



# Melbourne Planning Scheme

## Incorporated Document

Metropolitan Hotel Statement of Significance, June 2018

This document is an incorporated document in the Melbourne Planning Scheme pursuant to Section 6(2)(j) of the Planning and Environment Act 1987

INCORPORATED DOCUMENT – CLAUSE 81 SCHEDULE

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## **Metropolitan Hotel (HO1231)**

### **263-267 William Street, MELBOURNE**

**Grading:** Significant

**Place type:** Building

**Date(s):** 1925



### **Statement of Significance**

#### **What is Significant**

263-267 William Street, built in 1925, is significant.

#### **How is it Significant**

The building at 263-267 William Street, Melbourne is of local historical and social significance to the City of Melbourne. It is a representative example of a corner hotel building from the interwar period and in terms of use and typology, is becoming rare within the Hoddle Grid Study Area.

#### **Why is it Significant**

The hotel building at 263-267 William Street is historically significant due to its association with the long term and continued operation of the Metropolitan Hotel on the same corner site from 1854 to present day. The Metropolitan Hotel is of historical significance for its association with the establishment of city hotels as meeting places; the increased occupation of women as publicans, particularly from the early 1900s; and the hotel's role from the late 1930s in raising money for charity.

As one of a number of Melbourne hotels that underwent significant change in the 1920s and 1930s due to the demands of the Liquor Licenses Reduction Board from 1907, requiring hotel owners to provide adequate accommodation and facilities for the public, the

Metropolitan Hotel is illustrative of the substantial hotel development that took place at this time. (Criterion A)

The Metropolitan Hotel is part of a declining land use in the Hoddle Grid Study Area. From over one hundred hotels in the city centre in the 1920s to approximately forty-five in the 1960s, there are estimated to be twelve that currently retain their location, building form and use. Based on these figures, the once ubiquitous traditional corner hotel is becoming rare in the Study Area. (Criterion B)

Architecturally, the hotel at 263-267 William Street is a representative example of a hotel building from the interwar period. The two-storey hotel is built to the street boundaries with a chamfered corner marking the entry to the hotel. The second level provides accommodation with a separate street entry. Detailing to the façade is simple with a restrained neo-classical character typical of the inter-war period. (Criterion D)

The Metropolitan Hotel is of social significance for its role as a place of social congregation for more than 160 years, providing a meeting place for particular organisations and groups, as well as for informal meetings, social activities and celebrations. The social significance is evidenced by the regular, long-term, and continuous use as a hotel – a ‘public house’ – and continues to serve that function today. It is expected that there will be particular communities or groups of people with longstanding connections to this place, however these have not been specifically researched. (Criterion G).

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