

Melbourne Market Authority

Solar canopy and undercover parking expansion

MMA is Victoria's central wholesale fruit, vegetable and cut flower trading centre. The market provides the critical link between growers, wholesalers, retailers and the fresh produce supply chain. More than 4,000 businesses use the market as a base, buying and selling fresh produce, in the early hours of the morning, for distribution across Australia. A facility solution was required to provide market users with greater protection from inclement weather during business operations (delivery, pickups and staging).

 Epping Victoria
 Design and construction

Project scope

Wiley in-house design specialists provided an alternative, environmentally sustainable and cost-saving design solution during the tender stage, ensuring minimal disruption to operations during the construction phase and ease of long-term maintenance.

This design solution differed from the conforming bid by:

- Running services aerially, rather than in trenches
- Building roof access to the canopies via new bridges spanning from the existing building—replacing the vertical ladder access to each canopy in the conforming tender.
- A parapet design that complements the existing market facility, in place of Monowills handrail system.

The brownfield project included:

- Six structural steel canopies spanning 2.2 hectares
- 4,332 solar panels generating 1.95-megawatt power to support onsite energy requirements
- 8,200,000 litres of rainwater catchment capacity per year

Business value to client

Continuous trading is vital to the success of the markets and their tenants. Expanding the undercover area has reduced the effects and hazards caused by inclement weather on both the traders and their food products. Traders are now able to continue with regular business operations and movement of produce, regardless of Melbourne's unpredictable weather conditions.

A key feature of the design extending the undercover area was the use of minimal columns supporting the structure. This design element ensures the safety of all people on site, allowing vehicle and human traffic to move efficiently and safely.

The environmentally-sound design incorporates a solar electricity generation solution. This approach will reduce ongoing electrical demand and costs, allowing The Melbourne Market to operate in a sustainable way well into the future.

The Melbourne Market Authority and their tenants were elated that Wiley delivered the project four months ahead of the original program, despite the challenges of delivering during the Covid Pandemic.



Sustainability is a focus for Melbourne Market and this project aligned perfectly, being an environmentally-sound design and with solar electricity generation.



Complex services



Live environment



Future focus



Cost savings

