



Heritage Council Regulatory Committee

Grandstand and Horsham City Oval

123 Firebrace Street, Horsham, Horsham Rural City Council

DETERMINATION OF THE HERITAGE COUNCIL

The Heritage Council has considered a request to review the Executive Director's decision to refuse to accept a nomination to include the Grandstand and Horsham City Oval at 123 Firebrace Street, Horsham in the Victorian Heritage Register. Pursuant to Section 30(5)(a) of the *Heritage Act 2017*, the Heritage Council has determined to affirm the decision under review and refuse to accept the nomination.

Louise Honman (Chair)
Joanne Guard
Jamie Lowe

Decision Date – 11 November 2020

INTERESTED PARTIES

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, HERITAGE VICTORIA

Information was received from the Executive Director, Heritage Victoria ('the Executive Director') in relation to the refusal of the nomination.

NOMINATOR

Mr Neville McIntyre ('the Nominator') nominated the Grandstand and Horsham City Oval for inclusion in the Victorian Heritage Register. The Nominator provided additional information in relation to the Nomination.

HORSHAM RURAL CITY COUNCIL

Information was received from Horsham Rural City Council ('HRCC') in relation to the Grandstand and Horsham City Oval.

INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND

THE PLACE

01. The Grandstand and Horsham City Oval, located at 123 Firebrace Street, Horsham ('the Place') consists of a 1924 grandstand and mixed-use oval. The Place was historically used for sporting and recreation throughout 20th century.

NOMINATION

02. On 13 August 2020, an application to nominate the Place ('the Nomination') for inclusion in the Victorian Heritage Register ('the Register') was lodged with the Executive Director, pursuant to section 27 of the *Heritage Act 2017* ('the Act'). The Nomination did not refer to the *Heritage Council Criteria for Assessment of Places of Cultural Heritage Significance* ('Criteria for Assessment') [see **Attachment 1**] but stated that the "age and culture" of the Place were "culturally significant to Horsham especially to the football and cricket clubs".

DECISION OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

03. Pursuant to section 29 of the Act, the Executive Director may refuse to accept a nomination if he considers that the nominated place or object has no reasonable prospect of inclusion in the Register. On 10 September 2020, the Executive Director notified the Nominator of his refusal to accept the Nomination on the grounds that the Place has no reasonable prospect of inclusion in the Register. The Executive Director's refusal stated that "the Nomination does not demonstrate that the Place has a wider significance to the Victorian community or to the history of the State".

REQUEST FOR REVIEW

04. On 7 October 2020, the Heritage Council received a request for a review of the Executive Director's refusal to accept the nomination for the Place, pursuant to section 30 of the Act. The Heritage Council Regulatory Committee ('the Committee') was constituted to consider the request for review, information received in response to it, and to make a determination, as delegated by the Heritage Council under sections 13 and 15 of the Act.

PRELIMINARY, PROCEDURAL AND OTHER MATTERS

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

05. The Chair invited Committee members to make declarations in relation to any matters that may potentially give rise to an actual or apprehended conflict of interests. The Committee members were satisfied that there were no relevant conflicts of interests and made no such declarations.

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

06. On 12 October 2020, the Committee requested additional information from interested parties to assist in determining the matter. Parties were also afforded the opportunity to respond to the additional information provided to the Committee. Responses were received from the Executive Director and the Nominator.

ISSUES

07. The following section is not intended to be a complete record of information provided to the Committee. It is a summary of what the Committee considers to be

the key issues, followed by an explanation of the position the Committee takes on each key issue.

SUMMARY OF ISSUES

- 08.** Interested parties provided the Committee with a range of additional material in relation to whether or not the Place has a reasonable prospect of inclusion in the Register pursuant to section 29(1) of the Act.

NO REASONABLE PROSPECT

Information received

- 09.** The Executive Director provided the Committee with the original nomination documentation received for the Place and information in relation to similar places included in the Register.
- 010.** The Nominator provided the Committee with a range of additional material in support of the inclusion of the Place in the Register. The additional material received from the Nominator did not refer to the Criteria for Assessment, however, provided information in relation to the age of the Place, its history of use and its value to the community.
- 011.** HRCC provided the Committee with a copy of its heritage studies, commissioned by Ward (1998) and Grieve Gillet (2012 and 2014), and confirmed that the Place has not been identified by HRCC as a place of potential heritage significance.
- 012.** In response to the information provided by the Nominator and HRCC, the Executive Director confirmed his position that the Place has no reasonable prospect of inclusion in the Register.

Discussion

- 013.** The Committee notes the information provided by the Nominator, particularly in relation to the age of the Place, its history of use and its importance to the Horsham community.
- 014.** The Committee notes that the age of a place or object is not, of itself, cause to warrant inclusion in the Register. Rather, it is the enduring cultural heritage values of a place or object to wider Victoria that gives rise to the potential for cultural heritage significance at the State level.
- 015.** The Committee found that, in this instance, the evidence provided did not demonstrate that the Place may be of significance to the State of Victoria. The Committee also found that no evidence was provided in relation to how the Place meets the Criteria for Assessment. The Committee therefore agrees with the position of the Executive Director that the Place does not have a reasonable prospect of inclusion in the Register.

CONCLUSION

- 016.** The Heritage Council has considered a request to review the Executive Director's decision to refuse to accept a nomination to include the Grandstand and Horsham City Oval at 123 Firebrace Street, Horsham in the Victorian Heritage Register. Pursuant to Section 30(5)(a) of the *Heritage Act 2017*, the Heritage Council has determined to affirm the decision under review and refuse to accept the nomination.
- 017.** The Committee thanks all interested parties for providing additional information on the Place for its consideration, especially noting the time and research undertaken by the Nominator in preparing the documentation under review.

ATTACHMENT 1

HERITAGE COUNCIL CRITERIA FOR ASSESSMENT OF PLACES OF CULTURAL HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

CRITERION A	Importance to the course, or pattern, of Victoria's cultural history
CRITERION B	Possession of uncommon, rare or endangered aspects 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 or environments.
CRITERION E	Importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics.
CRITERION F	Importance in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement at a particular period.
CRITERION G	Strong or special association with a particular present-day community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons.
CRITERION H	Special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in Victoria's history.

These were updated by the Heritage Council at its meeting on 4 April 2019, and replace the previous criteria adopted by the Heritage Council on 6 December 2012