

22 December 2017

Richard Wynne MP
Level 16, 8 Nicholson Street
East Melbourne VIC 3002

By email: richard.wynne@parliament.vic.gov.au

Dear Minister,

RE: APPLE STORE AT FEDERATION SQUARE

The Victorian Division of the Planning Institute of Australia (PIA) in conjunction with the Architects Institute of Australia (AIA) and the Australian Institute of Landscape Architects (AILA) write in relation to your recent approval of the Apple Store at Federation Square.

The Planning Institute of Australia is the nation's peak planning body with over 7,000 members. PIA exists to represent the interests of the planning profession, to support members through training and to advocate for good planning outcomes. In particular, we strongly advocate for good quality planning outcomes and fair and transparent planning processes.

The Australian Institute of Architects (AIA) is the peak body for the architectural profession in Australia. It is an independent, national member organisation with around 12,000 members across Australia and overseas. More than 3,000 of these are based in Victoria. The AIA exists to advance the interests of members, their professional standards and contemporary practice, and expand and advocate the value of architects and architecture to the sustainable growth of our communities, economy and culture. The AIA actively works to maintain and improve the quality of our built environment by promoting better, responsible and environmental design

The Australian Institute of Landscape Architects (AILA) champions quality design for public open spaces, stronger communities and greater environmental stewardship. AILA represents over 3,000 members throughout Australia and overseas.

In response to your recent approval, we jointly write to voice our concern over the lack of a clear and transparent planning process with no opportunity for community consultation for such a significant development in Melbourne's most iconic public square. Collectively, we advocate for the de-politicisation of the planning process and such a decision will only set a precedent for poor planning decisions in the future.

We believe that such a significant proposal for this publicly owned civic space should have gone through a transparent competitive process to ensure the most suitable tenants were selected.

We would welcome the opportunity to meet with you to discuss this or any other significant proposals that may detrimentally impact our city.

Yours sincerely,



Laura Murray
Planning Institute Australia
VIC President



Adrian Gray
AILA
VIC President



Vanessa Bird
Victorian Chapter President
Australian Institute of Architects