Statement of Recommendation from the Executive Director, Heritage Victoria

Morell Bridge, VHR H1440

Over the Birrarung (Yarra River), Anderson Street, Melbourne and South Yarra, Melbourne City

Wurundjeri Country



VICTORIA State Government

HERITAGE VICTORIA

Executive Director recommendation

I recommend to the Heritage Council of Victoria (**Heritage Council**) that Morrell Bridge, located over the Birrarung (Yarra River), Anderson Street, Melbourne and South Yarra in the Victorian Heritage Register (**VHR**) be amended. The category of registration is recommended to be Registered Place.

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

- to include additional land in the VHR (section 49(1)(d)(i) and (ii) of the Act); and
- the proposed categories of works or activities which may be carried out in relation to the place for which a permit is under the Act not required, will not harm the cultural heritage significance of the place under section 49(3)(a) of the Act.



STEVEN AVERY
Executive Director, Heritage Victoria
Date of recommendation: 16 November 2026

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 conduct a hearing in relation to the submission. The Heritage Council must conduct a hearing if a submission requests a hearing, and that submission is made is made by 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 the end of this report.

Description

Morell Bridge is a former road bridge that crosses the Birrarung (Yarra River) at the northern extension of Anderson Street, connecting the Royal Botanic Gardens to the Olympic Park precinct. It is situated between the Swan Street Bridge to the north-west and the Hoddle Bridge to the south-east. The Main Yarra Trail runs along the southern and northern riverbanks, separated from the waterline by grassed verges. The bridge has been adapted for use as a shared pedestrian and cycle bridge with vehicle access blocked from Anderson Street.

The bridge is a 102 metre long, triple span structure constructed using the Monier system of iron rods embedded in concrete and supported on concrete abutments and piers. Surfaces are finished in cement render and painted in a light stone colour. The two sets of concrete piers contain two arched openings with column details to side walls with simple capitals. The parapet comprises spandrels set between pilasters with projecting bands. Spandrels are decorated with rendered panels comprising stylised foliation and dragon motifs. The composition is topped by a continuous cornice line. Metal lacework balustrades (appear to be later castings) and handrails extend above the parapet, intersected by rusticated bluestone piers, each carrying a cast iron post with decorative twin lamps. Bluestone end piers to the southern end are engraved, with the eastern pier commemorating the laying of the foundation stone by Hon J W Taverner in 1899.

The deck comprises a central carriageway with asphalt surface flanked by footpaths with bluestone kerbs.

Description Images



2026, West side of the bridge from the north riverbank, Source: Heritage Victoria.



2026, West side of the bridge from the north riverbank, Source: Heritage Victoria.



2026, West side of the bridge from the south riverbank, Source: Heritage Victoria.



2026, Lookout to the west side of the bridge, Engineering Heritage interpretive signage (right), Source: Heritage Victoria.



2026, Spandrel panel to the west side of the bridge with stylised foliation and dragon motifs, Source: Heritage Victoria.



2026, Main Yarra Trail to the south riverbank, west side of bridge, Source: Heritage Victoria.



2026, Formwork markings to concrete underside of the Bridge, Source: Heritage Victoria..



2026, East side of the bridge, Source: Heritage Victoria.



2026, Carriageway view towards Alexandra Avenue, Source: Heritage Victoria.



2026, 'W Stephens South Melb' foundry stamp to cast iron baluster, Source: Heritage Victoria.



2026, Decorative metal balustrade panels Source: Heritage Victoria.



2026, 'Morell Bridge' engraving to southern approach, Source: Heritage Victoria.



2026, Engraving commemorating the laying of the Foundation(?) Stone to the southern approach, Source: Heritage Victoria.



2026, Bluestone pier to the balustrade with twin lamps (above), Source: Heritage Victoria.



2026, Decorative twin lamp posts, Source: Heritage Victoria.

History

Statement of Country

The Wurundjeri people have an unbroken connection to the land and waters around Melbourne and South Yarra from time immemorial. Wurundjeri Country includes the city of Melbourne (Naarm) and an area extending north to the Great Dividing Range and beyond, west to the Werribee River, and east to Mount Baw Baw.

The Yoorrook Justice Commission recorded how colonisation brought irreparable damage to First Peoples in Victoria with the introduction of diseases, massacres, dispossession from Country, confinement on missions and reserves, forced labour, separation of families and ongoing policies and practices that perpetuate systemic injustice (Yoorrook Justice Commission 2025).

The Wurundjeri continue to live, work, practise culture and manage land and waters around Melbourne and South Yarra.

Morell Bridge

Morell Bridge, originally known as the Anderson Street Bridge, was built as part of broader works initiated in 1897 under the *Yarra Improvement Act 1896* designed to mitigate against floods and to enhance the appearance of the river and surrounds. The works, which saw the Birrarung (Yarra River) widened and realigned between Princes Bridge and Church Street, Richmond, were overseen by Carlo Catani (1852-1918), Chief Engineer of the Public Works Department. The excavated soil was used to build new embankments on both sides of the Birrarung, improving the river's appearance.

Alexandra Avenue was created on the southern side of the river providing a wide boulevard for pedestrians and traffic. A new bridge over the river was proposed to provide access along Anderson Street to Alexandra Avenue and the Royal Botanic Gardens. The bridge was built over a newer section of the Birrarung originally on dry land. After construction in 1899, the river was diverted to flow underneath to help reduce upstream flooding (eMelbourne; Ronald McNicoll 1979: online).

The bridge was constructed using the Monier concrete construction technique. In 1867 the Monier system was patented in France by French gardenware manufacturer Joseph Monier, who developed a method of construction using the compressive nature of concrete and the tensile strength of iron rods as reinforcement. In the early 1890s the Sydney engineering firm of Carter, Gummow & Co acquired the rights to build Monier bridges in Australia, starting with the construction of two bridges in New South Wales (Engineering Heritage Victoria 2015: 5).

In 1894 John Monash (later Sir John Monash) set up the firm of Monash & Anderson with friend Joshua Noble Anderson as civil, mining and mechanical engineers, and patent agents. In September 1897, Monash & Anderson became the Victorian agents for Monier reinforced concrete construction, leading to their involvement with the Anderson Street Bridge through early negotiations, site investigations and procurement.

A notice about the new 'Monier Bridge' at Anderson Street was printed in the *Building, Engineering and Mining Journal* in August 1899 which stated that the contractors were '…Messrs. Monash and Anderson, who designed the bridge, and have carried out the work in a highly satisfactory manner' (*Building, Engineering and Mining Journal* 19 August 1899: 287). However, the journal printed a correction and a photograph of the bridge in its next issue with the caption 'Designed by the Department of Public Works Victoria. Messrs. Carter & Gummow contractors'. The correction identified Monash and Anderson as Victorian representatives for Carter, Gummow & Co and not as contractors (*Building, Engineering and Mining Journal* 26 August 1899: 293).

Research by engineer and academic Alan Holgate and Engineering Heritage Victoria found that it was most likely that Anderson (Monash & Anderson), Catani (Public Works Department) and Frank Gummow (Carter, Gummow & Co) were primarily responsible for the use of the Monier design, with Gummow being the major proponent. It seems from the evidence that while a number of prominent people made important contributions with ideas and planning, it was the engineers at the Public Works Department (who determined the spans) and the engineers at Carter, Gummow & Co, who carried out the design work for the bridge (Engineering Heritage Victoria 2015: 19).

Engineering Heritage Victoria concluded that the primary responsibility for the design and construction of the Morell Bridge was led by Carlo Catani, Chief Engineer of the Public Works Department, and William Julius Baltzer (1859–1933), a German-born civil engineer and Chief Designer for Carter, Gummow & Co. The bridge was built by Carter, Gummow & Co, with some assistance from Monash & Anderson (Engineering Heritage Victoria 2015: 5; 15; and 19).

Design drawings were completed for the bridge in 1898 and in October of that year it was reported that the Public Works Department had entered into a contract with Messrs. Carter and Gummow for the erection of the bridge at a cost of £5,700. Council would contribute £2,500 towards construction, with the Victorian Government paying the remaining amount. Work was to begin immediately on the bridge to be built on the Monier concrete system: 'the first specimen of its kind in this colony' (*The Age* 15 October 1898: 8; *The Herald* 12 September 1898: 1).

By July 1899 construction was almost completed, and the bridge underwent a physical load testing by running a 15 tonne roller over it and subjecting the half spans to weight pressure. It was reported that a large crowd attended to witness the event, including Professor William Charles Kernot, Dean of Engineering at the University of Melbourne and 'the majority of the profession in Melbourne'. The successful result justified 'the enterprise shown by the Public Works Department and the City Council in making the experiment of introducing a new type of construction into Victoria' (*Building, Engineering and Mining Journal* 29 July 18 99: 255).

Although the bridge was completed in 1899, it was not formally opened for traffic until 5 October 1903 by the Lord Mayor and by the Ministers for Lands and Public Works when it was reported that the approaches to the bridge were still incomplete (*The Argus* 6 October 1903: 4).

The Anderson Street Bridge was renamed after prominent businessman Sir Stephen Joseph Morell (1869-1944) by Melbourne City Council in 1935. This honoured Morell for his 34 years of service to Melbourne City Council, including as Lord Mayor for three years, and for the advancement of rowing on the Yarra. Bridges over the Yarra were an issue during his mayoral years, as was the work of the Metropolitan Town Planning Commission (*The Argus* 10 May 1935: 8; David Dunstan 1986: online).

During 1993-94, the bridge underwent restoration and stabilisation works. On 7 June 1998 the bridge was closed to motor vehicles as part of the CityLink project. It is now used for cycling and pedestrian traffic, connecting the Royal Botanic Gardens to the Olympic Park precinct.

Selected bibliography

The Age.

The Argus.

Building, Engineering and Mining Journal, Vol 18, 1899.

Dunstan, David, 'Morell, Sir Stephen Joseph (1869–1944)', *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, National Centre of Biography, Australian National University; https://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/morell-sir-stephen-joseph-7651/text13381, published first in hardcopy 1986, accessed online 12 May 2026.

Encyclopedia of Melbourne [online resource], School of Historical & Philosophical Studies, The University of Melbourne, July 2008; https://www.emelbourne.net.au/ accessed online 14 May 2026.

Engineering Heritage Victoria (Engineers Australia) *Nomination Engineering Heritage Australia, Heritage Recognition Program for Morell (Anderson Street) Bridge, Melbourne, Victoria*, 2015, accessed online 12 May 2026.

Engineering Heritage Victoria (Engineers Australia) *Nomination Engineering Heritage Australia, Heritage Recognition Program for Monier Bridges in Bendigo* 2014, accessed online 12 May 2026.

The Herald.

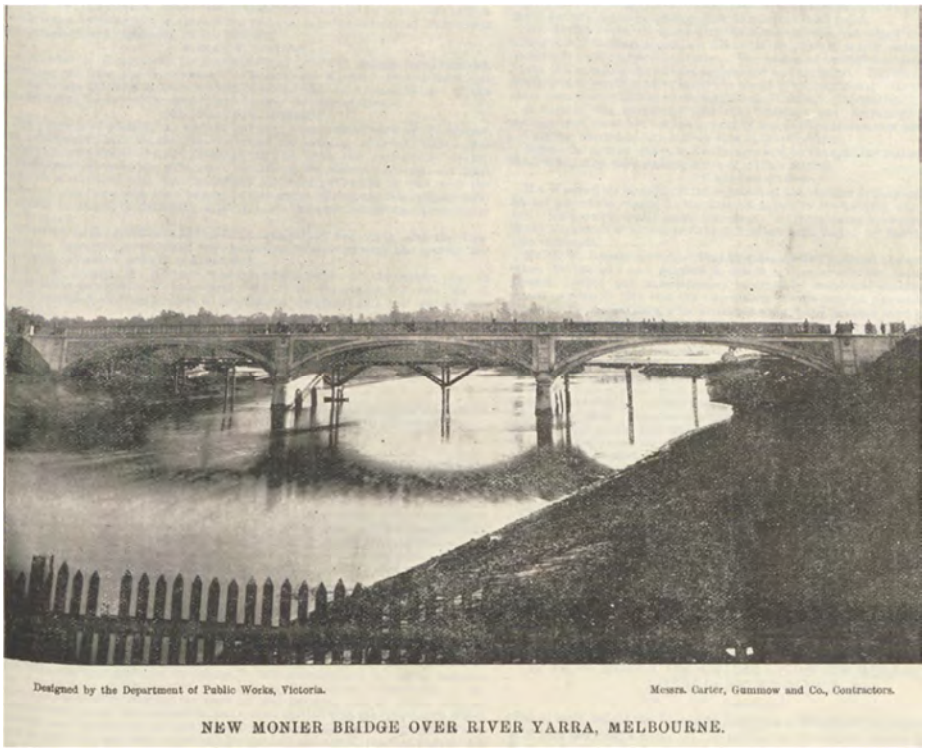
McNicoll, Ronald, 'Catani, Carlo Giorgio Domenico Enrico (1852–1918)', *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, National Centre of Biography, Australian National University; https://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/catani-carlo-giorgio-domenico-enrico-5532/text9423, published in hardcopy 1979, accessed online 13 May 2026.

Serle, Geoffrey, 'Monash, Sir John (1865–1931)', *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, National Centre of Biography, Australian National University; https://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/monash-sir-john-7618/text13313, published in hardcopy 1986, accessed online 13 May 2026.

State Library of Victoria, Picture Collection, images and plans as cited, accessed online 12 May 2026.

Victorian Heritage Database (VHD).

Historical images



1899, 'New Monier Bridge [Morell Bridge] over River Yarra, Melbourne', Source: Building, Engineering and Mining Journal, Vol 18 no 665, 26 August 1899: 296.



c1899, Testing the bridge prior to opening, Source: Engineers Australia, https://portal.engineersaustralia.org.au/heritage/morell-bridge-



c1900, 'Monier Concrete Bridge on River Yarra' (Morell Bridge), Source: State Library Victoria, ID 9916969943607636.



c1925-40, Yarra River looking south-east from above King's Domain towards Morell Bridge, Source: State Library Victoria, ID 9916540403607636.



c.1920-54, 'Anderson Street Bridge [Morell Bridge], Melbourne, Vic / Rose Stereograph Company', Source: State Library Victoria, ID 9939649730107636.



c.1940-45, Morell Bridge, Source: State Library Victoria, ID 9939649730107636.

Further information

Registered Aboriginal Party information

The Morell Bridge is located on Wurundjeri Country.

Under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006*, the Registered Aboriginal Party for this land is the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation.

Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Register

The place is in an area of Aboriginal cultural heritage sensitivity associated with the Birrarung.

(25 August 2026)

Integrity

The integrity of the place is excellent. The cultural heritage values of the Morell Bridge can be easily read in the extant fabric.

(10 July 2026)

Intactness

The intactness of the place is very good.

(10 July 2026)

Condition

The condition of the Morell Bridge is good.

(10 July 2026)

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

State-level cultural heritage significance of the place

The cultural heritage significance of the Morell Bridge was recognised when it was included in the Historic Buildings Register in 1982. Its State-level cultural heritage significance was confirmed in 1998 when it was transferred into the Victorian Heritage Register.

The Morell Bridge is of historical and technical significance to the State of Victoria.

Amendment application

On 26 August 2026 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 Executive Director'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.
- 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.

The Executive Director notes that:

- The current extent is limited to the fabric of the building and structures, and is insufficient to protect, conserve and allow for a proper understanding of the place.
- The current extent does not include the land associated with, or immediately surrounding, the Bridge.
- The land proposed for inclusion both is currently and has been used in conjunction with the place since 1899 which is over 126 years.

The Executive Director is of the view that:

- 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 proposed inclusion of land associated with the place will provide clarity on the approvals process for works within the place.
- The proposed inclusion of additional land will ensure all fabric that relates to the State-level values of the place are appropriately captured and considered in any process to manage change.

Change of name

Not applicable.

Statutory requirements under section 40

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

The Executive Director recommends that the registration of Morell Bridge in the VHR is amended.

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

Number: VHR H1440

Category: Registered Place.

Name: Morell Bridge

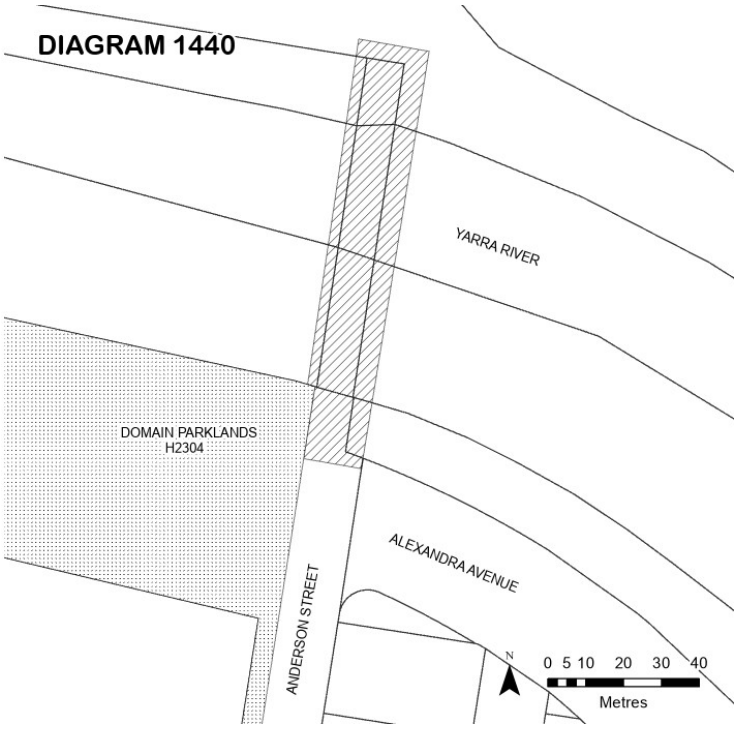
Location: Over Birrarung (Yarra River), Anderson Street, Melbourne and South Yarra

Municipality: Melbourne City Council

Proposed extent of registration

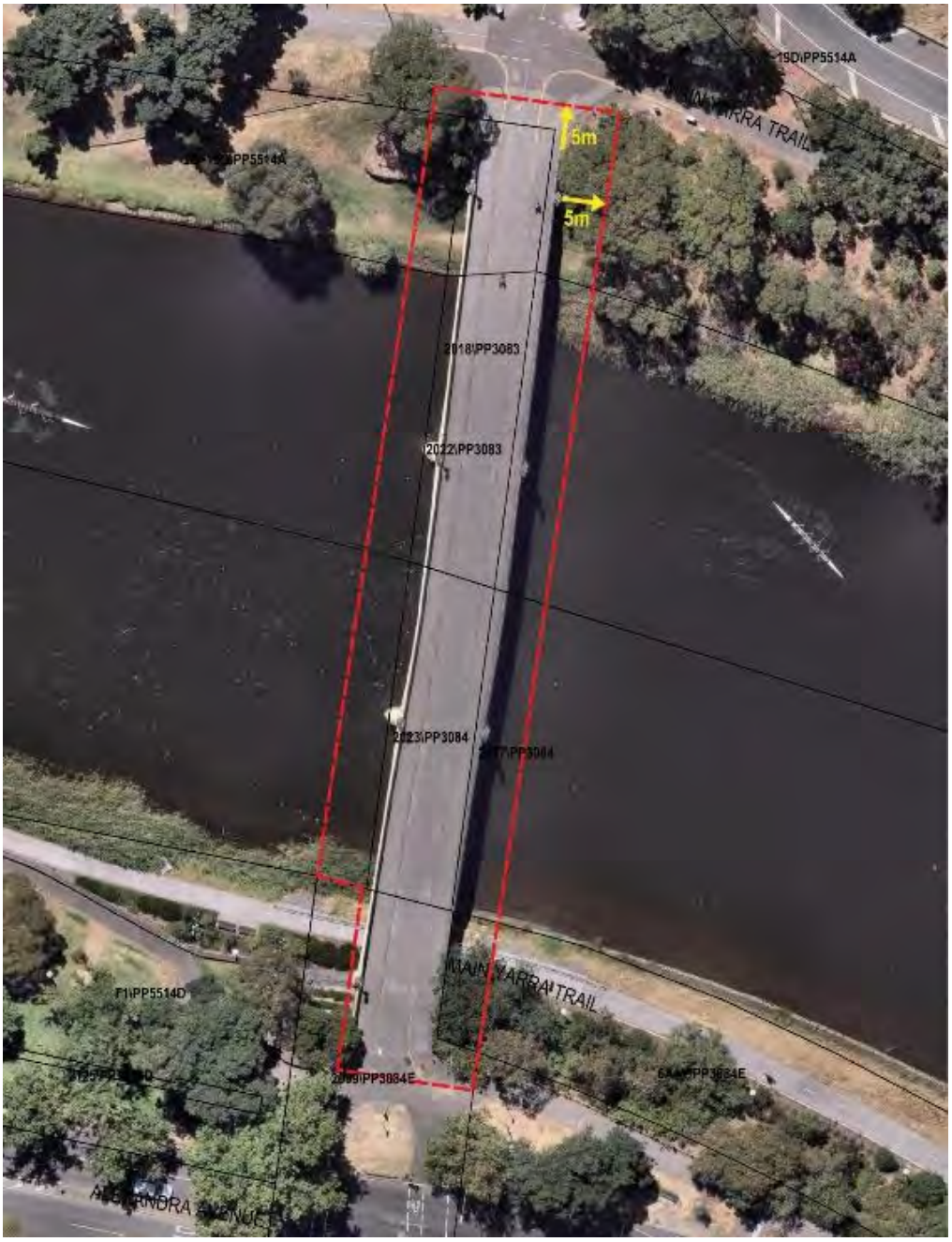
The Executive Director recommends that the extent of registration for Morell Bridge be gazetted as:

All of the place shown hatched on Diagram 1440 encompassing all of Crown Allotment 2023 Parish of Melbourne South and Crown Allotment 2018 Parish of Melbourne North and parts of Crown Allotment 2027 Parish of Melbourne South, Crown Allotment 2022 Parish of Melbourne North, Crown Allotment 2009 at South Yarra, Parish of Melbourne South and Crown Allotment 6A Section Y at South Yarra, Parish of Melbourne South to the extent of 5m from the outer edge of the bridge structure and abutting the registration of Domain Parklands to the south west.



Non-statutory information about the proposed extent of registration

Aerial photo of the place showing proposed extent of registration



The red dashed line indicates the proposed extent of registration.

The extent provides a 5-metre buffer from the outer-most edge of the bridge structure, except in the south-west corner where the proposed extent adjoins the Domain Parklands VHR extent (VHR H2304).

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 proposed extent of registration includes all of the land (above and below ground and airspace) and every part of the place including but not limited to:

- The bridge
- Waterway
- Landscape features.

A permit or permit exemption from Heritage Victoria is required for **all** works or activities within the proposed extent of registration, apart from those identified in the categories of works or activities in this recommendation (permit exemption).

The recommended extent of the registration is similar to the notional Heritage Overlay currently mapped in the Planning Scheme (HO395).

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

Statement of significance

The Morell Bridge is located on Wurundjeri Country.

What is significant?

The Morell Bridge, constructed in 1899 and spanning the Birrarung (Yarra River) from the Main Yarra Trail, Melbourne in the north to Anderson Street, South Yarra in the south. The 102-metre bridge was designed by Carlo Catani, Public Works Department's Chief Engineer, and William Julius Baltzer, Chief Designer for Carter, Gummow & Co. The bridge was built by Carter, Gummow & Co, using the patented Monier concrete construction technique.

How is it significant?

The Morell Bridge is of historical and technical 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 F

Importance in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement at a particular period.

Why is it significant?

The Morell Bridge is historically significant for its association with widening and 'improvement' works at the Birrarung (Yarra River), upstream from Princes Bridge, commencing in 1897 under the direction of Carlo Catani (1852-1918), Chief Engineer at the Public Works Department. Principally a flood mitigation program, Catani broadened the scope to include the creation of a road bridge at Anderson Street (Morell Bridge) and the establishment of Alexandra Avenue on the southern bank, featuring four separate lanes for carriages, horses, bicycles and pedestrians across its wide expanse. Catani achieved widespread public recognition for his visionary schemes of public works. [Criterion A]

The Morell Bridge is of technical significance as the first reinforced concrete bridge built in Victoria and the first to use the innovative Monier construction technique. It marked the beginning of the use of reinforced concrete for structures such as bridges in Victoria, an important milestone in the history of engineering. The Monier bridge design, and in particular the Morell Bridge, have played an integral part in the evolution of bridge design including by the firms Carter, Gummow & Co and Monash and Anderson, who went on to design other reinforced concrete bridges at Fyansford and Bendigo. The construction of the bridge on dry land and the diversion of the Birrarung (Yarra River) beneath it is unusual and contributes to the technical significance of the Morell Bridge. [Criterion F]

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

It is recommended that a Conservation Management Plan is utilised to manage the place in a manner which respects its cultural heritage significance.

Permit Exemptions

General Permit Exemptions

General exemptions apply to all places and objects included in the VHR. 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 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 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 Morell Bridge. 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

1. Removal of existing plantings and planting of new vegetation to the northern and southern banks.
2. Resurfacing, minor regrading and minor realignment of Main Yarra Trail pathways.
3. Introduction of safety signage, tactiles and other similar safety or directional devices along the Main Yarra Trail pathways.
4. Alteration or modification of metal access stairs to the southeast of the bridge.

Appendix 1: 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 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.

Appendix 2: 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 in that the Heritage Register Number 1440 in the category described as a Heritage Place is now described as:

Morell Bridge, Anderson Street over Yarra River, South Yarra, Melbourne City Council.

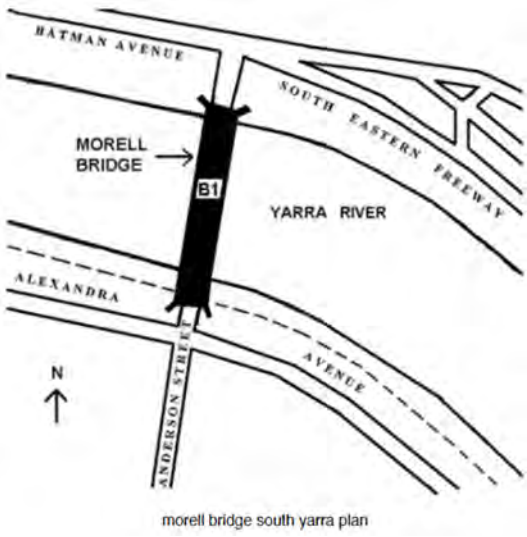
EXTENT:

1. To the extent of: All the structure known as Morell Bridge including all of the structure, its approach spans and abutments as marked B1 in Diagram 603471 held by the Executive Director.

Dated: 3 December 1998.

[*Victoria Government Gazette* G1 7 January 1999 p.34]

Existing extent diagram



morell bridge south yarra plan

Existing statement of significance

Last updated on - January 19, 2000

What is significant?

Morell Bridge over the Yarra River at Anderson Street, South Yarra was constructed in 1899 by the firm of Monash and Anderson using the Monier concrete construction technique. The Monier system of construction was patented in 1867 by Joseph Monier, a French manufacturer of garden ware. He used a grid of small-diameter iron bars embedded in a coarse mortar especially for the construction of planter pots. The technique and patents were gradually extended to cover, amongst other things, arch bridges. Monash and Anderson operated as the Victorian agency of the Sydney based engineering and contracting firm of Carter Gummow & Co, who held the Australian patent for the Monier technique. JTN Anderson from Monash and Anderson supervised the construction of the bridge with the design attributed to WG Baltzer, from Carter Gummow & Co. The bridge was erected on dry land and upon completion the Yarra River was diverted under it. In May 1936 the bridge was named after Sir Stephen Morell, Lord Mayor of Melbourne between 1926 and 1928, as a tribute to his municipal service and enthusiasm for rowing. The bridge, which carries Anderson Street over the Yarra River, was designed as a Monier arch structure which used a grid of iron bars embedded in concrete as reinforcement. The reinforced concrete arches are filled with earth. The 102-metre length bridge is divided into three equal spans, with concrete abutments and piers. The concrete surfaces are finished with cement mortar and painted grey and the

ornamental balustrade and handrails are of cast iron. The spandrel panels are ornamented with stucco in a stylised foliation and dragon design. Each pier is mounted by a light standard containing twin lamps. The road over the bridge consists of two concrete footpaths and a carriageway.

How is it significant?

Morell Bridge over the Yarra River is of architectural, aesthetic and historical significance to the state of Victoria.

Why is it significant?

Morell Bridge over the Yarra River is of architectural and aesthetic importance as the first reinforced concrete bridge built in Victoria and the first in Victoria to use the innovative Monier construction technique. The bridge was revolutionary in its design being built only two years after the first reinforced concrete bridge in the world was constructed. The bridge is important for its associations with the engineering firm of Monash and Anderson who went on to design and construct many more important Victorian bridges. The construction of the bridge on dry land and the diversion of the Yarra River beneath it are very unusual and contribute to both the architectural and historical significance of the Morell Bridge.

Morell Bridge is of aesthetic importance as an attractive landmark bridge on the Yarra River with its distinctive arches, double lamps and cast iron balustrade.

The Morell Bridge over the Yarra River is of historical importance for its associations with Sir Stephen Morell, who was a prominent Victorian businessman and Lord Mayor between 1926 and 1928. The bridge was named the Morell Bridge in 1936 in recognition of Morell's contribution to Melbourne.

Existing permit policy and permit exemptions

General Conditions

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.

* No permit required for routine maintenance of the Morell Bridge

* No permit required to replace like with like on the Morell Bridge