

21 September 2023

[REDACTED]

Via email to [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

NOMINATION REVIEW – CASTLEMAINE CAMP RESERVE, FOREST STREET, CASTLEMAINE MOUNT ALEXANDER SHIRE COUNCIL

I write in response to your request received by this office on 4 August 2023 that the Heritage Council review the Executive Director's decision to refuse a nomination that the Castlemaine Camp Reserve ('the Place') be included in the Victorian Heritage Register, pursuant to section 29 of the *Heritage Act 2017* ('the Act').

Pursuant to section 13 of the Act, a Heritage Council Committee of three members was appointed to consider your request ('the Committee'). The Committee invited you, the Mount Alexander Shire Council, and the Executive Director, Heritage Victoria to submit additional material. The Executive Director submitted all information used to make the decision to refuse the nomination, which was circulated via HCV Hub to relevant parties on 28 August 2023.

The Committee has thoroughly reviewed all the information submitted in your original nomination, the additional information supplied in the nomination review request application, and all information supplied by the Executive Director.

I write to advise that, having regard to all information supplied as part of this review, the Committee has determined to affirm the Executive Director's decision under review.

The Committee has taken into account the additional information including the two letters of support and the document titled 'Government Camps on the Victorian Goldfields' in your nomination review request application. After careful consideration of the new information the Committee has not found that the information warranted remittal of the matter to the Executive Director for reconsideration under section 30(6) of the Act.

Statement of reasons for the Committee's decision

In making its decision, the Committee has considered all material provided to it and its conclusions include the following–

The historical associations of the place as the site of the Castlemaine Gold Commissioner's Camp:

- The Committee notes that the place is part of the historical site of the Castlemaine Gold Commissioner's Camp, the significance of which is protected by Heritage Overlay HO668 'Camp Reserve and Environs' and associated Heritage Design Guidelines. While the Committee accepts that the historical association is important, it did not find, on the evidence provided, that the place may allow the association to be better understood than other places with substantially the same association in Victoria.
- The Committee understands that the place remains as a recreation reserve, since its gazettal as a public recreation reserve in 1895, but also notes that alterations at the site over time mean it no longer closely resembles the Gold Commissioner's Camp due to the impermanent nature of the structures built at the Camp.

HERITAGE COUNCIL VICTORIA

GPO BOX 527, Melbourne VIC 3001 E: heritage.council@delwp.vic.gov.au T: 03 8508 1656

W: heritagecouncil.vic.gov.au ABN: 87 967 501 331

OFFICIAL

The archaeological value of the site:

- The Committee acknowledges inclusion of the site in the Victorian Heritage Inventory, as a site likely to contain historical archaeological artefacts, deposits and or features that relate to its mid-19th century use as the location of the Gold Commissioners Camp. The Committee did not find, in this instance, that the evidence provided demonstrated that the site may meet the threshold for State-level significance under Criterion C. The Committee acknowledges that archaeological deposits may yield further information about the Castlemaine Gold Commissioner's Camp, and later social and cultural history of Castlemaine, but is not likely to contain artefacts that yield knowledge significant to the State of Victoria.

The landscape elements of the site that relate to its use as a football field, recreation reserve and site of agricultural shows and other community events:

- The Committee acknowledges that the place has clear associations with the local and likely regional community, through its current and historic use as a recreation reserve. The Committee also acknowledges that the site is of ongoing importance to the local community for its associations with the social and cultural history of Castlemaine. The Committee found, however, that the current and past uses and remaining associated structures are evidence of the local significance of the place, and not evidence that the place may be of State-level significance.

After considering the above elements individually and taking a holistic view of the site the Committee has determined pursuant to section 30(5)(a) of the *Heritage Act 2017*, to affirm the decision of the Executive Director to refuse to accept the nomination for the place.

The Committee thanks interested parties for providing additional information, and particularly acknowledge the time and work undertaken by the nominating party to prepare the additional material provided in the nomination review application.

If you require any further assistance, please contact the Heritage Council secretariat at heritage.council@delwp.vic.gov.au or by telephone on (03) 8508 1656.

Yours sincerely



Hannah Fairbridge
Project Officer, Heritage Council Secretariat

cc. a version of this decision will be sent to the Executive Director, Heritage Victoria, and the Mount Alexander Shire Council.