

Statement of Recommendation from the Executive Director, Heritage Victoria

Central Deborah Gold Mine, VHR H1841

76 Violet Street Bendigo, Greater Bendigo City

Dja Dja Wurrung Country



Executive Director recommendation

I recommend to the Heritage Council of Victoria (**Heritage Council**) that the Central Deborah Gold Mine, located at 76 Violet Street, Bendigo in the Victorian Heritage Register (**VHR**) be amended.

In accordance with section 62 of the *Heritage Act 2017* (**the Act**), I suggest that the Heritage Council determine:

- the objects are integral to understanding the cultural heritage significance of a registered place and are to be included in the VHR in accordance with section 49(1)(ca) of the Act; and
- to include additional land in the VHR (section 49(1)(d)(i) and (ii) of the Act); and
- the category of registration be amended to Registered Place, Registered Object Integral to a Registered Place and Registered Archaeological Place; and
- the reasons why the place is included in the VHR are amended based on the Heritage Council criteria; and
- categories of works or activities may be carried out in relation to the place with objects integral for which a permit is not required (permit exemptions)



STEVEN AVERY
Executive Director, Heritage Victoria
Date of recommendation: 19 May 2025

The process from here

1. The Heritage Council publishes the Executive Director's recommendation (section 41)

The Heritage Council will publish the Executive Director's recommendation on its [website](#) for a period of 60 days.

2. Making a submission to the Heritage Council (sections 44 and 45)

Within the 60-day publication period, any person or body may make a written submission to the Heritage Council. This submission can support the recommendation, or object to the recommendation and a hearing can be requested in relation to the submission. Information about making a submission and submission forms are available on the [Heritage Council's website](#).

3. Heritage Council determination (sections 46, 46A and 49)

The Heritage Council is an independent statutory body. It is responsible for making the final determination to include or not include the place, object or land in the VHR or amend a place, object or land already in the VHR.

If no submissions are received the Heritage Council must make a determination within 40 days of the publication closing date.

If submissions are received, the Heritage Council may decide to hold a hearing in relation to the submission. The Heritage Council must conduct a hearing if the submission is made by a person or body with a real or substantial interest in the place, object or land. If a hearing does take place, the Heritage Council must make a determination within 90 days after the completion of the hearing.

4. Obligations of owners of places, objects and land (sections 42, 42A, 42B, 42C, 42D and 43)

The owner of a place, object or land which is the subject of a recommendation to the Heritage Council has certain obligations under the Act. These relate to advising the Executive Director in writing of any works or activities that are being carried out, proposed or planned for the place, object or land.

The owner also has an obligation to provide a copy of this statement of recommendation to any potential purchasers of the place, object or land before entering into a contract.

5. Further information

The relevant sections of the Act are provided at Appendix 1.

Description

The following is a description of the Central Deborah Gold Mine at the time of the site inspection by Heritage Victoria in December 2024.

The Central Deborah Gold Mine is located on the traditional land of the Dja Dja Wurrung people.

The Central Deborah Gold Mine is located on the corner of Violet and Creek Streets, Bendigo. The site is comprised of a collection of corrugated iron buildings, with a tall white poppet head that is the most prominent visual feature. The Central Deborah Gold mine is located about 1.2km south-west of the Former Bendigo Post Office. The surrounding areas include residential zones as well as commercial zones. The Central Deborah Gold Mine is comprised of the following elements and features which are listed below.

Context

The Central Deborah Gold Mine is a twentieth-century quartz mine which was developed from 1939 and was a working mine until 1954. The mine was purchased by the Bendigo City Council in 1970. Over time the Bendigo Tourist Trust restored the mine and it is now a tourist attraction. Its historic mining equipment is still functional, and several underground levels are accessible to visitors.

The Central Deborah Gold Mine is included in the VHR as a Registered place. It was registered in 1999, and a list of heritage objects was also included in the registration. The Heritage Act category ‘Registered object Integral to a registered place’ did not exist until 2017.

Diagram of main elements

This diagram indicates the local of the main elements at Central Deborah Gold Mine.



Note: Underlined structures denote modern tourism-related buildings.

- A Tram shed & gift shop
- B Blacksmith shop
- C Dirty changerooms
- D Clean changerooms
- E Shift boss office & mine managers office
- F First aid room & carbide light room
- G Modern building
- H Manager's garage & carpenter's shop
- I Ore bins
- J Poppet head (above mine shaft)
- K Boiler house
- L Stoke hold and oil store
- M Steam compressor house
- N Winder house
- O Air receiver
- P Gold museum
- Q Static display area (machinery displayed)
- R Gold treatment area
- S Crushing battery
- T 1980s trestleway

Descriptions of main elements

Elements from the mine's era of operation 1939-1954

Blacksmith shop (1939)

The Blacksmith shop is an unlined corrugated iron shed with a dirt floor built in 1939 and extended in 1945. Internally, it has two brick forges and a large assortment of tools.

Changeroom building (northern building) (1939)

Dirty changeroom building

The dirty changeroom building is a large, unlined corrugated iron clad building with timber framing. It was built in 1939 and extended in 1945 to provide showers, toilets and laundry. Dirty change room fitted out with change benches and clothing hooks. The caretaker/ragpicker's room is partitioned off within the dirty changeroom, with an interpretative display to explain the role of the ragpicker.

Clean changeroom building

The clean changeroom building is attached to the dirty change room and has a similar layout. The clean changerooms are also an unlined, corrugated iron clad shed with timber framing. The perimeter of the room is lined with change benches and clothing hooks above. The clean changerooms also have two rows of steam heaters. When workers would arrive to work, they would hang their damp clothes over the steam heaters. The numbered hooks corresponded with those in the dirty changerooms and were a way for miners to keep their personal belongings organised. At the end of a shift, any items from the dirty change room that the miners wanted to take home would have to be passed through a window to the ragpicker for an inspection (to ensure no gold was stolen), before being passed back into the clean changerooms.



2024, Blacksmith shop.



2024, Dirty change room.



2024, Clean change room.

Extensions to the northern building

This building was added on to the changerooms in 1945 as the needs of the mine grew. With the expansion of the mine's plant many buildings were extended (such as the Blacksmith shop) or new buildings introduced, such as this building extension which houses the shift boss and mine managers offices, and the first aid and carbide light rooms.

Shift boss and mine manager's offices (1945)

The shift boss office and mine manager's office building consist of two rooms. Currently, both are devoid of most of their internal features and fittings and their functions are not recognisable. This building was also extended out to the north to accommodate a toilet block. The CMP notes that the original mine manager's office had a personal shower.

First aid room and carbide light rooms (1945)

The first aid room is a plaster lined room and with a double door to allow easy access by stretcher bearers while carrying stretchers. The first aid room has been arranged with a table, sink and bed to interpret the room. Also stored in this room are the two Bayne patent stretchers, which were locally designed for retrieving injured miners in an upright position.

The carbide light room is next door and is a partially lined corrugated iron room. The lighting installed is identical to the lights originally used in this room to prevent ignition of carbide gas. The registered objects in this room, including the carbide gas generator and carbide drums, have been arranged to assist in interpretation.



2024, Mine managers office.



2024, First aid room.



2024, Carbide light room.

Mine manager's garage and carpenter's shop building (1945)

Within the middle of the gravelled courtyard formed by the buildings arranged around the perimeter of the site is a timber clad skillion roofed building. Access was not available in December 2024, however the CMP notes that originally this building would have been open to the west (facing the poppet head) with a dirt floor and unlined interiors. This building is divided into two sections:

Mine manager's garage (1945)

The mine manager's garage was used to house the mine manager's car. This building is of basic post and beam construction.

Carpenter's shop (1945)

The carpenter's shop is an open room with a work bench and a small cupboard at the eastern end.

Ore bins (1945)

The ore bins are located at the southern end the mine manager's garage and carpenter's shop building. There are two ore bins that consist of an iron boiler shell, and an upper wooden extension. This extension was introduced in 1945 to match the landing height of the new 1945 poppet head. The original trestle way ended shortly after these ore bins.

Poppet head and mine shaft (1945)

The poppet head is a large white pyramid type structure. This poppet head was first made by the Bendigo Firm A. Roberts and Sons in 1905 for the Catherine Reef United Company in Eaglehawk. This mine was closed in 1920, and the Catherine Reef United poppet head plant stood abandoned until 1923 when it was sold to the New Red White and Blue consolidated mine. After this mine shut in 1938, its plant was auctioned and the poppet head finally erected at the Central Deborah in 1945.



2024, Mine managers garage and carpenter's shop, ore bins & poppet head.



2024, Original mine shaft under poppet head.

Boiler house (1939)

The boiler house is a skillion roofed, corrugated iron building that houses the original Cornish boiler and ancillary rooms such as the stoke hold and oil store. The northern section of the building houses the Cornish boiler, which was used to supply steam to the machinery at the mine. The boiler is set in brick and measures 8.5 metres in length and 1.8 metres in diameter.

Stoke hold and oil store

The stoke hold is a small room at the rear of the boiler house used for stoking and operating the boiler. It has a brick floor and corrugated iron clad walls. At the rear of the stoke hold are double doors which allow for entry of the timber trolley, which was loaded with logs for use as fuel for the boiler. The oil store was a 1945 addition to the boiler room and stoke hold. It is a small room in the same corrugated iron building as the boiler house. It was used to store oils associated with the operation of the winder and air compressor.



2024. Cornish boiler viewed from stoke hold.



2024. Timber trolley in stoke hold.



2025. Boiler house interior, boiler set in brick. Source: Bendigo Heritage Attractions.

Compressor and winder house building (1939)

Steam compressor house (1939)

The steam compressor house is an unlined, corrugated iron shed, with a west-sloping skillion roof. Internally it has a wooden floor and two steam compressors. Only the Ingersoll air-compressor is part of the original historic fabric. Compressed air was transported from the air compressor to the underground levels via the air receiver to drive rock drills, shaft sinking winches, ventilation fans and pumps. Compressed air was also used in the blacksmith's shop to power the forges and the shanking machine. The compressor house was built in 1939 and extended in 1942. The structure, flooring and steps to the winder house are all original.

Air receiver (1939)

The air receiver was installed to provide a large reservoir of compressed air. It is a long iron cylinder, 8.5 metres in length. This one was installed with the original plant in 1939 and was used from the mine's opening until its closure in 1954. It was used to store the compressed air generated by the air compressors to balance high demand created by the use of mining equipment.

Winder house (1945)

The winder house is a large high room with gable roof, built to house the steam winder, which was later converted to compressed air, as well as the electric air compressor in 1945. The winder house is also accessible via the boiler house rooms. The original winder was manufactured in 1897, and the electric compressor in 1945. The structure and machinery are all essentially original, however the CMP notes that there have been modifications to account for changing regulations as the mine was in use until 1954.



2025. Steam compressor and compressor house. Source; Bendigo Heritage Attractions.



2025. Winder house. Source: BHA



2025. Air receiver. Source: BHA.

Elements from post-1954 into the tourist era

Tram shed building

The Tram Shed Building is a modern, corrugated iron, gable roofed building which houses a tram shed, tourist amenities including a café, shop, toilets and a small theatrette used for safety demonstrations. Its character is not unsympathetic to the heritage buildings with a similar materiality. The entire Central Deborah Gold Mine Site is accessed through this building. Part of the Tram shed building stands on land within the Violet Street road reserve rather than the historic crown allotment of the mine.



2019, Central Deborah gold mine entrance with tram shelter,
Source: Google Street View.



Unknown year, 'Central Deborah Gold Mine featuring interior views'. Interior view of gift shop/café building.
Source: Expedia.com.au

Modern building (unknown date)

This modern building is a corrugated iron, gable roofed extension that was added to the northern collection of buildings, which house the changerooms, first aid room etc. This building does not relate to the mine's period of operation nor its significance.

Gold museum (2000s)

The gold museum is a corrugated iron, gable roofed building, of modern (2000s) construction. It houses a museum relating to the history of the Central Deborah and gold mining in Bendigo.

Static display area (unknown date)

The static display area is a modern, timber framed shed with a corrugated iron roof. It is used for the display of large machinery. None of the machinery held in the static display area is original to the Central Deborah Gold Mine. After the mine closed, the site was used as a store for mining machinery and equipment scavenged from other mines.

Gold treatment area (unknown date)

The gold treatment area is a modern, corrugated iron and timber framed shed with brick flooring. This space is largely open and is used to demonstrate gold panning practices in large troughs. The gold treatment area provides access to the crushing battery. There are some more pieces of machinery stored in this space that do not relate to the Central Deborah's history as a working mine.



2024. Static display area with non-original machinery



2024. Gold treatment area.

Crushing battery (1978)

The crushing battery is housed in a corrugated iron shed adjacent to the gold treatment area. This battery is from the Deborah Gold Mine, a different gold mine on the same reef about a kilometre from the Central Deborah. It was erected at the Deborah in 1936. The Central Deborah Gold Mine never had its own crushing battery, due to its location in an urban area. The first large amount of quartz from the Central Deborah was sent to the Deborah battery to be crushed, however the battery itself does not relate to the mine's period of operation, having been relocated here in 1978.

Trestle way (1980s)

The trestle way is a timber walkway that runs across the length of the site in a southwest to northeast direction, connecting the first platform of the poppet head to the original ore bins, all the way to the crushing battery. The existing trestle way is a 1980s reconstruction, though there was a similar trestle way at the site originally. The original trestle way would not have extended so far and would have instead ended shortly after the original ore bins.

Landscaping

In the northern area of the site, there is a landscaped portion of the site, which includes trees, a small body of shallow water and some rocks. This landscape scheme was introduced during the period of use as a heritage tourist mine.



2024. Crushing battery.



2024. 1980s trestle way, leading to crushing battery. Gold museum, static display area and gold treatment area behind partially obscured by landscaping.

The Central Deborah Gold Mine is also made up of the extensive underground workings that extend beyond the boundaries of the site. The final shaft extends to a depth of 422.6 metres, which comprises 17 levels. Most of these levels have since filled with groundwater, a consequence of mining operations ceasing to pump water out of the workings. Some of the upper levels of the mine remain accessible to visitors.

Description of objects integral

The following are described in the tables detailing the Objects Integral later in this report.

1. Air-powered drill shanker and sharpener
2. Compressed-air drill steel hammer
3. Hand tools
4. 4x Bayne patent mining stretchers
5. 1x Carbide gas generator
6. 4x Carbide drums
7. Fire box tools
8. Timber trolley
9. Winder
10. Thompsons electric air compressor
11. Ingersoll Rand steam air compressor
12. Cornish boiler.

History

Bendigo Flat

The Central Deborah Gold mine is situated in an area that was known as Bendigo Flat. The first mining operations in the area commenced under an alluvial lease, granted in 1867. As early as 1869, quartz miners were working a claim known as the Great Central in this same area. It was worked haphazardly and by 1872, another company had sunk a shaft to a depth of 42 feet (12.8 metres).

Approximately 30 years elapsed before any renewed mining took place. The Londonderry Company came to hold a section of the Deborah Reef. The Londonderry West Shaft was sunk in 1911, which was to become the Central Deborah Gold Mining Company's shaft. After the Londonderry Company became part of the South Garden Gully United Company, later to be amalgamated with 34 other companies into the Bendigo Amalgamated Goldfields (BAG), no further progress was made at this site, which became a rubbish tip.

By 1926, gold mining output had fallen dramatically. Responding to a 1931 report about the decline of the Bendigo Goldfield, the Government provided financial assistance to three Bendigo mines to revive the gold mining operations. In 1934, a restructured Monument Hill Consolidated Company reopened the Londonderry West Shaft, renaming it the Central Deborah. After another restructure, two companies were formed being the New Monument Hill and the Central Deborah Gold Mining Companies.

The Central Deborah Gold Mining Company

In September 1939 the Central Deborah Company was formally registered. The capital was comprised of £30,000 in shares of 10 shillings each. By November 1939, the Central Deborah shaft was being sunk at a rate of three metres a fortnight and was timbered with locally supplied Red Gum. At this time, work was also proceeding for the erection of plant.

Most of the plant and some of the buildings at the Central Deborah Gold Mine were purchased and repurposed from other mines. Some buildings were purchased from the White Horse Mine at Chewton and re-erected as the carbide light room and storeroom next to the blacksmith's shop. The changerooms came from the Nell Gwynne Mine in Bendigo.

The plant was purchased from the Central Wattle Gully Mine at Chewton and included the poppet head, compressor & boiler. When this compressor proved inadequate, it was replaced with the present-day green Ingersoll Rand AA2 model which is a straight-line, two-stage, steam-driven air compressor.

The Second World War had a devastating impact on mining in Bendigo. Of the 37 mines operating in 1940, only four remained in operation by 1945, all of which were on the Deborah reef. Even though the Central Deborah didn't close, the effects of the war were still felt through labour shortages, which caused an irregular output for crushing and therefore less revenue.

The 1945 plant

In 1945 the Central Deborah Gold Mine underwent a plant reconstruction. This expansion would allow the Central Deborah to deepen its shaft and seek the reef structure successfully worked elsewhere on the Deborah reef. A steel poppet head was erected over the 1939 wooden one, and three metres of height was trimmed off each of the legs to fit it on site. This poppet head was manufactured in 1905 by A Roberts & Sons, a Bendigo firm, for the Catherine Reef United Company's mine in Eaglehawk. Prior to being erected at the Central Deborah Gold Mine it was used by the New Red White and Blue Consolidated Company.

Prior to the 1945 plant reconstruction, the Central Deborah Gold Mine used a green Ingersoll Rand steam driven air compressor for the steady supply of compressed air to the site. It was manufactured around 1912 and installed on site in February 1941. It was purchased from the second-hand machinery merchants Seward & Sons of South Melbourne in December 1940. The compressor could run up to six rock drills simultaneously and was used up until 1947 when it was replaced by the Thompson electric air compressor.

The Thompson compressor was commissioned in 1945 from the Thompsons Engineering & Pipe Company of Castlemaine. The compressor was installed on site as early as December 1945, but it sat idle for 18 months awaiting electrical components. In 1947, the electric motor was delivered but still not operational due to delays caused by an engineering strike. In April 1947, all necessary parts were on site, but the power transformer caused voltage drops, resulting in blackouts and dimming lights to nearby houses. The State Electricity Commission subsequently banned use of the compressor until adjustments could be made. These modifications were made in 1947, and in August the Thompsons compressor finally commenced operation. At this time, the Ingersoll Rand compressor was maintained as a standby unit. As a result, the Ingersoll Rand compressor (alongside the boiler and stoke hold) are the only remains of the mine's original (pre-1945) engine house.

During this period many of the buildings were also upgraded or expanded. The Blacksmith's shop was doubled in size, making room for a second forge and the installation of two brick chimneys to each forge. The first aid room was added during the 1945 alterations as by law, any mine employing over a given number of miners had to provide a first aid room. The mine manager's garage, carpenter's shop, and the extensions to the original ore bins were also added at this time.

The final depth of the mine was 422.6 metres, attained in September 1949 and the final level, number 17, was cut at 410.8 metres. The Central Deborah Gold Mine produced 928.8kg of gold from its opening in 1939 until November 1954, when underground mining ceased.

Tourist attraction from 1970s

Four years after the closure of the last two mines on the Deborah reef, the conversation began about retaining a complete mine. The mine was purchased by the Bendigo City Council in 1970, and the Bendigo Tourist Trust gradually restored the mine for use as a heritage attraction. In 2025, the Central Deborah Gold Mine is open to visitors as a popular tourist attraction. The well-preserved site offers the opportunity to learn about the history and development of gold mining in Bendigo. Underground tours to the second level of the mine highlight the conditions of underground mining and demonstrate how gold was unearthed at the Central Deborah. Above ground, displays, models and artifacts explain the history of mining from the very beginning of Bendigo.

Selected bibliography

Chambers, J. 1951. *Central Deborah Gold Mining Co. N. L. Bendigo*.

Lerk, James. 1993. *Bendigo's Central Deborah Gold Mine and its Era*. The Bendigo Trust.

Kaufman, Rob. 2006. *Revised Conservation Management Plan Central Deborah Gold Mine*. Prepared for the Bendigo Trust.

Hill, Gary and E. M. Doling. 2013. *Central Deborah Gold Mine Collection Significance Assessment*. Prepared for the Bendigo Trust.

Consultation

The Executive Director (ED) thanks the following people for sharing their knowledge of the Central Deborah Gold Mine.

- Mr DeAraugo and Mr Allen, Bendigo Heritage Attractions.

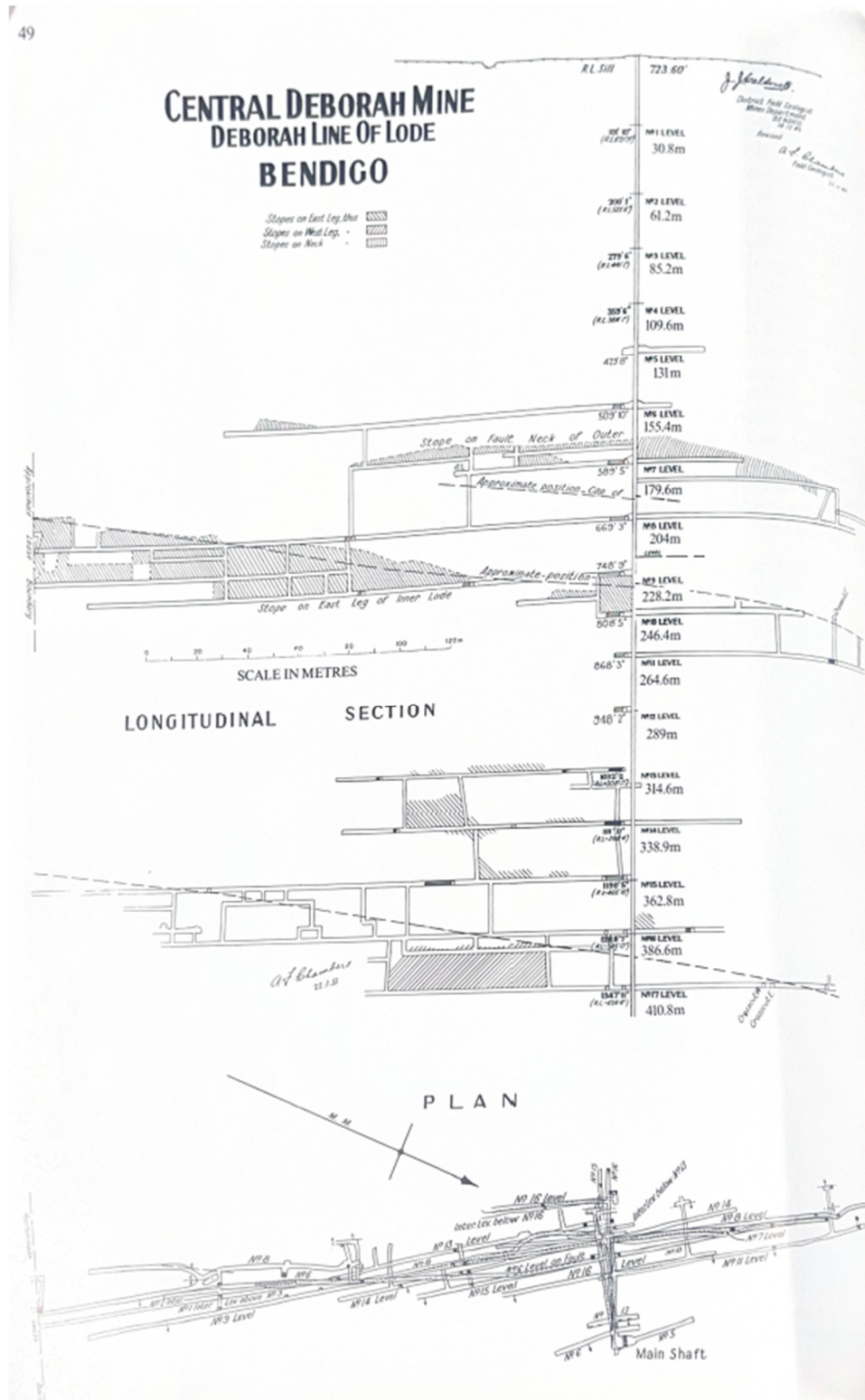
Historical images



August 1945. Central Deborah Gold Mine's first plant. Source: Central Debroah Gold Mine Collection, reproduced in Central Deborah Gold Mine and its Era.



February 1946, A rare view taken one day before the original poppet head was pulled down. Source: W.B. Harris, reproduced in the Central Deborah Gold Mine and its Era.



1949. Central Deborah Gold Mine Longitudinal Section and plan showing underground workings.
Source: Mines Department Bendigo, reproduced in *Central Deborah Gold Mine and its Era*.

Further information

Traditional Owner Information

The place with objects integral is located on the traditional land of the Dja Dja Wurrung people. Under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006*, the Registered Aboriginal Party for this land is the Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation.

Native Title

Native title is the recognition in Australian law that some Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people continue to hold rights and interests in land and water. Native title is not granted by governments. It is recognised through a determination made by the Federal Court of Australia under the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth).

In 2010, acknowledging the difficult nature of having native title determined under the Native Title Act, the Victorian Government developed an alternate system for recognising the rights of Victorian traditional owners. The *Traditional Owner Settlement Act 2010 (Vic)* allows the government and traditional owner groups to make agreements that recognise traditional owners' relationship to land and provide them with certain rights on Crown land.

As of May 2025, there is no Native Title determination, and the Recognition and Settlement Agreement does not affect this place.

Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Register

The place with objects integral is in an area of Aboriginal cultural heritage sensitivity associated with the Bendigo Creek. (March 2025)

Integrity

The integrity of the place with objects integral is very good. The cultural heritage values of the Central Deborah Gold Mine can be easily read in the extant fabric.

(December 2024)

Intactness

The intactness of the place with objects integral is excellent.

(December 2024)

Condition

The condition of the Central Deborah Gold Mine is very good.

(December 2024)

Note: The condition of a place or object does not influence the assessment of its cultural heritage significance. A place or object may be in very poor condition and still be of very high cultural heritage significance. Alternatively, a place or object may be in excellent condition but be of low cultural heritage significance.

Amendment recommendation

1. Proposed inclusion of additional land

State-level cultural heritage significance of the place

The State-level cultural heritage significance of the Central Deborah Gold Mine was recognised in 1999 by its inclusion in the Victoria Heritage Register.

Summary of current extent

The current extent:

Does not include

- Land
- The historic mine shaft and the underground workings.

Includes

- The buildings erected on site between 1939 and 1954
- Objects.

Amendment application

On 30 April 2025 the Executive Director made and accepted an application to amend the registration of the place to ensure it is consistent with current practices under the Act.

Assessment of additional land and summary of significance

The information below is provided under s.40(3A)(c)(i)(ii) and s.40(4)(c)(i)(ii) as part of the ED's Statement of recommendation.

The Executive Director recommends that the Heritage Council amend this registration because it is his view that:

- The State-level cultural heritage significance of the place would be substantially less if the additional land or any part of the additional land which is or has been used in conjunction with the place were developed [s.40(3A)(c)(i)].
- The additional land surrounds the place and is important to the protection or conservation of the place; or contributes to the understanding of the place [s.40(3A)(c)(ii)].

The Executive Director notes that:

The land proposed for inclusion both is currently and has been used in conjunction with the place for over 85 years.

The Executive Director is of the view that:

- The current extent is limited to the buildings at the Central Deborah Gold Mine, and is insufficient to protect, conserve and allow for a proper understanding of the place as a mine, complete with underground workings.
- If any of the additional land proposed for inclusion in the registration were developed, depending upon the nature of the proposal, there is potential for the development to impact upon the place and substantially reduce its State-level cultural heritage significance.
- The land proposed for inclusion has State-level archaeological values.

2. Proposed inclusion of additional objects integral

Summary

The Central Deborah Mine is registered under the following Heritage Act categories:

- Registered place
- Registered object

1999 Registration

The following objects were included when this place was registered in 1999.

1. Air-powered drill shanker and sharpener
2. Compressed-air drill steel hammer
3. Hand tools
4. 3x Bayne patent mining stretchers
5. 1x Carbide gas generator
6. 4x Carbide drums
7. Fire box tools
8. Drain cocks
9. Timber trolley
10. Winder
11. Thompsons electric air compressor

2025 Amendment

Proposed inclusions

It is proposed to include the following objects in addition to the above:

4. One additional Bayne patent mining stretcher (4 in total)
12. Ingersoll Rand steam air compressor
13. Cornish boiler

Proposed redefinition of an object as a fixture

It is proposed to redefine object number 8 (Drain Cocks) as these are part of the Cornish Boiler and are therefore fixtures.

Background to objects at the Mine

The Central Deborah Gold Mine has a vast collection of blacksmith, carpentry, mining and other tools. Not all have been accurately identified or recorded. In some cases the provenance is unknown and they may originate from other mines. It is sometimes unclear exactly which tools are identified in the original registration, if multiple of the same exist. Some have been brought in to demonstrate historical aspects of mining to tourists.

The Executive Director observes the following:

Object 2 (compressed-air drill steel hammer)

Object 2 was unable to be located at the time of this assessment (2025). It has been retained in the list of objects integral in the event that it is rediscovered at a later date.

Object 3 (hand tools related to the blacksmith's shop) and object 7 (fire box tools)

The provenance of objects 3 and 7 is not certain. They will be retained as objects integral pending the clarification of their provenance at a later date by the Central Deborah Gold Mine. If and when this information is available, the Executive Director will consider if a second amendment to add, remove or clarify these objects is required.

Definition of object integral

In the context of a registered place, an 'object integral' is

- a key part of the place; and
- contributes to our understanding of the place's State-level cultural heritage significance.

An object integral does not have to be of State-level significance in its own right. A more detailed definition can be found in the Heritage Council's [Policy: objects integral to a registered place](#).

It should be noted that fixtures (such as window frames or decorative masonry) automatically form part of the registered place and are therefore protected under the Act.

Assessment of whether the objects are integral to understanding the cultural heritage significance of a registered place (40(3A)(b))

The Heritage Council's [Policy: objects integral to a registered place](#) notes that for the purposes of the Act, an object will be considered integral to a place if it satisfied the following tests:

No.	Test	Yes/No	Reason
1.	Does the object/s form a key part of that place, being a component in its design, operation or use that contributes importantly to a richer and more complete understanding of its historical, cultural, technical, aesthetic and/or social meaning at a State level?	Yes	The additional Bayne patent mining stretcher, the Ingersoll Rand steam air compressor, and the Cornish boiler are all key components of the operation and use of the place. The addition of the Cornish boiler and Ingersoll Rand air compressor complete the collection of registered machinery at the place, and the additional stretcher contributes to an understanding of the first aid practices of the mine in the same way as the other three stretchers that are already included.
2.	Can the contribution be substantiated through physical, documentary or oral evidence?	Yes	The history of each piece of machinery is recorded in James Lerk's 1993 book 'Bendigo's Central Deborah Gold Mine and its Era' including the use of these objects at other mines before being bought by the Central Deborah Gold Mine. The collection significance assessment, prepared by Minerva Heritage in 2013 also substantiates the contribution of each object to a more complete understanding of the mine's historical significance.
Executive Director's Response		The objects can be considered integral to the place	

Summary of how the object is integral to understanding the cultural heritage significance of the place (40(4)(b))

The Ingersoll Rand air compressor was a vital piece of machinery at the Central Deborah Gold Mine. It reliably supplied compressed air to power the mine's rock drills. The Cornish boiler was similarly essential, providing steam to operate machinery including the air compressor. The Cornish boiler dates from the early 1900s and was used at both the Black's Quarry and the Virginia Consolidated mine before it was purchased for the Central Deborah. The boiler and air compressor, like much of the other machinery at the Central Deborah Gold Mine, speaks to a history of purchasing and repurposing extant machinery from defunct mines.

The Bayne stretcher completes the Central Deborah's collection of four such stretchers, which were designed in Bendigo for use in Bendigo mines. They demonstrate the first aid practices of the era, as well as the dangerous mining conditions which miners endured.

3. Proposed change to Heritage Council Criteria

The Central Deborah Goldmine Statement of Significance (1999) pre-dates the Heritage Council's *Criteria and Threshold Guidelines* which were introduced in 2012. The Central Deborah Goldmine Statement of Significance states that this place is of 'historical' and 'scientific' significance. This has been evaluated against the current *Criteria and Threshold Guidelines* with the following results:

This place with objects integral is currently registered on the basis of the following Criteria:	The Executive Director recommends that the place with objects integral is registered on the basis of the following Criteria:
Criterion A (Historical Significance)	Criterion A (Historical Significance)
Criterion C ('Scientific' Significance)	Criterion C (Archaeological Significance) <i>noting that land is now included in the registration.</i>
	Criterion D (Notable example of a class of place or object)

Note on 'scientific' significance: David Bannear's 1993 assessment of historic mining sites in the Sandhurst, Eaglehawk and Raywood Mining Divisions suggests that the Central Deborah Gold Mine is of scientific value because it has the potential to answer timely and specific archaeological research questions. However, the present registration does not include land or the 'Archaeological Place' category. For this reason, the Criterion C step tests have been reevaluated under the Heritage Council's *Criteria and Threshold Guidelines* (2022).

Reasons for proposed inclusion under Criterion C

CRITERION C: Potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of Victoria's cultural history.

Step 1 Test for Criterion C

No.	Test	Yes/No	Reason
C1)	Does physical fabric and/or documentary evidence and/or associated oral history or cultural narratives relating to the place indicate a likelihood that the place contains evidence of cultural heritage significance that is not currently visible and/or well understood or available from other sources?	Yes	<p>The:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1) physical fabric and2) documentary evidence and3) associated oral history or cultural narratives. <p>relating to the Central Deborah Gold Mine do indicate a likelihood that the place with objects integral contains evidence of cultural heritage significance that is not currently visible and/or well understood or available from other sources.</p> <p>The Central Deborah Gold Mine is an unusually intact mining site that has the ability to comprehensively demonstrate mining practice.</p>
C2)	And, from what we know of the place, is the physical evidence likely to be of an integrity and/or condition that it could yield information through detailed investigation?	Yes	<p>From what we know of the Central Deborah Gold Mine the physical evidence is likely to be of an integrity and condition that it could yield information through detailed investigation.</p> <p>The site has been well preserved for heritage tourism purposes. The physical evidence at the site has a high degree of integrity.</p>

If **both** C1 AND C2 are satisfied, then Criterion C is likely to be relevant (but not necessarily at the State level)

Executive Director's Response:	Yes	Criterion C is likely to be relevant.
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Step 2 State-level test for Criterion C

No.	Test	Yes/No	Reason
SC1)	Does the information that might be obtained through investigation have the potential to yield knowledge of significance to Victoria?	Yes	<p>The information that might be obtained through investigation does have potential to yield knowledge of significance to Victoria.</p> <p>The Central Deborah Gold Mine has the ability to answer important archaeological research questions about Victoria's archaeological history of mining. Investigation of the underground workings is likely to yield knowledge of significance to Victoria's mining history. The site has excellent interpretative value and represents an important mining technology.</p>

If SC1 is satisfied, then Criterion C is likely to be relevant at the State level

Executive Director's Response:	Yes	Criterion C is likely to be relevant at the State level.
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Reasons for proposed inclusion under Criterion D

CRITERION D: Importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of cultural places and objects

Step 1 Test for Criterion D

No.	Test	Yes/No	Reason
D1)	Is the place one of a class of places/objects that has a clear association with an event, phase, period, process, function, movement, custom or way of life in Victoria's history?	Yes	The Central Deborah Gold Mine belongs to the class of twentieth century gold mine. This class has a clear association with the following in Victoria's history: <i>Mining and mineral processing</i> <i>Gold mining</i>
D2)	Is the event, phase, period, process, function, movement, custom or way of life of historical importance, having made a strong or influential contribution to Victoria?	Yes	These themes reflect historical processes and events which have made a strong and influential contribution to Victoria. The development of gold mining in Victoria, from shallow alluvial mining to deep lead quartz mining, has made a strong and influential contribution to Victoria. The Central Deborah Gold Mine is representative of the later period of gold mining in Bendigo.
D3)	Are the principal characteristics of the class evident in the physical fabric of the place?	Yes	The principal characteristics of the class are evident in the physical fabric of the place and objects integral. The place has the essential characteristics of a gold mine, from the poppet head and mining shaft, to winding machinery, steam compressor, hand tools, and other ancillary functions within the mine such as the carbide light room and first aid room. These characteristics of the site allow the Central Deborah Gold Mine to be understood as a representative example of an essentially intact twentieth-century mine.

If D1, D2 AND D3 are satisfied, then Criterion D is likely to be relevant (but not necessarily at the State level)

Executive Director's Response:	Yes	Criterion D is likely to be relevant.
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Step 2 State-level test for Criterion D

No.	Test	Yes/No	Reason
SD1)	Is the place a notable (fine, influential or pivotal) example of the class in Victoria?	Yes	The Central Deborah Gold Mine is a notable example of the class of twentieth-century gold mine. The Central Deborah Gold mine is a fine example of its class, demonstrating the principal characteristics of the class in a way that allows the principal characteristics to be easily appreciated and understood, and these characteristics are of a higher quality than is typical of places in this class. The Central Deborah Gold Mine was one of the last remaining mines in Bendigo when it ceased operations in 1954. Having been one of the later mines operating in

Bendigo, most of the plant at the Central Deborah Gold Mine was repurposed from other mines. Upon closing, the site of the mine was purchased by Bendigo Council, and a committee of management (the Bendigo Trust) was formed to take care of the mine and operate it as a tourist attraction. The mine represents one of the few publicly accessible and in situ collections in the State.

If SD1 is satisfied, then Criterion D is likely to be relevant at the State level

Executive Director's Response:

Yes

Criterion D is likely to be relevant at the State level.

Statutory requirements under section 40

Terms of the recommendation (section 40(3)(a))

The Executive Director recommends that the registration of the Central Deborah Gold Mine in the VHR is amended.

Information to identify the place or object or land (section 40(3)(b))

Number: H1841

Category: Registered Place, Registered Object Integral to a Registered Place, and Registered Archaeological Place

Name: Central Deborah Gold Mine

Location: 76 Violet Street Bendigo

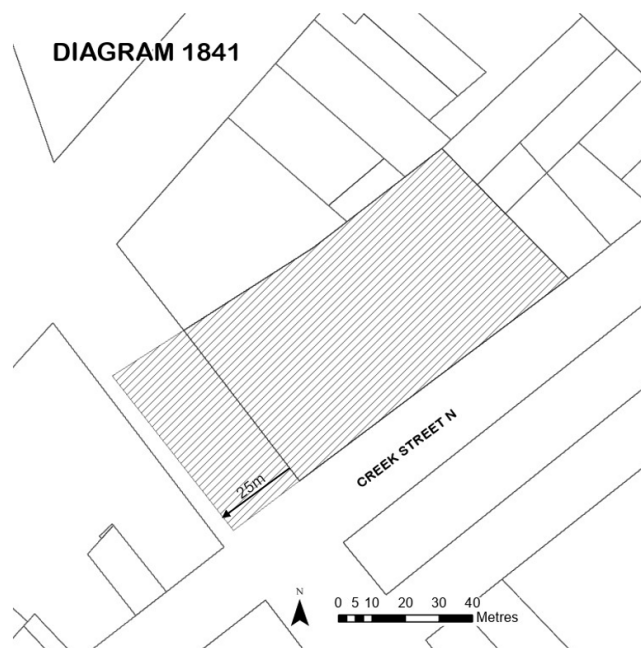
Municipality: Greater Bendigo City

Proposed extent of registration

The Executive Director recommends that the extent of registration for the Central Deborah Gold Mine be gazetted as:

All of the place shown hatched on Diagram 1841 encompassing all of crown allotment 19 Section 130C at Bendigo Parish of Sandhurst and the road reserve of Violet Street to the extent of 25m from the South West side of the title boundary, and the following objects integral:

1. Air-powered drill shank and sharpener
2. Compressed-air drill steel hammer
3. Hand tools
4. 4x Bayne patent mining stretchers
5. 1x Carbide gas generator
6. 4x Carbide drums
7. Fire box tools
8. Timber trolley
9. Winder
10. Thompsons electric air compressor
11. Ingersoll Rand steam air compressor
12. Cornish boiler



Non-statutory information about the proposed extent of registration

Aerial photo of the place showing proposed extent of registration



Note: This aerial view provides a visual representation of the place. It is not a precise representation of the recommended extent of registration. Due to distortions associated with aerial photography some elements of the place may appear as though they are outside the extent of registration.

Rationale for the proposed extent of registration

The recommended extent of registration comprises all the land, elements, and features that have been associated with the Central Deborah Gold Mine. It includes both the historic buildings, and the buildings that have been constructed on the site since the mine's closure in 1954. This extent is appropriate to protect the setting of the historic structures should any redevelopment of the site occur. The proposed registration also extends 25 metres beyond the southwest boundary to capture the tram shed building, which is how the site is entered and exited. Future works that could impact on the presentation of the modest, existing buildings will be able to be managed through an approvals process.

The recommended extent of the registration is the same as the nominated extent of registration.

It should be noted that everything included in the proposed extent of registration including all the land, all landscape features, plantings, all buildings (exteriors, interiors and fixtures), any archaeological features and the objects integral to the understanding of the cultural heritage significance of the place is proposed for inclusion in the VHR. A permit or permit exemption from Heritage Victoria is required for any works within the proposed extent of registration, apart from those identified in the categories of works or activities in this recommendation.

Summary of cultural heritage significance (section 40(4))

Statement of significance

The Central Deborah Gold Mine is located on the land of the Dja Dja Wurrung people.

What is significant?

The Central Deborah Gold Mine was developed from 1939 and operated as a working mine until 1954. The mine was one of a minority that continued to function during the Second World War. In 1939 the mine boasted a small timber poppet head, boiler steam winch, compressor, blacksmith shop, store, change rooms, and offices. Between 1945-46 the company upgraded the mine with extensions to sheds and the installation of new steam machinery, electric air compressor, steel poppet head, and ore bins.

How is it significant?

The Central Deborah Gold Mine is of historical, archaeological, and architectural significance to the State of Victoria. It satisfies the following criterion for inclusion in the Victorian Heritage Register:

Criterion A

Importance to the course, or pattern, of Victoria's cultural history.

Criterion C

Potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of Victoria's cultural history.

Criterion D

Importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of cultural places and objects

Why is it significant?

The Central Deborah Gold Mine is historically significant for its ability to demonstrate the tangible and important links to twentieth century quartz mining. It is of outstanding historical significance as the last intact and working example of the 5,500 quartz mines that won Bendigo widespread fame as a gold mining centre. At one time Bendigo had the world's deepest shafts. Of particular importance are original buildings, fittings and mining machinery that document the mine's character from 1939 to 1954. (Criterion A)

The Central Deborah Gold Mine is archaeologically significant for its ability and potential to illustrate important aspects of early twentieth century mining. The physical evidence at the site has excellent interpretative value and the ability to answer archaeological research questions. (Criterion C)

The Central Deborah Gold Mine is significant as a notable and fine example of the class of twentieth century quartz mine. The working machinery—including a Cornish boiler, winding engine and two compressors—comprise one of the few publicly accessible and in situ collections in the State. Central Deborah Company Gold Mine is now a popular tourist mine and a living part of the story of gold mining in Australia. Its historic mining equipment is still functional, and several levels underground are accessible to visitors. (Criterion D)

Recommended permit exemptions under section 38

Introduction

A [heritage permit](#) is required for all works and activities undertaken in relation to VHR places and objects. Certain works and activities are [exempt from a heritage permit](#), if the proposed works will not harm the cultural heritage significance of the heritage place or object.

Permit Policy

The revised Conservation Management Plan Central Deborah Gold Mine (2006) by R. Kaufman and the Central Deborah Gold Mine Collection Significance Assessment (2013) by Dr. Gary Hill and E.M. Doling provide a useful starting point for understanding the cultural heritage significance of the place and objects integral. It is recommended that these documents are updated to reflect the current site conditions and management needs.

Permit Exemptions

General Permit Exemptions

General exemptions apply to all places and objects included in the Victorian Heritage Register. General exemptions have been designed to allow everyday activities, maintenance and changes to your property, which don't harm its cultural heritage significance, to proceed without the need to obtain approvals under the *Heritage Act 2017*.

Places of worship: In some circumstances, you can alter a place of worship to accommodate religious practices without a permit, but you must notify the Executive Director of Heritage Victoria before you start the works or activities at least 20 business days before the works or activities are to commence.

Subdivision/consolidation: Permit exemptions exist for some subdivisions and consolidations. If the subdivision or consolidation is in accordance with a planning permit granted under Part 4 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* and the application for the planning permit was referred to the Executive Director of Heritage Victoria as a determining referral authority, a permit is not required.

Specific exemptions may also apply to your registered place or object. If applicable, these are listed below. Specific exemptions are tailored to the conservation and management needs of an individual registered place or object and set out works and activities that are exempt from the requirements of a permit. Specific exemptions prevail if they conflict with general exemptions.

Find out more about heritage permit exemptions [here](#).

Specific Permit Exemptions

The works and activities listed below under the heading 'Exempt works and activities' are not considered to cause harm to the cultural heritage significance of the Central Deborah Gold Mine. These are subject to the following guidelines and conditions:

Guidelines for specific permit exemptions

1. Where there is an inconsistency between permit exemptions specific to the registered place or object ('specific exemptions') established in accordance with either section 49(3) or section 92(3) of the Act and general exemptions established in accordance with section 92(1) of the Act specific exemptions will prevail to the extent of any inconsistency.
2. In specific exemptions, words have the same meaning as in the Act, unless otherwise indicated. Where there is an inconsistency between specific exemptions and the Act, the Act will prevail to the extent of any inconsistency.
3. Nothing in specific exemptions obviates the responsibility of a proponent to obtain the consent of the owner of the registered place or object, or if the registered place or object is situated on Crown Land the land manager as defined in the *Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978*, prior to undertaking works or activities in accordance with specific exemptions.
4. If a Cultural Heritage Management Plan in accordance with the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006* is required for works covered by specific exemptions, specific exemptions will apply only if the Cultural Heritage Management Plan has been approved prior to works or activities commencing. Where there is an inconsistency between specific exemptions and a Cultural Heritage Management Plan for the relevant works and activities, Heritage Victoria must be contacted for advice on the appropriate approval pathway.
5. Specific exemptions do not constitute approvals, authorisations or exemptions under any other legislation, Local Government, State Government or Commonwealth Government requirements, including but not limited to the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006*, and the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth). Nothing in this declaration exempts owners or their agents from the responsibility to obtain relevant planning, building or environmental approvals from the responsible authority where applicable.
6. Care should be taken when working with heritage buildings and objects, as historic fabric may contain dangerous and poisonous materials (for example lead paint and asbestos). Appropriate personal protective equipment should be worn at all times. If you are unsure, seek advice from a qualified heritage architect, heritage consultant or local Council heritage advisor.
7. The presence of unsafe materials (for example asbestos, lead paint etc) at a registered place or object does not automatically exempt remedial works

or activities in accordance with this category. Approvals under Part 5 of the Act must be obtained to undertake works or activities that are not expressly exempted by the below specific exemptions.

8. All works should be informed by a Conservation Management Plan prepared for the place or object. The Executive Director is not bound by any Conservation Management Plan and permits still must be obtained for works suggested in any Conservation Management Plan.

General conditions for specific permit exemptions

1. All works or activities permitted under specific exemptions must be planned and carried out in a manner which prevents harm to the registered place or object. Harm includes moving, removing or damaging any part of the registered place or object that contributes to its cultural heritage significance.
2. If during the carrying out of works or activities in accordance with specific exemptions original or previously hidden or inaccessible details of the registered place are revealed relating to its cultural heritage significance, including but not limited to historical archaeological remains, such as features, deposits or artefacts, then works must cease and Heritage Victoria notified as soon as possible.
3. If during the carrying out of works or activities in accordance with specific exemptions any Aboriginal cultural heritage is discovered or exposed at any time, all works must cease and the Secretary (as defined in the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006*) must be contacted immediately to ascertain requirements under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006*.
4. If during the carrying out of works or activities in accordance with specific exemptions any munitions or other potentially explosive artefacts are discovered, Victoria Police is to be immediately alerted and the site is to be immediately cleared of all personnel.
5. If during the carrying out of works or activities in accordance with specific exemptions any suspected human remains are found the works or activities must cease. The remains must be left in place and protected from harm or damage. Victoria Police and the State Coroner's Office must be notified immediately. If there are reasonable grounds to believe that the remains are Aboriginal, the State Emergency Control Centre must be immediately notified on 1300 888 544, and, as required under s.17(3)(b) of the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006*, all details about the location and nature of the human remains must be provided to the Aboriginal Heritage Council (as defined in the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006*).

Exempt works and activities




Note: The above diagram represents the sensitivity to change of different areas at the Central Deborah Gold Mine. The yellow area of lesser sensitivity does not contain heritage fabric. These buildings were introduced during the place's time as a tourist mine. The areas of sensitivity diagram applies to above ground buildings and structures only.

Area of lesser sensitivity:

1. All internal works to and demolition of buildings and structures within the area of lesser sensitivity, excluding any works to the 1980s trestle way, providing there is no impact on surrounding buildings.

Details of Objects integral VHR1841


Non fixed objects integral to the place

Object	1. Air-powered drill shanker/sharpener
Current location:	Central Deborah Gold Mine, Blacksmith's Shop
Image	 <p><i>2025. Compressed air powered drill shanker and sharpener.</i></p>
Description	This tool was used for sharpening and reshaping the worn and blunt drill steels that were brought up from underground. The machine runs on compressed air. Drill sharpeners were made by Cornish rock drill manufacturers such as Climax and Holman Brothers from the 1920s.
Source	CDGM records.
Markings	N/A
Condition	Good condition


Object	2. Compressed-air drill steel hammer
Current location:	Central Deborah Gold Mine, Blacksmith's Shop
Image	Unavailable.
Description	Unavailable. At the time of this assessment this object was unable to be located and no documentation or records indicating that the CDGM has this object within the collection were found.
Source	CDGM records.
Markings	N/A
Condition	Unknown.


Object	3. Hand tools
Current location:	Central Deborah Gold Mine, Blacksmith's Shop

Image	Unavailable.
Description	Unavailable. At the time of this assessment the origins of the tools in the CDGM have not been recorded and the documentation from the original registration does not clarify which of the tools in the CDGM are objects integral. When the provenance of these objects is known, there is likely to be greater clarity around which hand tools are objects integral.
Source	CDGM records.
Markings	N/A
Condition	Unknown.

Object	4. Bayne patent mining stretchers (4)
Current location:	Central Deborah Gold Mine, First Aid Room (2) and Archive Shed (2)
Image	 <p><i>2024. Bayne patent mining stretchers in first aid room.</i></p>
Description	Four stretchers consisting of a frame with canvas stretched over. Designed to allow removal of an injured miner from the shaft in an upright position, while limiting movement of head and limbs. Designed by a Mr. D. W. Bayne of Bendigo. The Bayne stretchers were in use at the Central Deborah mine during its operation, and may have originally come from other mines in the Deborah group.
Source	CDGM records and the Central Deborah Gold Mine Collection Significance Assessment by Minerva Heritage (2013).
Markings	N/A
Condition	Good condition


Object	5. Carbide gas generator (1)
Current location:	Central Deborah Gold Mine, Carbide Lamp Room


Image	<div><p>2024. Acetylene gas producer.</p></div>
Description	Acetylene gas producer used in the making of carbide lamps for use in the mine.
Source	CDGM records.
Markings	N/A
Condition	Good condition

Object	6. Carbide gas drums (4)
Current location:	Central Deborah Gold Mine, Carbide Lamp Room
Image	<div><p>2024. 4 carbide drums.</p></div>
Description	4 metal carbide drums. Some dents and weathering to the drums.
Source	CDGM records


Markings	N/A
Condition	Good condition


Object	7. Fire box tools
Current location:	Central Deborah Gold Mine, Stoke Hold
Image	Unavailable.
Description	Unavailable. At the time of this assessment the origins of the tools in the CDGM have not been recorded and the documentation from the original registration does not clarify which of the tools in the CDGM are objects integral. When the provenance of these objects is known, there is likely to be greater clarity around which fire box tools are objects integral.
Source	CDGM records.
Markings	N/A
Condition	Unknown.

Object	8. Timber Trolley
Current location:	Central Deborah Gold Mine, Stoke Hold
Image	 <p><i>2025. Timber trolley. Source: CDGM</i></p>
Description	Working at a pressure of 120 psi the fuel used to power this boiler consisted of rough bush timber that was fed into the stoke hole as five-foot (1.5m) lengths by either the boiler attendant or winder driver. This trolley transported loads of timber logs between the wood piles and the boiler room. A set of rails ran from the stokehold directly to the wood piles so the timber trolley could be easily loaded and moved.
Source	CDGM records.
Markings	N/A
Condition	Good condition


Object	9. Winder
Current location:	Central Deborah Gold Mine, Winder House
Image	 <p>2024. Winder.</p>
Description	A. Roberts & Sons Bendigo First Link Motion Winding Engine manufactured in 1892 and used at the Central Deborah mine. The associated engine driver's chair was made by foreman and mine carpenter John McCracken. The winding machine is in working order, with some upgrades to account for changes in safety regulation over the mine's period of operation. Paint finish is original, and winder is a typical example of winding machines of this period. The cables to the winding machine are new.
Source	CDGM records and the Central Deborah Gold Mine Collection Significance Assessment by Minerva Heritage (2013).
Markings	N/A
Condition	Good condition

Object	10. Electric air compressor
Current location	Central Deborah Gold Mine, Winder House

Image	 <p>2024. Thompson Electric Air Compressor.</p>
Description	<p>This unit is a horizontal cross-coupled, two stage air compressor fitted with an overhead intercooler and driven by a 175-horsepower electric motor. It could run up to 12 rock drills simultaneously. In 1945 Thompsons Engineering & Pipe Company of Castlemaine was commissioned to manufacture and supply this electric air compressor. This order was made in May 1945 whilst the air compressor was delivered and installed on site in December 1945. It was not used as the main supply of compressed air until 1947, at which point the older Ingersoll Rand steam-driven compressor was maintained as a standby unit.</p>
Source	CDGM records.
Markings	N/A
Condition	Good condition

Object	11. Ingersoll Rand Air compressor
Current location	Central Deborah Gold Mine, Compressor House
Image	 <p>2024. Ingersoll Rand Electric Air Compressor.</p>

Description	A bright green Ingersoll Rand AA2 model straight-line, two-stage, steam-driven air compressor was manufactured around 1912 and installed on site in 1941. It was purchased from second hand machinery merchants at the end of 1940. It could run up to six rock drills simultaneously and was used up until its replacement by the Thompson electric air compressor.
Source	CDGM records.
Markings	N/A
Condition	Good condition

Object	12. Cornish boiler
Current location	Central Deborah Gold Mine, Boiler house
Image	 <p>2024. Cornish boiler.</p>
Description	A large cylinder in brick setting. This boiler was manufactured in the early 1900s and was used at the Black's Quarry at Coldstream and later the Virginia Consolidated in 1933 before it was purchased for the Central Deborah Gold Mine.
Source	Central Deborah Gold Mine Conservation Management Plan (2007)
Markings	N/A
Condition	Fair condition.

Appendix 1: Existing registration details

Existing extent of registration

NOTICE OF REGISTRATION

As Executive Director for the purpose of the Heritage Act, I give notice under section 46 that the Victorian Heritage Register is amended by including the Heritage Register Number 1841 in the category described as a Heritage place and Heritage Object:

Central Deborah Gold Mine, 76 Violet Street, Bendigo, Greater Bendigo City Council.

EXTENT:

All the buildings and structures marked as follows on diagram number 1841 held by the Executive Director and situated on Crown Land Parcel P127582, CL 130C/19, Parish of Sandhurst, County of Talbot including the portable objects specified:

B1 blacksmith shop including compressed air-powered drill shanker, sharpener, compressed-air drill steel hammer and hand tools

B2 materials store

B3 dirty change room

B4 clean change room

B5 shift boss office

B6 mine manager's office

B7 first aid room including three Bayne patent mining stretchers

B8 carbide light room including carbide gas generator and carbide drums

B9 store room

B10 mine manager's garage

B11 carpenter's shop

B12 ore bins

B13 tubular steel poppet head including sky shaft and collar and the attached trestle-way over the ore bins to the crushing plant

B14 concrete launder trough

B16 iron chimney stack

B17 boiler house

B18 stoke hold including fire box tools, drain cocks, and timber trolley

B19 oil store

B20 concrete winch block

B21 winder house with winder and electric compressor

B22 exhaust tank

B23 steam compressor house

B24 air receiver

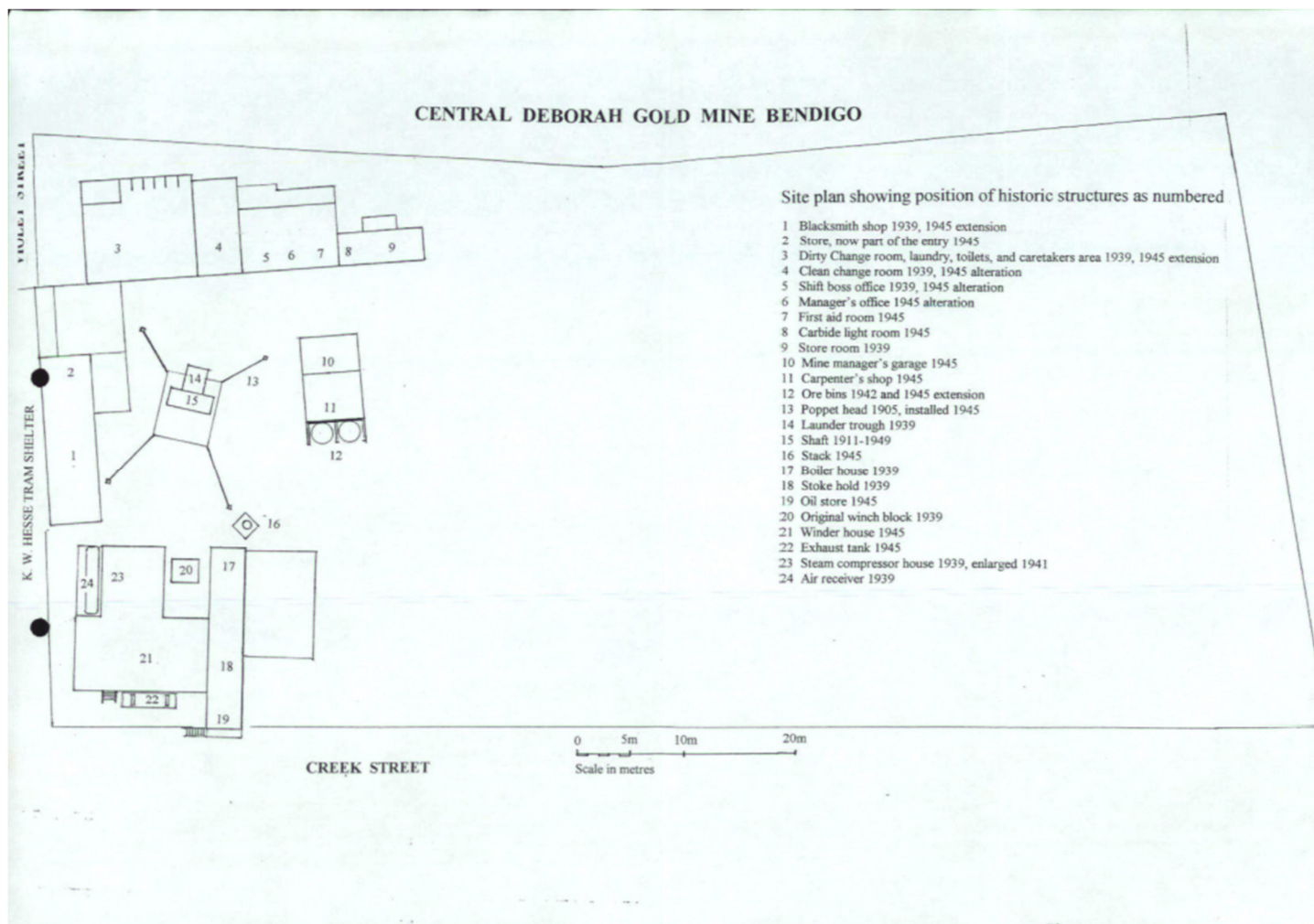
Dated: 4 November 1999.

RAY TONKIN

Executive Director

[*Victoria Government Gazette* G 46 18 November 1999 pp.2456-2457]

Existing extent diagram



Existing statement of significance

What is significant?

Bendigo is Victoria's premier quartz mining centre having produced over 22 million ounces of gold between 1851 and 1954. This gold was won through the exploits of over 5,500 gold mining companies. The gold won had a profound impact on the State's economy stimulating new industries, raising the standard of living for generations of Victorians and leaving a city with many fine examples of Victorian architecture. Bendigo's nineteenth century foundries and engineering works helped make Victoria the manufacturing hub of Australia.

The Central Deborah Gold Mine was formed in 1939. The mine was one of a minority that continued to function during the Second World War. In 1939 the mine boasted a small timber poppet head, boiler steam winch, compressor, blacksmith shop, store, change rooms, and offices. Between 1945-46 the company upgraded the mine with extensions to sheds and the installation of new steam machinery, electric air compressor, steel poppet head, and ore bins. Essentially the plant that can be seen on the site today is of this period.

The Central Deborah Company Gold Mine closed in 1954. Today it is the only one of Bendigo historic gold mines to have retained its mining equipment in working condition.

How is it significant?

The Central Deborah Gold Mine is historically and scientifically significant to the State of Victoria.

Why is it significant?

The Central Deborah Company Gold Mine provides Bendigo and the State with one of its most tangible and important links to mid twentieth century quartz mining. It is of outstanding historical significance as the last intact and working example of the 5,500 quartz mines that won Bendigo widespread fame as a gold mining centre. At one time Bendigo had the world's deepest shafts. Of particular scientific importance are original buildings, fittings and mining machinery that document the mine's essential character from 1939 to 1954. The working machinery- including a Cornish boiler, winding engine and two compressors - comprises one of the few publicly accessible and in-situ collections in the State. Central Deborah Company Gold Mine is now a popular tourist mine and a living part of the story of gold mining in Australia. Its historic mining equipment is used and demonstrated and several levels underground are accessible to visitors.

Existing permit policy and permit exemptions

General Conditions Of Exemption

1. All exempted alterations are to be planned and carried out in a manner which prevents damage to the fabric of the registered place or object.
2. Should it become apparent during further inspection or the carrying out of alterations that original or previously hidden or inaccessible details of the place or object are revealed which relate to the significance of the place or object, then the exemption covering such alteration shall cease and the Executive Director shall be notified as soon as possible.
3. If there is a conservation policy and plan approved by the Executive Director, all works shall be in accordance with it.
4. Nothing in this declaration prevents the Executive Director from amending or rescinding all or any of the permit exemptions.
5. Nothing in this declaration exempts owners or their agents from the responsibility to seek relevant planning or building permits from the responsible authority where applicable.

Interior

All the interior alterations which do not impact on the exterior of the building or object are permit exempt in the following buildings only:

2. Materials Store
5. Shift Boss Office
6. Mine Manager's Office
9. Store Room
10. Mine Managers Garage
11. Carpenters Shop
12. Ore Bins
13. Poppet Head
14. Launder Trough
16. Iron Chimney
19. Oil Store
20. Concrete Winch
22. Exhaust Tank
24. Air Receiver

The installation of emergency lighting, hazard signs and machinery guard rails provided that the design and location of these items is considered and that their placement is visually 'neutral'.

Exterior

Minor repairs and maintenance which replaces like with like.

The fixing, refixing or conservation of corrugated iron sheeting on the walls and rooves of the following buildings:

1. Blacksmith Shop
17. Boiler house
18. Stoke hold
21. Winder House
23. Steam Compressor House.

The replacement of corrugated iron sheeting on the walls and rooves of the following buildings:

3. Dirty Change Room
4. Clean Change Room
7. First Aid Room
8. Carbide Light Room

The repair of windows as long as they are retained to their existing design.

Removal of extraneous items that are from a later date than the 1939-54 mining period.

The placement of Exterior emergency lighting and hazardous chemical signs

The pulling down and rebuilding of sections of buildings to allow removal of machinery for repair purposes provided that the rebuilt work matches exactly the building prior to dismantling.

Appendix 2: Important information for owners and interested parties

Heritage Council determination (section 49)

The Heritage Council is an independent statutory body that will make a determination on this recommendation under section 49 of the Act. It will consider the recommendation after a period of 60 days from the date the notice of recommendation is published on its [website](#) under section 41.

Making a submission to the Heritage Council (section 44)

Within the period of 60 days, any person or body with a real and substantial interest in the place or object may make a submission to the Heritage Council regarding the recommendation and request a hearing in relation to that submission. Information about making a submission and submission forms are available on the [Heritage Council's website](#). The owner can also make a submission about proposed permit exemptions (Section 40(4)(d)).

Consideration of submissions to the Heritage Council (section 46)

(1) The Heritage Council must consider—

- (a) any written submission made to it under section 44; and
- (b) any further information provided to the Heritage Council in response to a request under section 45.

Conduct of hearings by Heritage Council in relation to a recommendation (section 46A)

(1) The Heritage Council may conduct a hearing in relation to a recommendation under section 37, 38 or 39 in any circumstances that the Heritage Council considers appropriate.

(2) The Heritage Council must conduct a hearing if—

- (a) a submission made to it under section 44 includes a request for a hearing before the Heritage Council; and
- (b) the submission is made by a person or body with a real or substantial interest in the place, object or land that is the subject of the submission.

Determinations of the Heritage Council (section 49)

(1) After considering a recommendation that a place, object or land should or should not be included in the Heritage Register and any submissions in respect of the recommendation and conducting any hearing, the Heritage Council may—

- (a) determine that the place or object is of State-level cultural heritage significance and is to be included in the Heritage Register; or
- (ab) in the case of a place, determine that—
 - (i) part of the place is of State-level cultural heritage significance and is to be included in the Heritage Register; and
 - (ii) part of the place is not of State-level cultural heritage significance and is not to be included in the Heritage Register; or
- (ac) in the case of an object, determine that—
 - (i) part of the object is of State-level cultural heritage significance and is to be included in the Heritage Register; and
 - (ii) part of the object is not of State-level cultural heritage significance and is not to be included in the Heritage Register; or
- (b) determine that the place or object is not of State-level cultural heritage significance and is not to be included in the Heritage Register; or

- (c) in the case of a recommendation in respect of a place, determine that the place or part of the place is not to be included in the Heritage Register but—
 - (i) refer the recommendation and any submissions to the relevant planning authority or the Minister administering the Planning and Environment Act 1987 to consider the inclusion of the place or part of the place in a planning scheme in accordance with the objectives set out in section 4(1)(d) of that Act; or
 - (ii) determine that it is more appropriate for steps to be taken under the Planning and Environment Act 1987 or by any other means to protect or conserve the place or part of the place; or
 - (ca) in the case of a recommendation in respect of an object nominated under section 27A, determine that the object, or part of the object, is to be included in the Heritage Register if it is integral to understanding the cultural heritage significance of a registered place or a place the Heritage Council has determined to be included in the Heritage Register; or
 - (d) in the case of a recommendation in respect of additional land nominated under section 27B, determine that the additional land, or any part of the additional land, is to be included in the Heritage Register if—
 - (i) the State-level cultural heritage significance of the place, or part of the place, would be substantially less if the additional land or any part of the additional land which is or has been used in conjunction with the place were developed; or
 - (ii) the additional land or any part of the additional land surrounding the place, or part of the place, is important to the protection or conservation of the place or contributes to the understanding of the place.
- (2) The Heritage Council must make a determination under subsection (1)—
- (a) within 40 days after the date on which written submissions may be made under section 44; or
 - (b) if any hearing is conducted, within 90 days after the completion of the hearing.
- (3) A determination made under subsection (1)(a), (ab), (ac), (ca) or (d)—
- (a) may include categories of works or activities which may be carried out in relation to a place, object or land, or part of a place, object or land, for which a permit under this Act is not required, if the Heritage Council considers that the works or activities would not harm the cultural heritage significance of the place, object or land; and
 - (b) must include a statement of the reasons for the making of the determination.
- (4) If the Heritage Council determines to include a place, or part of a place, in the Heritage Register, the Heritage Council may also determine to include land that is not the subject of a nomination under section 27B in the Heritage Register as part of the place if—
- (a) the land is ancillary to the place; and
 - (b) the person who owns the place, or part of the place—
 - (i) is the owner of the land; and
 - (ii) consents to its inclusion.
- (5) If a member of the Heritage Council makes a submission under section 44 in respect of a recommendation, the member must not take part in the consideration or determination of the Heritage Council.
- (6) The Heritage Council must notify the Executive Director of any determination under this section as soon as practicable after the determination.

Obligations of owners (section 42, 42A, 42B, 42C, 42D)

42 Obligations of owners—to advise of works, permits etc. on foot when statement of recommendation given

- (1) The owner of a place, object or land to whom a statement of recommendation has been given must advise the Executive Director in writing of—

- (a) any works or activities that are being carried out in relation to the place, object or land at the time the statement is given; and
- (b) if the place, object or land is a place or additional land, any application for a planning permit or a building permit, or any application for an amendment to a planning permit or a building permit, that has been made in relation to the place or additional land but not determined at the time the statement is given; and
- (c) any works or activities that are proposed to be carried out in relation to the place, object or land at the time the statement is given.

(2) An advice under subsection (1) must be given within 10 days after the statement of recommendation is given under section 40.

42A Obligations of owners before determination or inclusion in the Heritage Register—to advise of permits

(1) This section applies if—

- (a) an owner of any of the following is given a statement of recommendation—
 - (i) a place or object nominated under section 27;
 - (ii) an object nominated under section 27A;
 - (iii) land nominated under section 27B; and
- (b) any of the following occurs within the statement of recommendation period in relation to the place, object or land—
 - (i) the making of an application for a planning permit or a building permit;
 - (ii) the making of an application for an amendment to a planning permit or a building permit;
 - (iii) the grant of a planning permit or building permit;
 - (iv) the grant of an amendment to a planning permit or building permit.

(2) The owner must advise the Executive Director in writing of—

- (a) the making of an application referred to in subsection (1)(b)(i) or (ii), within 10 days of the making of the application; or
- (b) a grant referred to in subsection (1)(b)(iii) or (iv), within 10 days of the owner becoming aware of the grant.

42B Obligations of owners before determination or inclusion in the Heritage Register—to advise of activities

(1) This section applies if—

- (a) an owner of a place, object or land is given a statement of recommendation; and
- (b) within the statement of recommendation period it is proposed that activities that could harm the place, object or land be carried out.

(2) The owner, not less than 10 days before carrying out the activities, must advise the Executive Director in writing of the proposal to do so.

42C Obligations of owners before determination or inclusion in the Heritage Register—to advise of proposal to dispose

(1) This section applies if—

- (a) an owner of a place, object or land is given a statement of recommendation; and
- (b) within the statement of recommendation period a proposal is made to dispose of the whole or any part of the place, object or land.

(2) The owner, within 10 days after entering into an agreement, arrangement or understanding for the disposal of the whole or any part of the place, object or land, must advise the Executive Director in writing of the proposal to do so.

42D Obligations of owners before determination or inclusion in the Heritage Register—requirement to give statement to purchaser

(1) This section applies if—

- (a) an owner of a place, object or land is given a statement of recommendation; and
- (b) the owner proposes to dispose of the whole or any part of the place, object or land within the statement of recommendation period.

(2) Before entering into an agreement, arrangement or understanding to dispose of the whole or any part of the place, object or land during the statement of recommendation period, the owner must give a copy of the statement of recommendation to the person who, under the proposed agreement, arrangement or understanding, is to acquire the place, object or land or part of the place, object or land.

Owners of places and objects must comply with obligations (section 43)

An owner of a place, object or land who is subject to an obligation under section 42, 42A, 42B, 42C or 42D must comply with that obligation.

Penalty: In the case of a natural person, 120 penalty units;
 In the case of a body corporate, 240 penalty units.