

# Media Release

The Hon Richard Wynne MP

Minister for Planning

Minister for Housing



Friday, 8 April 2022

## DRIVING INVESTMENT WHILE PROTECTING HISTORY

A new development, at the top end of Collins Street, will create hundreds of jobs and deliver hundreds of millions of dollars in investment into Melbourne's CBD.

Minister for Planning Richard Wynne today gave the stamp of approval for a new development at 60 Collins Street that will ensure the continued preservation and protection of the iconic heritage at Melville House, currently located at the site.

The new tower will create over 42,000 square metres of new office space as well as new retail tenancies in one of the most iconic parts of our CBD. This \$269 million project will create 1,100 jobs during construction and a further 1,250 ongoing jobs once construction is complete.

The development brings together an ultramodern 159 metre tower, covering 37 levels, with sustainable design that compliments and maintains the heritage listed facade of Melville House.

Melville House is one of very few surviving nineteenth century residences in the central city area – once home to professionals such as doctors and lawyers. Built in 1881, the facade is one of very few surviving examples of 'Boom Style' architecture in the city.

The innovative new plans for the site saw the developer, Dexus, work with the Melbourne Club to buy the airspace rights above the heritage listed clubhouse and gardens, to protect it from future development.

This unique partnership has allowed for more floorspace and greater investment in the new development while providing protections to the historically significant Melbourne Club site.

Built in 1858, the Melbourne Club plays a significant part in our city's heritage as a rare example of a nineteenth century purpose-built clubhouse with relatively intact internal characteristics including fittings and fixtures from early decorative schemes, particularly the original bathrooms features.

In addition, the rear garden holds aesthetic and botanical significance as home to the largest London planetree known to exist in Victoria along with an uncommon date palm.

The Victorian Government modernised how we plan within the CBD in 2016 with new built form controls – enhancing Melbourne's long-term liveability and improving public amenity – fostering innovative designs like this one.

Construction of the new sustainable building – with a minimum 5 Star Green rating – is expected to start in 2023 and is due to be completed by 2026.

### Quotes attributable to Minister for Planning Richard Wynne

*"This is exactly the kind of innovative development Melbourne is known for – combining world class design while protecting our unique character and heritage."*

*"We're making sure Melbourne continues to be the best place for business in Australia – a dynamic and exciting place to live, work and play."*

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