

Bob Evans: Public Question Time response

3 August 2021 FMC

Question 1:

In October 2019 Council engaged Cardno to provide a Traffic Impact Assessment of road closures and realignments around the Vic Market. Has council sought a revised TIA on the traffic volumes in the Market neighbourhood following the construction of new and proposed apartment towers along Queen and A'Beckett Streets? If you haven't, do you plan to do so?

Response:

As part of the process to discontinue part of Franklin and Queen Street to enable the future development to the south of Queen Victoria Market, a Traffic Impact Assessment Report was prepared by Cardno (dated 1 November 2019) and provided to you in December 2019 and publicly available via the Council meeting papers. Since that time there have been new developments either approved or planning applications submitted. As a result we are currently preparing an updated traffic assessment which we anticipate will be available within the next few months.

Question 2:

At a meeting of the previous Future Melbourne Committee following the Cardno assessment, there was considerable uncertainty about how to manage the traffic travelling west along Franklin Street in the Southern Development Site at the intersection with Peel and William Streets. Has any work been done to resolve those uncertainties? How will vehicles access the proposed 500-space carpark, if they're approaching from the north or west?

Response:

Traffic movements including access and egress arrangements relating to the proposed car park are being explored and will be confirmed and agreed as part of design review processes associated with the future development.

Further to the December 2019 Council meeting, further analysis of the westbound only leg of Franklin Street and possible conversion into a two-way carriageway was conducted in 2020. This analysis, captured in a subsequent traffic report, supports Franklin Street as a westbound only carriageway (with eastbound traffic via A'Beckett Street), operating effectively alongside the proposed developments slated for the precinct while delivering overall improvements across the network, including reduced congestion and improvements for pedestrians, cyclists and public transport users.

With work underway to prepare an updated traffic impact assessment for the precinct, we will review the findings of the 2020 report in the context of the broader precinct changes.

Question 3:

Sculptor Lisa Young was commissioned to produce a site-specific artwork on the Queen Street roundabout. Called Island Wave the sculpture was designed as an entry marker to Vic market. The sculpture was removed from the roundabout last month with the assurance that it would be re-located. Where will the sculpture be re-located and when will it be installed in its new location?

Response:

Due to the redevelopment of the market and with the agreement of the artist, that:

- The artwork was de-installed from Victoria Market Reserve/QVM roundabout in mid-June over three days;*
- It will be relocated and re-installed at the Newmarket Reserve in Kensington;*
- It is presently offsite as it requires modifications to strengthen to its base structure (as the wind loading at the new location are significantly greater);*
- The foundation for the artwork has been poured at Newmarket Reserve;*
- Installation at Newmarket Reserve have been delayed due to Covid-19 restrictions (the limit of five persons on site), however once eased, the installation will proceed;*
- The artwork will then be painted/resurfaced on site, over a two week period, and;*
- Soft landscaping works around the artwork will then be finalised.*

Questions 4 and 5:

How long before the Queen Street roundabout is to be bulldozed and that vital pocket park, that genuine urban forest of 20 mature trees and the safe traffic management system in the neighbourhood be destroyed?

Is the Queen Street roundabout one of the so called “hostile” roundabouts referred to in the July 24 Saturday Age report on the Expressions of Interest for the Southern Development Site? Can you explain why it is considered hostile? Could it be that council is hostile to the roundabout because it is taking up space Council plans to use for its a tower block of 150 metres or more on the site?

Response:

Following the endorsement of the discontinuance of sections of Queen and Franklin streets by Council in December 2019 and subsequent gazettal in July 2020, the Queen Street roundabout will be removed to enable the future development to the south of the market including signalling the northern Franklin/Queen Street intersection. This forms part of the Queen Victoria Market Precinct Renewal Master Plan 2015.

Signalling this intersection will bring about numerous safety benefits for pedestrians, cyclists and motorists. As outlined in the 2019 Traffic Impact Assessment report, there are numerous safety benefits proposed to be realised as part of these changes.

In accordance with the Council resolution of 10 December 2019, we are investigating options to replace trees impacted due to these works. Tree removals will be required as part of this project and in accordance with the Council resolution of 10 December 2019, we will work with the City of Melbourne's urban forest team to develop plans to replace these trees in greater numbers in the future 1.75 hectare open space. The new open space is being delivered in stages starting with the pop up park in Queen Street which is due to open in late October.