

30 July 2018

Councillor Vicki Howard  
Central Ward Office  
Shop 11, 31 Duncan Street  
Fortitude Valley Qld 4006

Dear Councillor Howard,

**Re: Queen Street Mall Public Realm Improvements**

As you are aware, the National Trust of Australia (Queensland) is Queensland's largest cultural heritage organisation. A member based charity, we provide strategic advocacy for the protection, conservation and celebration of Queensland's environmental, built and cultural heritage.

We have had enquiries from National Trust of Australia (Queensland) members expressing concern over the proposed rejuvenation of Queen Street Mall and the retention of its heritage values. As well as being a vibrant shopping precinct, Queen Street Mall contains a number of beautiful heritage buildings, facades and arcades that directly contribute to the Mall's appeal. Brisbane residents are keen to ensure that these elements are retained, visible and cared for into the future.

We note on Brisbane City Council's website that the Mall is in Stage 1 of the Queen Street Mall Public Realm Improvements. The website does not however adequately the extent of works involved in Stage 1 or indeed provides any information regarding the latter stages of Improvements. Without this information being publicly available, it is very difficult for Brisbane residents, National Trust members and the National Trust to gain an understanding or appreciation of the works and their proposed outcomes.

We are pleased to note in Brisbane City Council's document "*Queen Street Mall Visioning Plan*" that heritage facades are to be preserved and integrated, with an action to "*retain / restore sightlines and access to facades and awnings.*" In addition, the Plan aims to create a "*central alignment of structures [within the Mall] to open up pedestrian circulation.*"



National Trust of Australia (Queensland) is dedicated to the protection, conservation and celebration of environmental, built and cultural heritage.

Whilst the aims of this plan are pleasing, there are no details regarding how this will be achieved. Presently, the view lines to many significant heritage facades are blocked or obscured by ill-placed central structures within the malls, such as outdoor cafes and bars. Entryways to historic arcades are also hindered by the proximity of these outdoor mall structures – this all has an adverse and detrimental effect on the heritage significance of these places and on their streetscape contribution.

Given that Brisbane City Council is investing in the improvement of Queen Street Mall's public realm, we recommend that Council uses this opportunity to re-establish the visual prominence of Brisbane's beautiful, historic structures through this area.

We would welcome advice from Council on:

- ✦ Stage 1 of the Public Realm Improvements (beyond the brief information provided on Council's website);
- ✦ Later stages of the Public Realm Improvements to Queen Street Mall; and
- ✦ How the aims of the Queen Street Mall Visioning Plan will be achieved in relation to heritage.

We would also welcome the opportunity to meet with BCC on site to discuss these issues and identify areas where the National Trust of Australia (Queensland) could assist with this issue.

We look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,



Jane Alexander  
Heritage Advocacy Adviser

Cc: Lord Mayor Graham Quirk  
Brisbane City Council – City Projects Team  
Brisbane City Council – Heritage Team

