

# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR RECOMMENDATION TO THE HERITAGE COUNCIL TO AMEND AN EXISTING REGISTRATION



**NAME** ROYAL MELBOURNE ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS  
**DATE REGISTERED:** 23 MARCH 1996  
**VHR NUMBER:** VHR H1074  
**HERITAGE OVERLAY:** CITY OF MELBOURNE, HO364 & HO828  
**LOCATION** ELLIOTT AVENUE PARKVILLE, MELBOURNE CITY  
**CATEGORY** HERITAGE PLACE  
**HERMES NUMBER:** 4781



The Lion Enclosure at the Royal Melbourne Zoological Gardens prior to its demolition in 2014.

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR RECOMMENDATION TO THE HERITAGE COUNCIL:

To amend the existing registration for VHR H1074 in accordance with s.54 of the *Heritage Act 1995* by:

- Removing the Lion Enclosure (B10) from the registration.
- Updating the Statement of Significance to reflect the removal of the Lion Enclosure, and re-formatting the statement to meet current practice.
- Including permit exemptions (this registration currently has no permit exemptions).

## Reasons for the proposed amendment:

In 2014 the Lion Park was redeveloped (under a permit issued under the *Heritage Act 1995*, P20702). The Lion Enclosure (B10) was extensively remodelled and most elements were demolished or removed. The Lion Enclosure (B10) no longer meets any of the Heritage Council's criteria at the state level for inclusion in the Victorian Heritage Register.

The existing registration documentation is provided at Attachment 1 of this report.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Timothy Smith'.

**Tim Smith OAM**

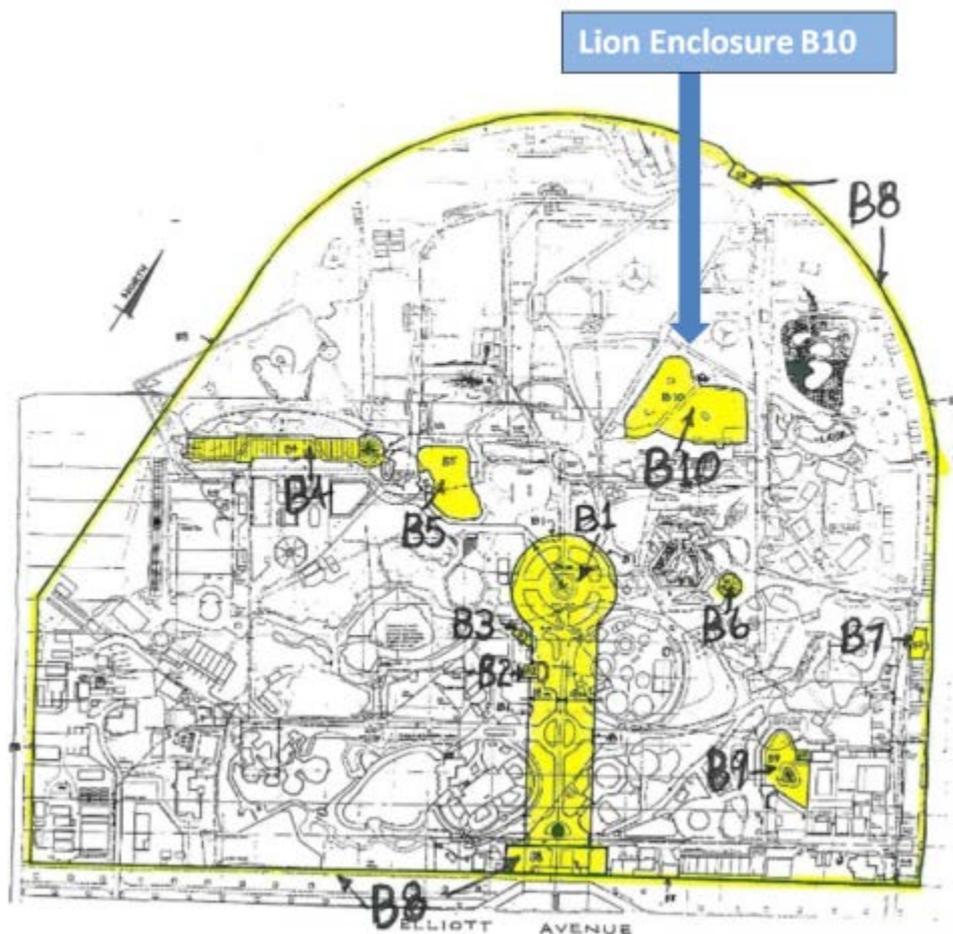
**Executive Director, Heritage Victoria**

**Recommendation Date:** 17 March 2017

This recommendation report has been issued by the Executive Director, Heritage Victoria under s.32 of the *Heritage Act 1995*. It has not been considered or endorsed by the Heritage Council of Victoria.

## AMENDMENT BACKGROUND

In 2014 the Melbourne Zoo Lion Park was redeveloped (under a permit issued under the *Heritage Act 1995*, P20702). The Lion Enclosure (B10) was extensively remodelled and most elements were demolished or removed. Melbourne Zoo has met all the conditions of permit P20702. The Lion Enclosure (B10) no longer meets any of the Heritage Council's criteria at the state level for inclusion in the Victorian Heritage Register. The Executive Director proposes that the Lion Enclosure (B10) be removed from this registration so that permits will not be required for future work on this land.



## PROPOSED CATEGORY OF REGISTRATION

No change.

## PROPOSED EXTENT OF REGISTRATION

All of the place encompassing the following buildings and features as shown on Diagram 1074:

B1 Formal Garden Layout and elephant statue (but excluding all lighting, water fountain, Peter Pan statue and garden signage, bollards, seating, fences and fixed garbage bins)

B2 Mandrill House

B3 Monkey House

B4 Great Flight Aviary

B5 Giraffe House and enclosure

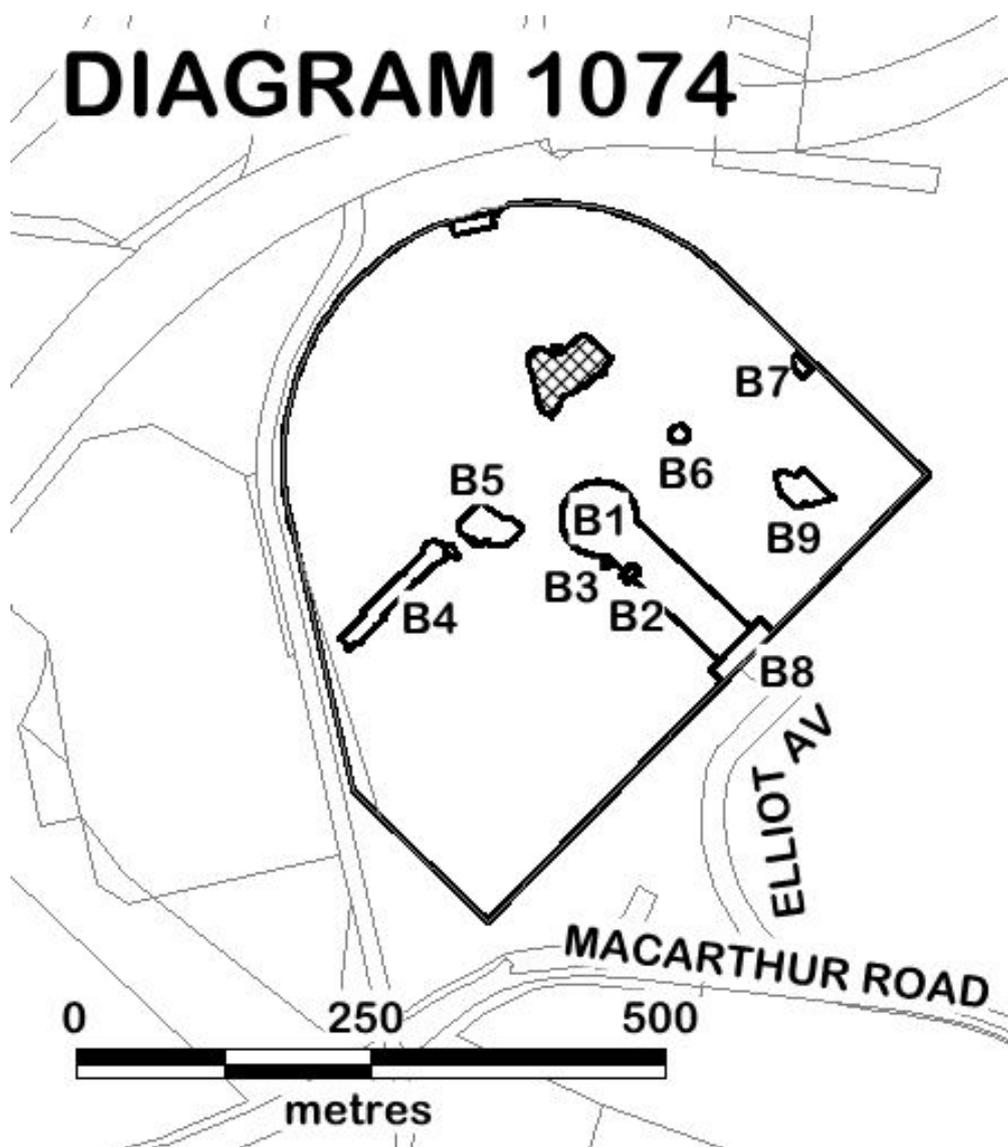
B6 Octagonal Aviary

B7 Carnivores Food Preparation Room (but excluding the south eastern wing)

B8 Perimeter Fence and Front and Back Gates

B9 Elephant House and Enclosure (including the moat)

But removing the former Lion Enclosure shown cross hatched on Diagram 1074.



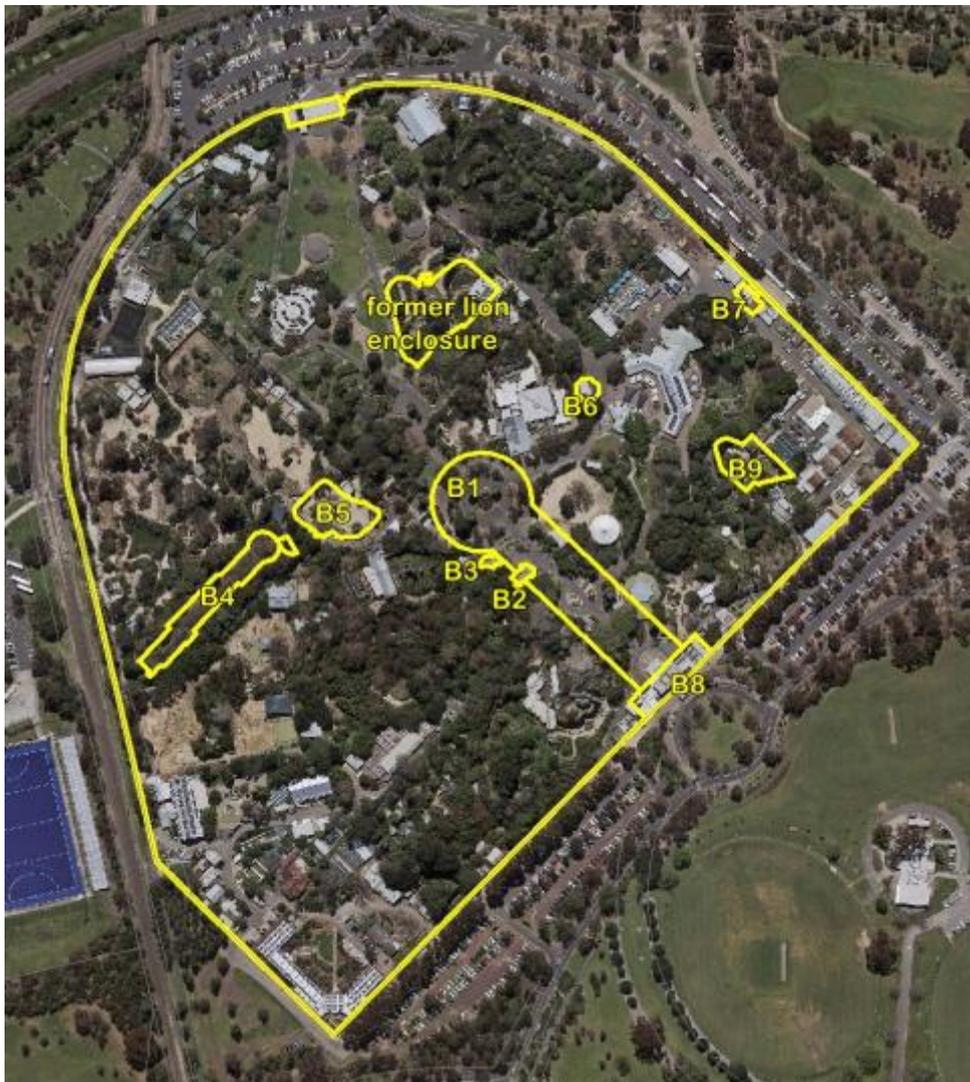
## RATIONALE FOR EXTENT

When the Royal Melbourne Zoo was registered in 1996 a particular approach was adopted. The resulting extent does not align with current registration practice. This amendment to remove B10 adopts a simple approach and leaves the registration essentially as it was gazetted minus the former Lion Enclosure. It should be noted that the City of Melbourne Heritage Overlay HO364 covers the balance of the land at the zoo not registered in the VHR.

## IMPLICATIONS FOR HERITAGE OVERLAY

It is proposed that at the time of the amendment to remove B10, the City of Melbourne Heritage Overlay HO828 (the VHR registration) and HO364 (the balance of the zoo) are also updated to reflect this amendment. It is proposed that HO364 is expanded to cover the area formerly registered as B10.

## AERIAL PHOTO OF THE PLACE SHOWING CURRENT AND PROPOSED REGISTRATION



Name: Royal Melbourne Zoological Gardens  
VHR number: VHR H1074  
Hermes number: 4781

# PROPOSED STATEMENT OF CULTURAL HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

## WHAT IS SIGNIFICANT?

The Royal Melbourne Zoological Gardens including the Formal Garden Layout and elephant statue; former Mandrill House; former Monkey House; Great Flight Aviary; Giraffe House and Enclosure; Octagonal Aviary; former Carnivores' Food Preparation Room; Perimeter Fence, and Front and Back Gates; and former Elephant House and Enclosure including the moat.

### *History Summary*

The Royal Melbourne Zoological Gardens (now known as the Melbourne Zoo) is the oldest zoo in Victoria and Australia and opened in 1862. Prior to this, animals procured by the Zoological Society of Victoria were kept in rudimentary enclosures at Richmond Paddock opposite the Botanic Gardens. These animals were brought to Victoria to enrich the purses and sensibilities of its colonists – birds that would sing sweetly or consume fruit-eating insects, fish for the rivers, and game and grazing animals for bush and paddocks. The importation of animals from other countries was known as 'acclimatisation' and influenced the Royal Melbourne Zoological Garden's early development. The popularity of the Zoological Gardens at Regent's Park in London (1826) also lent weight to its establishment, as did a drive to demonstrate civic development during the Victoria's growth after the gold rushes. In the first three decades following the 1870 appointment of director Albert Le Souef, exotic animals were procured for public display, entertainment became a central function and the Zoo and its attractive gardens were established as a major recreational and cultural feature in Melbourne. In the 1960s discussions around the world regarding the value and role of zoos led to a change in perspective within the international zoo community and Melbourne Zoo began to transform its presentation and treatment of animals. The present-day Melbourne Zoo continues to remodel and redevelop its facilities to better address its objectives of conservation, research and education.

### *Description Summary*

The Royal Melbourne Zoological Gardens occupies a 22 hectare (55 acre) site in Royal Park. It contains significant buildings and features, including the

- Formal Garden Layout and elephant statue: the area adjoining the Zoo's axial main drive – a principal feature of the early Zoo site design – beginning at its 'front' (Elliott Avenue) entrance and crossed by other paths perpendicular to it. These intersections are marked by circular garden beds, the north-westernmost one of which contains a statue of a rampant elephant;
- Former Mandrill House: also known as the Orang-utan House, together with the adjacent
- Former Monkey House: these two small buildings face the main drive. Both buildings have terracotta-tiled roofs, and feature large panels of wrought iron bars within red face-brick walls with rendered and painted column capital and sill details;
- Great Flight Aviary: an approximately 120m-long steel mesh-clad tall structure of parabolic cross-section framed in steel arches and at its north-east end terminating in an elongated-spheroidal dome. It originally opened in 1934, and in 1980 re-opened following a fitout with new walkways and rainforest, wetland and scrubland environments;
- Giraffe House and Enclosure: a partially-moated enclosure with perimeter buildings which feature ferro-concrete simulated natural rock surfaces. The shape of the largest building is apparently also based upon the topography of Mount Buffalo;
- Octagonal Aviary: this building was initially occupied by monkeys before being used as originally planned as an aviary. Red face-brick piers support rendered and painted architraves and a segmented iron-framed domical roof. Large openings in four of its eight sides are enclosed with steel mesh.;
- Former Carnivores' Food Preparation Room: gently suggestive of the Mediterranean, it features dark-grey rendered walls and a terracotta-tiled roof with wide eave and barge-end overhangs;

- Perimeter Fence: the Zoo's perimeter is defined by a tall masonry wall, the Elliott Avenue-facing portion of which features chevron capping and panels of herringbone-patterned brickwork;
- Front and Back Gates: the Zoo's 'Front' entrance on Elliott Avenue is a 1939 moderne-style building with upper-storey windows framed by stylised letters that form the word 'ZOO'. The subsidiary 'Back' entrance at the Zoo's northern end provides visitors with access from Royal Park railway station and Stop 25 on the 55 tram route; and
- Former Elephant House and Enclosure, including the moat: the Elephant House's roof features four parallel asbestos-cement cranked barrel vaults. Decorative relief graphics on its parapet depict elephant heads, whose sinuous trunks echo the form of the roof.

This site is part of the traditional land of the Wurundjeri people.

### **HOW IS IT SIGNIFICANT?**

The Royal Melbourne Zoological Gardens is of aesthetic, architectural, cultural, historical, scientific and social 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 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 community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons. This includes the significance of a place to Indigenous peoples as part of their continuing and developing cultural traditions.

#### **Criterion H**

Special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in Victoria's history.

### **WHY IS IT SIGNIFICANT?**

The Royal Melbourne Zoological Gardens is significant at the State level for the following reasons:

The Royal Melbourne Zoological Gardens is historically significant as the oldest zoo in Victoria and Australia. It has had a clear and continuing association with the display of animals for education and public viewing since 1862. Melbourne Zoo demonstrates nineteenth-century Victoria's determination to provide progressive public institutions of an international standard despite its relative youth and isolation. [Criterion A]

The Royal Melbourne Zoological Gardens demonstrates developing and evolving practices in the care, housing, display and interpretation of zoo animals since 1862. A number of its buildings and structures – such as the Octagonal Aviary (1928), the former Carnivore's Food Preparation Room (1930s), and the former Mandrill House and Monkey House buildings (both 1928) – demonstrate the changing philosophies which have underpinned the display and care of animals in captivity, and the ways in which those animals have been viewed and interpreted by visitors. [Criterion A]

The Royal Melbourne Zoological Gardens is aesthetically significant as a formally designed zoological garden landscape which has been appreciated and valued by the community since the 1860s. Its central entrance

pathway with formal garden beds and tree plantings exemplify the zoo's nineteenth century design sensibility. The importance of its aesthetic qualities is demonstrated in the popularity of the place as a tourist destination over a long period for education and recreation purposes. For more than 140 years, the main drive held renowned mass displays of seasonal flowers, a horticultural tradition which has recently changed to feature displays of drought-tolerant natives. [Criterion E]

The Royal Melbourne Zoological Gardens is of scientific significance as a centre of zoological research and animal keeping in Victoria since its establishment in 1862. It contains animal enclosures which were highly innovative for the periods in which they were built, including the Great Flight Aviary (1934, redeveloped 1980), the former Elephant House and Enclosure (1944), and the Giraffe House and Enclosure (1913). These places demonstrate highly creative adaptations of materials and technology. The Zoo continues to deliver conservation and education programs that promote knowledge of and respect for animals and their natural environments. [Criterion F]

The Royal Melbourne Zoological Gardens is socially significant to the wider Victorian community. Generations of Victorians from metropolitan and regional areas have visited Melbourne Zoo since 1862. There has been a regular and long-term engagement by the community with this place for the purposes of learning and recreation, and it has been a popular destination for school excursions. The zoo is also regularly visited by national and international tourists. [Criterion G]

The Royal Melbourne Zoological Gardens is historically significant for its association with the lives and works of three of its former directors. Albert Le Souef (1870 to 1902) and his son Dudley Le Souef (1902 to 1923) are internationally recognised for their pioneering contributions to the body of scientific knowledge regarding the care and display of animals. Alfred Dunbavin Butcher (1962 to 1987), chairman of the Board of the Royal Zoological Society of Victoria, began an ongoing process of transformation in which the design of and habitats within the Zoo's enclosures better accommodate many aspects of species' instincts. [Criterion H]

# PROPOSED PERMIT POLICY

## Preamble

The purpose of the Permit Policy is to assist when considering or making decisions regarding works to a registered place. It is recommended that any proposed works be discussed with an officer of Heritage Victoria prior to making a permit application. Discussing proposed works will assist in answering questions the owner may have and aid any decisions regarding works to the place.

**The extent of registration of the Royal Melbourne Zoological Gardens in the Victorian Heritage Register affects the whole place shown on Diagram 1074 including all buildings (exteriors and interiors).** Under the *Heritage Act 1995* a person must not remove or demolish, damage or despoil, develop or alter or excavate, relocate or disturb the position of any part of a registered place or object without approval. It is acknowledged, however, that alterations and other works may be required to keep places and objects in good repair and adapt them for use into the future.

If a person wishes to undertake works or activities in relation to a registered place or registered object, they must apply to the Executive Director, Heritage Victoria for a permit. The purpose of a permit is to enable appropriate change to a place and to effectively manage adverse impacts on the cultural heritage significance of a place as a consequence of change. If an owner is uncertain whether a heritage permit is required, it is recommended that Heritage Victoria be contacted.

Permits are required for anything which alters the place or object, unless a **permit exemption** is granted. Permit exemptions usually cover routine maintenance and upkeep issues faced by owners as well as minor works or works to the elements of the place or object that are not significant. They may include appropriate works that are specified in a conservation management plan. Permit exemptions can be granted at the time of registration (under s.42 of the Heritage Act) or after registration (under s.66 of the Heritage Act).

It should be noted that the addition of new buildings to the registered place, as well as alterations to the interior and exterior of existing buildings requires a permit, unless a specific permit exemption is granted.

## Cultural heritage management plans

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

## Aboriginal cultural heritage

If any Aboriginal cultural heritage is discovered or exposed at any time it is necessary to immediately contact Aboriginal Victoria to ascertain requirements under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006*.

## Other approvals

Please be aware that approval from other authorities (such as local government) may be required to undertake works.

## Archaeology

Ground disturbance may affect any archaeological deposits of the place and, subject to the exemptions stated in this document, requires a permit.

# PROPOSED PERMIT EXEMPTIONS (UNDER SECTION 42 OF THE HERITAGE ACT)

It should be noted that Permit Exemptions can be granted at the time of registration (under s.42(4) of the Heritage Act). Permit Exemptions can also be applied for and granted after registration (under s.66 of the Heritage Act)

## **General Condition 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.

## **General Condition 2**

Should it become apparent during further inspection or the carrying out of works 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 works shall cease and Heritage Victoria shall be notified as soon as possible.

## **General Condition 3**

All works should ideally be informed by Conservation Management Plans prepared for the place. 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 Condition 4**

Nothing in this determination prevents the Heritage Council from amending or rescinding all or any of the permit exemptions.

## **General Condition 5**

Nothing in this determination exempts owners or their agents from the responsibility to seek relevant planning or building permits from the relevant responsible authority, where applicable.

## **Specific Permit Exemptions**

### **Minor Works:**

Any Minor Works that in the opinion of the Executive Director will not adversely affect the heritage significance of the place may be exempt from the permit requirements of the Heritage Act. A person proposing to undertake minor works must submit a proposal to the Executive Director. If the Executive Director is satisfied that the proposed works will not adversely affect the heritage values of the site, the applicant may be exempted from the requirement to obtain a heritage permit. If an applicant is uncertain whether a heritage permit is required, it is recommended that the permits co-ordinator be contacted.

### **Registered buildings and structures**

#### Exteriors

- Repainting all previously painted surfaces in the same colour scheme and paint type.
- Repair and servicing of existing equipment and services including wiring, plumbing and fire services; equipment and components with moveable parts requiring lubrication including machinery, engines, water reticulation systems.
- Removal of extraneous items such as air conditioners, ducting, wiring, antennae, aerials, etc, and making good.

- Installation or repair of damp-proof courses by either injection method or grouted pocket method.
- Maintenance of power or pipelines or other public services where this involves no alteration to the fabric of the place.

#### Interiors

- Installation, removal or replacement of electrical wiring, provided that all new wiring is fully concealed.
- Installation, removal or replacement of smoke detectors.

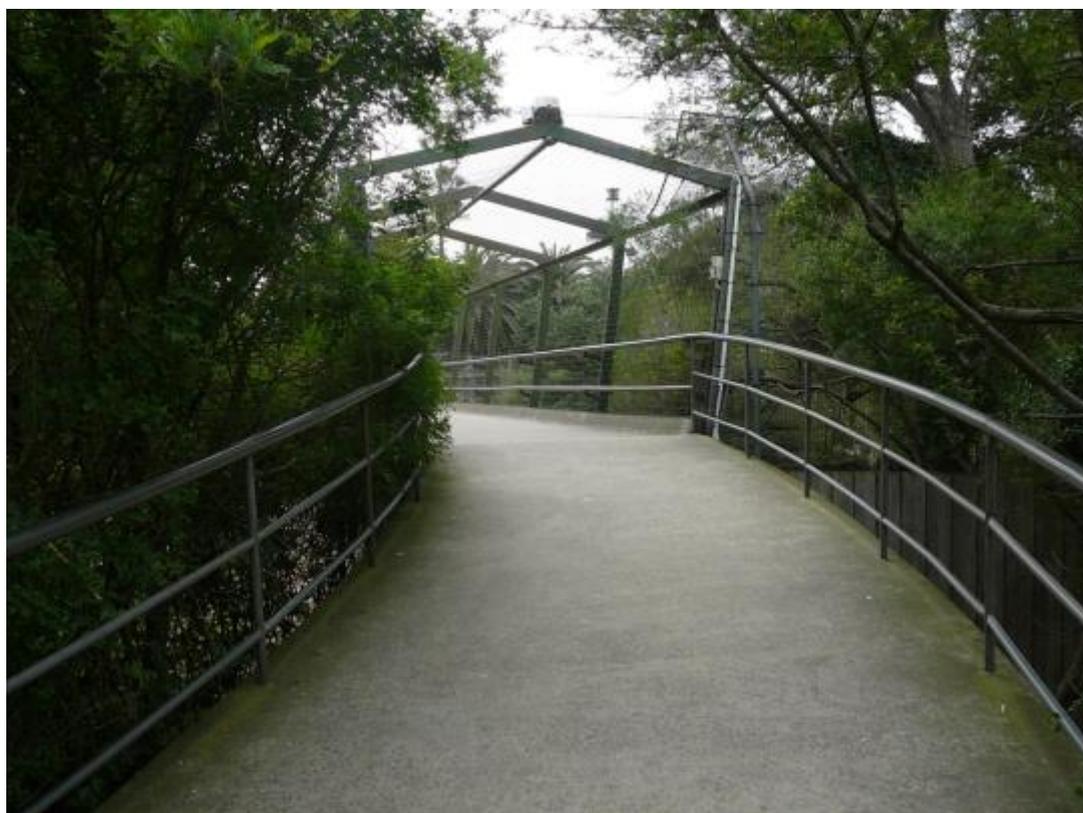
#### Landscape

- The process of gardening, including mowing, hedge clipping, annual bedding displays, removal of dead and diseased plants (excluding trees), disease and weed control, mulching and maintenance to care for existing plants and lawns.
- Removal of dead or dangerous trees and emergency tree works to maintain public safety and to protect significant buildings, structures and landscape, and the replanting the same species in the same location provided a tree removal report is submitted to the Executive Director within 21 days of the removal.
- Repairs and maintenance to hard landscape elements, roads and paths, edging, gutters, steps, drainage and irrigation systems, fences and gates.
- Management of trees in accordance with Australian Standard; Pruning of Amenity Trees AS 4373 – 1996.
- Management of trees in accordance with Australian Standard; Protection of Trees on Development Sites AS 4970 – 2009.
- Subsurface works involving the installation, removal or replacement of watering and drainage systems or services.
- Vegetation protection and management of possums and vermin.

## IMAGES OF THE LION ENCLOSURE PRIOR TO 2014



Lion Enclosure (B10) prior to its demolition in 2014.



Lion Enclosure (B10) prior to its demolition in 2014.



Lion Enclosure (B10) prior to its demolition in 2014.



Sign at the entrance to the original Lion Enclosure prior to 2014.

## IMAGES OF THE LION ENCLOSURE AREA 2017



Original entrance sign reinstated at the new Lion Gorge area.



The new entrance to Lion Gorge.

Note the re-use of containment poles from the original Lion Enclosure.



The new Lion Gorge.



The new Lion Gorge.



Aerial view of the new Lion Gorge.

## KEY REFERENCES USED TO PREPARE ASSESSMENT

*150 Years Melbourne Zoo*, 2012, Bounce Books: Thornbury, Victoria.

*Acclimatiser*, 'Caught & Coloured: Zoological Illustrations from Colonial Victoria' website, viewed 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2017, <https://museumvictoria.com.au/caughtandcoloured/Acclimatiser.aspx>

*Alfred Dunbavin Butcher*, Australian Society for Fish Biology website, viewed 30<sup>th</sup> January 2017, <http://www.asfb.org.au/about/current-executive-council/show/1159>

*Cats, dogs and crocs... Oh My!*, Zoos Victoria website: News 18 December 2014 page, viewed 18<sup>th</sup> January 2017, <http://www.zoo.org.au/news/moving-day-for-lions>

*Lions' big move marks end of an era at Melbourne Zoo*, Through Golden Eyes website: 28 February 2014 page, viewed 18<sup>th</sup> January 2017, <http://throughgoldeneyes.blogspot.com.au/2014/02/lions-big-move-marks-end-of-era-at.html>

*Lions moving to Melbourne*, Zoos Victoria website: News 16 February 2017 page, viewed 19<sup>th</sup> February 2017, <http://www.zoo.org.au/news/lions-moving-to-melbourne>

*Melbourne Zoo – 150 years in Royal Park*, Culture Victoria website: 'Land & Ecology' theme, viewed 30<sup>th</sup> January 2017, <http://www.cv.vic.gov.au/stories/land-and-ecology/melbourne-zoo-and-you-150-years/melbourne-zoo-150-years-in-royal-park/>

*Moving Day for Lions*, Zoos Victoria website: News 27 February 2014 page, viewed 18<sup>th</sup> January 2017, <http://www.zoo.org.au/news/moving-day-for-lions>

*Up Close & Personal: Melbourne Zoo Parkville, Vic*: Viridian Glass website, viewed 30<sup>th</sup> January 2017, [http://www.viridianglass.com/inspiration/case-studies/20\\_upclosepersonal\\_melbournzoo](http://www.viridianglass.com/inspiration/case-studies/20_upclosepersonal_melbournzoo)

*The Victorian Acclimatisation Society*, Museums Victoria website: 'Land & Ecology' theme, viewed 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2017, <https://museumvictoria.com.au/>

# ATTACHMENT 1

## EXISTING REGISTRATION DETAILS

### TO BE SUPERSEDED BY THE FOREGOING RECOMMENDATION

## EXISTING CATEGORY OF REGISTRATION

Heritage place

## EXISTING EXTENT OF REGISTRATION

Historic Building No. 1074:

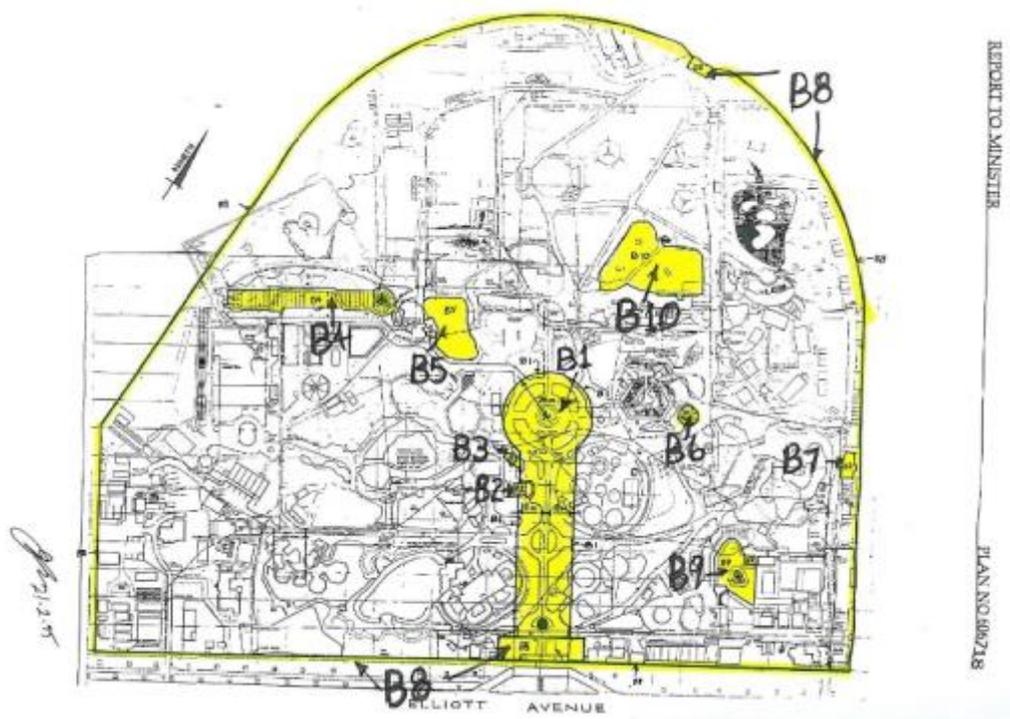
Royal Melbourne Zoological Gardens, Royal Parade, Parkville, City of Melbourne.

Extent:

To the extent of:

1. The following buildings, objects and works known as the Royal Melbourne Zoological Gardens including the Formal Garden Layout and elephant statue within the area marked (B1) (but excluding all lighting; water fountain; Peter Pan statue and garden signage; bollards; seating; fences and fixed garbage bins); the Mandrill House (B2); the Monkey House (B3); the Great Flight Aviary (B4); the Giraffe House and enclosure (B5); the Octagonal Aviary (B6); the Carnivore's Food Preparation Room (but excluding the south eastern wing) (B7); the Perimeter Fence and Front and Back Gates (B8); the Elephant House and Enclosure (including the moat) (B9); the Lion Enclosure (B10); shown on Plan 606718, endorsed by the Chairperson, Historic Buildings Council and held by the Director, Historic Buildings Council.

[Victoria Government Gazette No. G20 23 May 1996 pp.1339-1340]



Name: Royal Melbourne Zoological Gardens

VHR number: VHR H1074

Hermes number: 4781

## EXISTING STATEMENT OF CULTURAL HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

### What is significant?

The Zoological Society of Victoria was established in 1857 and moved to its current location in Royal Park in 1860. The buildings, structures and works incorporated in the Royal Melbourne Zoological Gardens reflect the development of zoological practices in the care, housing, display and interpretation of animals over more than a century. The Royal Melbourne Zoological Gardens occupies a large site in Royal Park, largely unchanged from its original reservation of 1860s. The frontage is bounded by a substantial red brick and masonry fence which incorporates chevron motifs. The entry building is a Moderne structure of two storeys, recessed from the boundary. The upper floor windows are framed by giant stylised letters forming the word 'zoo'. Once inside the grounds, the entry opens onto a strong central axis, a principal feature of the early zoo plan and now one of the few major elements to be retained from the nineteenth century. This formal axis is crossed by several paths, the intersections marked by mounded circular garden beds, which continue the formal planting of the main axis. One of the round beds contains a delightful Kiplingesque elephant statue, which once sat atop a rockery. These round beds, and beds along the main path, are still planted with annual bedding plants, a horticultural tradition now rarely seen in public gardens.

The landscaping of the zoo is dominated by mature trees, both exotic and Australian. A large *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* (River Red Gum), probably a remnant of the indigenous tree cover, is located to the north-east of the entry building. Other dominant trees, many planted in the nineteenth century, include *Ficus macrophylla* (Moreton Bay Fig), *Acmena smithii* (Lilly Pilly), *Pinus canariensis* (Canary Island Pine), *Eucalyptus citriodora* (Lemon-scented Gum), *Schinus molle* var. *areira* (Peppercorn Tree), avenues of *Prunus cerasifera* 'Pissardii' (Cherry-plum), *Populus alba* (White Poplar), *Platanus x acerifolia* (London Plane) and *Quercus palustris* (Pin Oak), and several palm species including *Washingtonia filifera* (Petticoat Palm), *Phoenix canariensis* (Canary Island Date Palm) and *Phoenix reclinata* (Senegal Date Palm).

Two early cages front the central axis; the Orang-utan and Monkey Houses (now retained without animals as 'historic' buildings). Nearby is an enclosure (formerly the Elephant ring) which contains the carousel, operated under lease by the Freeman family. An octagonal aviary is architecturally similar to the monkey house, with red brick piers supporting a vaulted iron roof, only partially enclosed. The eastern portion of the zoo also contains the elephant house, an unusual building with suggestions of eastern influence in its design. The graphics on the parapet have relief designs of elephant heads - which also express the roof forms - which lend an exotic touch. The eastern corner of the zoo site contains a works area with veterinary houses, offices and the Food Preparation Room, most dating from the 1930s and distinguished by rendered walls and tile roof, gently suggestive of the Mediterranean.

The northern portion of the site has a subsidiary entrance served by the suburban railway and tramway system. This area contains a lake, a consistent feature since the earliest period of the zoo's development. Adjacent to the Platypus House is an important collection of flora from Victoria's Western Plains. The northern and western peripheries of the zoo are relatively open, in comparison with the intensively developed portions elsewhere. This open area is separated from recently redeveloped sections of the zoo by the giant flight aviary. The aviary is a vast cathedral-like structure of an elliptical arched section which terminates in a lofty dome. Nearby is the Giraffe House, a masonry structure simulating natural rock forms. Between the Giraffe House and the front boundary is a section of the zoo which has progressively been redeveloped over the last two decades. The area includes the Arboreal Primates enclosure, the recently opened Pygmy Hippopotamus enclosure, the Butterfly House and a new rainforest area.

The remaining portion of the zoo, at the southern corner, is given over to service functions. The main feature of this area is an early residence (occupied by the Friends of the Zoo, and the zoo's graphics section) and a brick residence of the 1930s-40s on the site of the original director's residence.

**How is it significant?**

The Royal Melbourne Zoological Gardens are of social, historic, architectural, aesthetic and scientific significance to the State of Victoria.

**Why is it significant?**

Albert Le Souef and his son, Dudley Le Souef, previous Directors of The Royal Melbourne Zoological Gardens, are internationally recognised by their significant contributions to the body of scientific knowledge regarding the care and display of animals.

The philosophies that lie behind the curatorship of The Royal Melbourne Zoological Gardens and the care of its animals have undergone significant changes and developments. The complexes of buildings, structures and works at the Royal Melbourne Zoological Gardens demonstrate the changes and innovations in management.

Given the specialised nature of the operations of the Royal Melbourne Zoological Gardens, many of the buildings, structures and works constitute rare examples of their type. Several buildings are of particular note.

The Giraffe House is an extraordinary example of a building type planned to replicate a realistic environment based on a rock formation of Mt Buffalo in Northern Victoria.

The Elephant House is an extraordinary example of a building type, unique in Australia and featuring a vaulted roof of corrugated asbestos cement. In addition, there is a decorative relief design featuring elephant heads on this structure, reflecting an Eastern influence.

Stylistically, both the Giraffe and Elephant Houses are extraordinary expressions of design to reflect the use of a moat, rather than a fence, as a barrier.

The Great Flight Aviary is a representative example of two phases of building works at The Royal Melbourne Zoological Gardens and demonstrates Dudley Le Souef's philosophies of animal care.

The formal pathway leading from the Front Entrance to the Elephant Statue and incorporating the Central Axial Formal Garden Layout is a representative example of 19th century works and design once common at the Zoo. It also reflects historical philosophies relating to visitor access and viewing of both botanical and zoological species.

These registered structures and the Formal Garden Layout and pathway clearly demonstrate the changing philosophies which lie behind the care of animals in captivity, the display of those animals, and the way in which they are viewed and interpreted by the public.

The Monkey House, the Mandrill House, the Octagonal Aviary, Lion Enclosure and the former Carnivores Food Preparation Room are representative examples of late nineteenth and early twentieth century buildings and structures of The Royal Melbourne Zoological Gardens.

The Lion Enclosure is significant as it reflects a change in visitor access. Where previously the animal was placed in a cage, this enclosure was the first at The Royal Melbourne Zoological Gardens to place the visitor in the cage.

Additionally, the red brick perimeter fence and front and back entrances are representative examples of the work of the Victorian Public Works Department.

The complex dates from 1860 and the survival of a range of structures from different periods enables comparisons to be drawn through changing zoo management philosophies.

## **EXISTING PERMIT POLICY**

None.

## **EXISTING PERMIT EXEMPTIONS**

None.