the landscaping of the flat is more of an absence of investment and the area serving a practical function of water storage, sight lines and at grade parking, with minor investment in public amenity. Implementation of the Land Management Plan will deliver on this into the future.
- Criteria F. Agrees with the Executive Director assessment and notes the continual need for the Reserve to evolve over time to meet the needs of the Racing Industry over time.
- Criteria G. Agrees with the Executive Director assessment and would like to draw to the attention of the Executive Director the Community campaign over an extended period to gain access to the Reserve for all three purposes being racing, recreation and a public park.
- Criteria H. Agrees with the Executive Director assessment, for the Northern precinct only, noting the supporting facilities adjacent to the Reserve also contribute to this, whilst areas within the Reserve do not contribute to this.

I would like to confirm that the Trust has provided updates on the Heritage controls to the Community and key stakeholders through our social media and web page.

Should you or your officers wish to discuss further, please contact me.

Yours sincerely,



Andrew Paxton
General Manager
Caulfield Racecourse Reserve Trust

Cc. Stephen Chapple, Regional Director Port Phillip DELWP