

Heritage Council Determination

Determination date	2 April 2026
Place/Object name	Spotswood Railway Station Complex
Location	Hudsons Road, Spotswood, Hobsons Bay City, Bunurong Country
Relevant legislative provision/s	Not to be included the Victorian Heritage Register, pursuant to section 49(1)(b) of the <i>Heritage Act 2017</i>

Determination of the Heritage Council

The Heritage Council of Victoria determined on **2 April 2026**, in accordance with section 49(1)(b) of the *Heritage Act 2017*, that the above Place is not of State-level cultural heritage significance and is not to be included in the Heritage Register.

The Heritage Council also determined 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 in accordance with section 49(1)(c)(ii) of the Act.
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Executive Director's Recommendation ('the Recommendation')

On **12 January 2026** the Executive Director made the Recommendation to the Heritage Council that the Spotswood Railway Station Complex, located at Hudsons Road, Spotswood, Hobsons Bay City, Bunurong Country ('the Place') is not of State-level cultural heritage significance and should not be included in the Heritage Register. The Recommendation was advertised publicly for a period of 60 days, beginning on **16 January 2026**.

Reasons for the Recommendation

The following comparative analysis is taken verbatim from page 29 of the Recommendation (references removed):

Around 86 railway stations were built or demolished and rebuilt as part of the Victorian Railways upgrade program of 1901-18. This was a substantial program to improve facility standards, operational capacity and the comfort of both passengers and Victorian Railway employees.

Relatively few new passenger station buildings were constructed between 1901 and 1909. During this early phase, most new building works were concentrated at major termini and freight centres, such as railway stations at Korumburra (VHR H1571), Essendon (VHR H1562) and Flinders Street (VHR H1583). This reflects the Victorian Railway's initial priority on upgrading operational infrastructure and facilities, such as rail tracks, bridges, level crossings, cattle yards and locomotives.

Consequently, the construction of passenger station buildings did not become a major focus until c.1910, once much of the operational rail infrastructure had been brought up to contemporary standards. Timber was more widely used for the new buildings due to its affordability, while brick construction was generally reserved for stations located near the material production centres. This phase of construction continued until 1915, when the First World War significantly reduced the building activity.

As part of the Victorian Railway's upgrade program, the Spotswood Railway Station Complex demonstrates historical associations with this phase through its physical characteristics. However, these associations are not distinctive to Spotswood and are shared by all other Federation/Edwardian railway stations.

Those stations in the [Heritage Register] contain a higher number and range of physical characteristics that more clearly demonstrate the Victorian Railway's achievement in improving railway infrastructure and passenger amenities. In comparison, the Spotswood Railway Station Complex is modest in scale and reflects a lower level of investment. Spotswood does not demonstrate the historical associations of the period more clearly than the [registered] places.

The Spotswood Railway Station Complex is not a notable (fine, pivotal or influential) example of its class at a State-level. The place was built to a standard design of the Victorian Railways which was widely applied to many other Federation/Edwardian railway stations. Architecturally, its stylistic qualities do not exceed those typical of the class, and it has more in common with similar stations in local heritage overlays. The Spotswood Railway Station Complex is an attractive local example, rather than a notable example, of a Federation/Edwardian railway station complex.

Section 44 submissions

During the 60-day public advertisement period, **one** (1) submission was received pursuant to section 44 of the *Heritage Act 2017* ('the Act'). No request for a hearing to be conducted was received. The submission was made jointly by Victorian Infrastructure Delivery Authority (VIDA) Rail and Victorian Rail Track Corporation (VicTrack), in support of the Recommendation. VIDA and VicTrack expressed agreement that the Place is of cultural heritage significance at a local level, and that heritage protection via the Hobsons Bay Planning Scheme is appropriate.

Heritage Council's findings

Statement of reasons for making the determination

Based on the information before it, the Heritage Council is satisfied that the Place is not State-level cultural heritage significance and that it should not be included in the Heritage Register.

The Heritage Council's decision was reached having considered the assessment against the *Victorian Heritage Register Criteria and Threshold Guidelines (Attachment 1)*, and the information included in the Recommendation, and the submission received in response to the Recommendation. The Heritage Council's reasons for determining not to include that Place in the Heritage Register are in accordance with the reasons of the Executive Director.

Conclusion

The Heritage Council of Victoria determined on **2 April 2026**, in accordance with section 49(1)(b) of the *Heritage Act 2017*, that the Spotswood Railway Station Complex is not of State-level cultural heritage significance and is not to be included in the Victorian Heritage Register.



Professor Philip Goad

Chair, Heritage Council of Victoria

Attachment 1

Victorian Heritage Register Criteria and Threshold Guidelines

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 and objects.
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 adopted by the Heritage Council at its meeting on 1 December 2022, and replace the previous criteria adopted by the Heritage Council on 6 December 2012.