



Australian Institute of Landscape Architects

AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS (AILA)

PUBLIC STATEMENT

TO BE READ AT FEDERATION SQUARE PUBLIC DEBATE ON 13 FEBRUARY 2018, DEAKIN EDGE

The Australian Institute of Landscape Architects (AILA) is deeply concerned by the Victorian Government's decision to replace the Yarra Building with an Apple store. Such a significant alteration to Melbourne's premier public space deserves meaningful public consultation and a transparent approval process.

The decision has raised many responses from our members, particularly regarding the lack of consultation, the impact on the functionality of the public realm and the environmental sustainability of replacing a 16 year old public building.

AILA acknowledges commercial tenancies form part of the original design intent, but believes a large stand-alone store for a global retailer is inconsistent with the Cultural and Civic objectives set out in the Square's Charter. We fear the inclusion of the Store will irrevocably alter Federation Square's vital role as the city's central community gathering space, whether for peace or protest. We advocate for free, democratic and accessible public space that is not unduly dominated by private interests.

AILA supports the AIA's call for public consultation to inform a comprehensive master plan, which would guide all design and management issues and ensure Federation Square's on-going positive contribution to civic life.

AILA Vic q to be asked by Mark Skiba – AILA Vic Vice – President

Q. for Esther Anatolitis (or the entire panel if time permits)

In light of this proposal, which space will best express Melbourne's civic values - Fed Square, the State Library Forecourt, City Square, other? Should Fed Square retain primacy over other spaces?