

Heritage Council Determination

Determination date	7 August 2025
Place/Object name	Central Deborah Gold Mine
Location	76 Violet Street, Bendigo, Greater Bendigo City, Dja Dja Wurrung Country
VHR number	H1841
Category	Registered Place, Registered Objects Integral to a Registered Place, and Registered Archaeological Place
Relevant legislative provision/s	Amendment to the Victorian Heritage Register, pursuant to section 62 of the <i>Heritage Act 2017</i>

Determination of the Heritage Council

The Heritage Council of Victoria determined on 7 August 2025, in accordance with section 62 of the *Heritage Act 2017* ('the Act'), that the registration of the Central Deborah Gold Mine is to be amended in the Victorian Heritage Register. The Heritage Council determined to make the following amendments to the Victorian Heritage Register:

- registering objects that are integral to understanding the cultural heritage significance of the registered place in accordance with section 49(1)(ca) of the Act; and
 - including additional land in the Victorian Heritage Register pursuant to section 49(1)(d)(i) and (ii) of the Act; and
 - amending the categories of registration to Registered Place, Registered Object Integral to a Registered Place, and Registered Archaeological Place; and
 - determining categories of works or activities which may be carried out in relation to the registered place for which a permit is not required (permit exemptions).
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Executive Director's Recommendation ('the Recommendation')

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

On 19 May 2025 the Executive Director made a recommendation to the Heritage Council that the existing registration of the Central Deborah Gold Mine be amended in the Heritage Register. The Executive Director recommended that the following amendments be made:

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

On 23 May 2025 the Executive Director's Recommendation was publicly advertised for a period of 60-days.

Section 44 submissions

During the 60-day public advertisement period no submissions were received pursuant to section 44 of the *Heritage Act 2017*.

The Place

Description

Extracted verbatim from the Executive Director's Recommendation, for information only.

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.

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.

Reasons for the amendment application

Additional land

The Executive Director recommended that the Heritage Council amend the registration of the Place in accordance with section 40(4)(c)(i) and (ii), because:

- (i) 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; and
- (ii) the additional land surrounds the Place and is important to the protection or conservation of the Place; and contributes to the understanding of the Place.

Assessment and summary

- The land proposed for inclusion has been used in conjunction with the place for over 85 years.
- 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.

Objects integral

When the Central Deborah Gold Mine was included in the Heritage Register in 1999 the following objects were also included in the Heritage Register as registered objects integral to the registered place:

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

The amendment before the Heritage Council recommended the following additional objects be added to the Heritage Register:

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

The Executive Director noted that the 'drain cocks' are in-fact fixed to the Cornish boiler and therefore do not need to be separately included in the list of registered objects integral to the place, if the Cornish boiler is included in the Heritage Register. The Executive Director subsequently recommended that the 'drain cocks' do not need to be included in the inventory of objects integral to the Central Deborah Gold Mine.

Summary of how the objects are integral to understanding the cultural heritage significance of the Central Deborah Gold Mine

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 Gold Mine. 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.

Heritage Council's findings

Objects Integral to the Registered Place

The Heritage Council's findings accord with the Executive Director's Recommendation. The Heritage Council finds that the Cornish boiler and the Ingersoll Rand air compressor are important additions to the list of objects integral to the registered place as essential items of machinery at the mine. The Heritage Council

finds that the Bayne stretcher is an important addition to the Heritage Register as it completed the collection of four stretchers at the Central Deborah Gold Mine.

The inventory of objects is provided as **Attachment 1** to this determination.

Additional Land

The Heritage Council finds that additional land should be included in the Heritage Register as the land has been used in conjunction with the place for 85 years. The Heritage Council finds that the extent of registration including the additional land is appropriate to protect the setting of the historic structures. The Heritage Council also finds that the land included within the extent of registration may contain archaeological features of significance. The Heritage Council finds that 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.

The extent of registration of the Central Deborah Gold Mine is provided as **Attachment 2** to this determination.

Categories of Registration

The Heritage Council finds that the categories of registration should be amended to include 'Registered Archaeological Place'.

Permit exemptions

The Heritage Council determined specific permit exemptions that would not harm the cultural heritage significance of the place or the objects integral to the place. The permit exemptions include exemptions for modern buildings that do not relate to the period of significance of the mine. In addition to those exemptions recommended by the Executive Director, and advertised in accordance with section 41 of the Act, the Heritage Council has included additional permit exemptions that will assist the tourism and operational requirements with the heritage constraints of the site, based on advice received from the Executive Director.

The permit exemptions are provided as **Attachment 3** to this determination.

Conclusion

The Heritage Council of Victoria determined on 7 August 2025, in accordance with section 62 of the Act that the registration of the Central Deborah Gold Mine is to be amended in the Heritage Register. The Heritage Council determined to make the following amendments to the Heritage Register:


- registering objects that are integral to understanding the cultural heritage significance of the registered place in accordance with section 49(1)(ca) of the Act; and
- including additional land in the Heritage Register pursuant to section 49(1)(d)(i) and (ii) of the Act; and
- amending the categories of registration to Registered Place, Registered Object Integral to a Registered Place, and Registered Archaeological Place; and
- determining categories of works or activities which may be carried out in relation to the registered place for which a permit is not required (permit exemptions).



Professor Philip Goad
Chair, Heritage Council of Victoria


Attachment 1


Objects Integral Inventory


Object identification	1. Air-powered drill shanker/sharpener
Current location	Central Deborah Gold Mine, Blacksmith's Shop
Image	 <p>2025. Compressed air powered drill shanker and sharpener.</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 identification	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 identification	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 identification	4. Bayne patent mining stretchers (4)
Current location	Central Deborah Gold Mine, First Aid Room (2) and Archive Shed (2)
Image	 <p>2024. Bayne patent mining stretchers in first aid room.</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 identification	5. Carbide gas generator (1)
Current location	Central Deborah Gold Mine, Carbide Lamp Room
Image	 <p>2024. Acetylene gas producer.</p>
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 identification	6. Carbide gas drums (4)
Current location	Central Deborah Gold Mine, Carbide Lamp Room
Image	 <p>2024. 4 carbide drums.</p>
Description	4 metal carbide drums. Some dents and weathering to the drums.
Source	CDGM records.
Markings	N/A
Condition	Good condition.


Object identification	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 identification	8. Timber Trolley
Current location	Central Deborah Gold Mine, Stoke Hold
Image	 <p>2025. Timber trolley. Source: CDGM</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 identification	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 identification	10. Electric air compressor
Current location	Central Deborah Gold Mine, Winder House
Image	 <p>2024. Thompson Electric Air Compressor.</p>
Description	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.
Source	CDGM records.
Markings	N/A
Condition	Good condition.

Object identification	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.

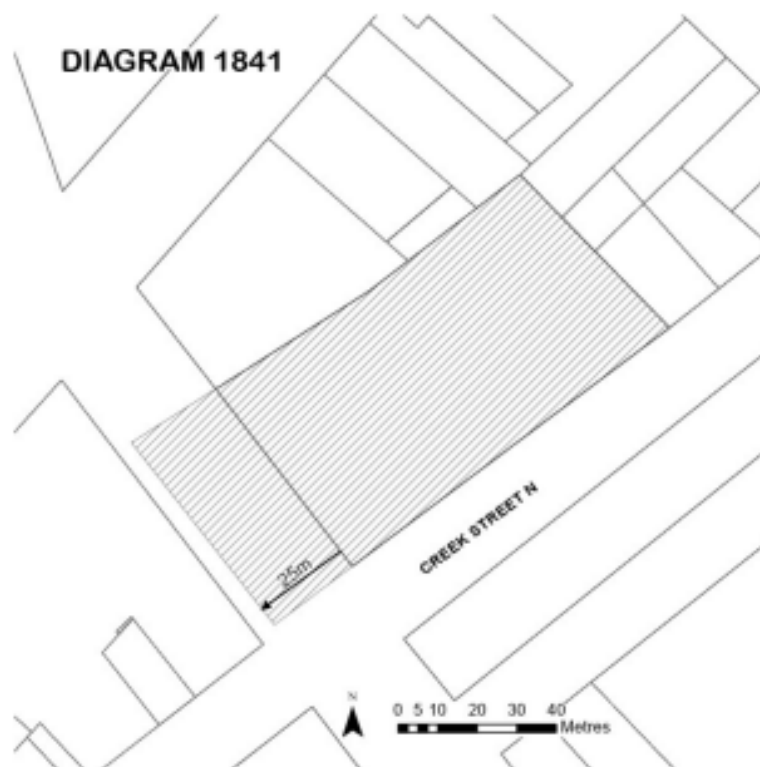
Object identification	12. Cornish boiler
Current location	Central Deborah Gold Mine, Boiler House
Image	 <p>2024. Cornish boiler.</p>
Description	A large cylinder in brick setting. This boiler was manufactured in the early 1900s and was used at the Black's Quarry at Coldstream and later the Virginia 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	Good condition.

Attachment 2

Extent of registration

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 shanker and sharpener
2. Compressed-air drill steel hammer
3. Hand tools
4. 4 x Bayne patent mining stretchers
5. 1 x Carbide gas generator
6. 4 x 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



Attachment 3

Categories of works or activities which may be undertaken without a permit (permit exemptions)

Introduction

A [heritage permit](#) is required for all works and activities undertaken in relation to places and objects in the Victorian Heritage Register. 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 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 Act.

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 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

9. 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.
10. 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.
11. 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*.
12. 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.
13. 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.

Area of greater sensitivity:

2. All internal works to the addition to the boiler house (dating from the site's use as a tourist mine)
3. All internal works to the entrance building (dating from the site's use as a tourist mine)
4. Repair, maintenance, upgrade and renewal of the 1980s trestleway
5. Like for like repair and maintenance of the Alimak tunnel area
6. Like for like repair and maintenance of the artificial creek.