

Preston Market – VPA announcement FAQs

What's happened?

The Victorian Government has opened a public consultation process on the planning controls for a future redevelopment of the Preston Market and the surrounding site.

We are concerned about the plans showing the market in a different location within the overall site. The proposals could see most of the market demolished.

Council's position on the proposals is based on the position outlined in the *Heart of Preston* report. These include:

- Retaining the market in its current site and current form
- Retaining the use of the market, as a place for affordable fresh and diverse food that serves the northern metropolitan community
- Protecting the existing traders so they can continue to operate through the redevelopment and in the future

Council will provide a detailed submission to the Government. We encourage everyone who cares about the market to make a submission to the Government too. The process will be open for 8 weeks. You can find out more here

<https://engage.vic.gov.au/preston-market-precinct>

The Victorian Planning Authority has released draft planning controls for the Preston Market precinct. What does this mean for the future of the market?

The Victorian Planning Authority (VPA), a State Government body, has been drafting new planning controls for the Preston Market site, after Darebin Council was removed as the Planning Authority in 2017. Planning Controls determine the rules for how the site should be developed, including height limits, density controls, open space and the location of the market.

The VPA has now released these plans, which, if implemented will dictate how the site will be developed in the future. The VPA's plans allow:

- The market to be moved to Mary Street, with an entrance to Cramer Street, while keeping the fruit and veg section.
- Height limits of up to 12 storeys to the south and above parts of the market, and up to 20 elsewhere on the site.
- A heritage overlay for the market, with any new development required to consider and respond to the current market's heritage character, such as wide laneways and its light, airy feel.
- Requiring 10% open space and 10% affordable housing.

What is the Council's response to the VPA's plans?

Darebin Council is disappointed that its advocacy around the location of the Preston Market and other aspects such as height limits, has not been reflected in the VPA's plans for the site.

The proposals look very similar to those from the private developer 8 years ago, not much has changed despite extensive community engagement.

We will now set about examining the plans in detail and will provide a submission to the state government, measuring the plans against our asks in *Heart of Preston*.

How do I have my say on the VPA's plans?

The VPA has now commenced an 8-week consultation process. During this time, members of the local community have the opportunity to have their say.

Darebin Council encourages all interested residents and businesses to examine the VPAs planning controls at <https://engage.vic.gov.au/preston-market-precinct> and make a formal submission before the consultation period ends on 13 July.

If you are concerned about plans to move the market, we also encourage you to lend your name to Darebin Council's petition, calling on the Minister for Planning to step in to protect the Market. You can find the petition www.change.org/protectprestonmarket.

How can I find out more about Darebin's position on the market and wider precinct?

Darebin's vision for the future of Preston Market has been set out in *The Heart of Preston* which outlines how the developers, in partnership with the Darebin community, can create a sustainable, socially connected new development on the wider site, while retaining the market where it is. You can find our report

<https://www.yoursaydarebin.com.au/PrestonMarket>