HERITAGE COUNCIL DETERMINATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Determination Date</th>
<th>7 December 2017</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Place/Object Name</td>
<td>Maroondah Water Supply System (Upper and Central Sections)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Location</td>
<td>Healesville, Yarra Glen, Christmas Hills, Greensborough</td>
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<tr>
<td>VHR Number</td>
<td>H2381</td>
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<tr>
<td>Place Category</td>
<td>Heritage Place</td>
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At a meeting of the Heritage Council on 7 December 2017 it was determined to include the above place in the Victorian Heritage Register and make certain amendments to the registration material that had been proposed in the Executive Director’s Recommendation, namely amendments to the Statement of Cultural Heritage Significance and to the description of the Extent of Registration for the Place as compared with what had been proposed by the Executive Director.

The Heritage Council endorses the attached registration information for the above place.

Professor Stuart Macintyre AO  
Chair, Heritage Council of Victoria
Recommendation of the Executive Director and assessment of cultural heritage significance under s.32 of the Heritage Act 1995

**Place:** Maroondah Water Supply System (Upper and Central Sections)
**Location:** Healesville, Yarra Glen, Christmas Hills, Greensborough
**VHR Number:** H2381
**Category:** Heritage Place
**Hermes Number:** 197552
**Heritage Overlays:**
- Yarra Ranges Shire
  - HO141: Former township of Fernshaw
  - HO156: Badger Creek Weir and Park
  - HO173: Grace Burn Weir and Aqueduct
  - HO174: Maroondah Catchment, Reservoir & Park
  - HO177: Donnelly’s Creek Weir, Condon’s Gully
  - HO178: Mt Juliet Cairn
- Nillumbik Shire
  - HO2: Maroondah Aqueduct; Entire Length
  - (within Nillumbik) at various sites from Skyline Road, Christmas Hills to Allendale Road, Diamond Creek
  - HO56: Maroondah aqueduct pipe track 23
- Whittlesea Shire
  - HO89: Maroondah Aqueduct over Plenty River Bridge
**Other listings:**
- National Trust: Black Spur, Maroondah Highway

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR RECOMMENDATION TO THE HERITAGE COUNCIL:**

**Recommendation**

- That the Maroondah Water Supply System (Upper and Central Sections) be included as a Heritage Place in the Victorian Heritage Register under the Heritage Act 1995 [Section 32 (1)(a)].

**Steven Avery**
Executive Director

**Recommendation Date:** 22 September 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.
EXTENT OF NOMINATION

Date that the nomination was accepted by the Executive Director
A nomination was accepted for the Maroondah Water Supply System on 15 April 2015.

Written extent of nomination
The Maroondah Water Supply System extends from Maroondah Reservoir and the surrounding catchments at the south western edge of the Yarra Ranges to Preston Reservoir, via Junction Basin, Cheddar Road West.

Nomination extent diagram

Is the extent of nomination the same as the recommended extent?
No

A note on the extent of nomination
The nominated extent indicates the aqueduct as an unbroken line from the Maroondah Reservoir in Healesville to Junction Basin in Preston. At the time of receipt of the nomination, all parties believed that this extent was correct. Further investigation has revealed that the lower section of the aqueduct (from Research to Preston), which was decommissioned in 1978, has since been removed, filled in or built on. The route is no longer discernible and the location and fabric cannot be accurately identified or mapped.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S RESPONSE TO NOMINATED EXTENT

The Executive Director has considered the nominated extent and makes the following recommendations:

Place 1: Maroondah Water Supply System (Upper and Central Sections)
- That this place be included in the Victorian Heritage Register.

Place 2: Maroondah Water Supply System (Lower Section)
- That this place NOT be included in the Victorian Heritage Register.
**Place 1** comprises the Upper and Central Sections of the Maroondah Water Supply System. The Upper Section from Healesville to Yering Gorge remains intact and operational. The Central Section from Yering Gorge to Research is no longer operational but the route and much of the infrastructure survives. Place 1 also includes Junction Basin at Preston and the Plenty River Pipe Bridge. These two items are located within Place 2 but have been included in Place 1 as they are part of what was once a continuous system from Healesville to Preston.

**Place 2** comprises the Lower Section of the Maroondah Water Supply System from Research to Preston. It was decommissioned in 1978 and most of the infrastructure has been removed. Major sections of the aqueduct have been filled in and/or built on. Most of the infrastructure has been removed, apart from Junction Basin and the Plenty River Pipe Bridge which have been included in Place 1. The route of the aqueduct is no longer discernible and the location of extant fabric cannot be accurately identified or mapped. This was discussed with Melbourne Water, Parks Victoria and the nominator and they are in agreement with the recommended extent.
**RECOMMENDATION: PLACE 1**

**NAME OF PLACE**

Maroondah Water Supply System (Upper And Central Sections)

**RECOMMENDED REGISTRATION**

All of the place shown hatched on Diagrams 2381A, 2381B and 2381C encompassing parts of Reserve 1 on Plan of Subdivision 405436 and Lot 1 on Plan of Subdivision 626463, parts of Lot 1 on Title Plan 512205, Lot 1 on Title Plan 951035, Lot 1 on Title Plan 567584, Lot 1 on Title Plan 572081, Lot 1 on Title Plan 951037, Lot 1 on Title Plan 553777, Lots 1 and 2 on Title Plan 554064, Lot 1 on Title Plan 951039, Lot 1 on Title Plan 566879, Lot 1 on Title Plan 901208, Lot 1 on Title Plan 618334, Lot 1 on Title Plan 553762, Lots 1 and 2 on Title Plan 561884, Lots 1 and 2 on Title Plan 441739, Lots 1 and 2 on Title Plan 906272, Lot 1 on Title Plan 951034, Lots 1 and 2 on Title Plan 553811, Lot 1 on Title Plan 554325, Lots 1 and 2 on Title Plan 573143, Lot 2 on Title Plan 959045, Lot 1 on Title Plan 562029, Lots 1 and 2 on Title Plan 683849, Lots 1 and 2 on Title Plan 559268, Lot 1 on Title Plan 951041, Lot 1 on Title Plan 566952, Lots 1 and 2 on Title Plan 561886, Lot 1 on Title Plan 951049, Lots 1 and 2 on Title Plan 950873, Lot 1 on Title Plan 951046, Lot 1 on Title Plan 554225, Lot 1 on Title Plan 562039, Lot 1 on Title Plan 443405, Lot 1 on Title Plan 588224, Lot 1 on Title Plan 605914, Lot 1 on Title Plan 438606, Lots 1 and 2 on Title Plan 874803 and Lot 1 on Title Plan 218707, parts of Crown Allotments 6A and &A, Section 1, Crown Allotment 9B, Section 4A, Crown Allotment 1B, Section 8A, Crown Allotment 4A, Section 9, Crown Allotments 8 and 8A, Section 17, Crown Allotments 6A and 7A, Section 18, Crown Allotments 2010, 2019, 2048, 2050, 2051 and 2052 Parish of Nillumbik, Crown Allotments 24C, 29A, 33A1, 47D and 2024 Parish of Sutton, Crown Allotments 34A, 45P, 45P1 and 45P2 Parish of Tarrawarra and Crown Allotment 2A, Parish of Monda, all of Crown Allotments A2A, 9B, 9D, 9E, 9F, 9G, 9H, 9I, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021 Parish of Monda, Crown Allotments 61, 2003, 2011, 2012, 2015, 2016 and 2017 Parish of Narbe-thong, Crown Allotment 7, Section A, Crown Allotments 7, 8, 12 and 13 Section B and Crown Allotments 20B, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009 2010, 2011 and 2012 Parish of Glen watts, Crown Allotments 2002, 2004, 2005 and 2006 Parish of Yuonga, Crown Allotment 3C, Section A, and Crown Allotments 2001, 2022, 2023, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029 and 2036 Parish of Gracedale, part of the waterway reserve for the Plenty River, parts of the road reserves for Allendale Road, Maroong Drive, Ingrams Road, Main Road and Bells Hill Road, Research, Bellbird Lane, Kangaroo Ground-Warrandyte Road, Henley Road, Nicholas Lane and Calwell Road, Kangaroo Ground, Skyline Road, Bend of Islands, Skyline Road, Christmas Hills, Yarraview Road, King Street, Yarra Glen-Eltham Road, Steels Creek Road, Gulf Road, Melba Highway and Bleases Lane, Yarra Glen, Bleases Lane and Pauls Lane, Dixons Creek, Long Gully Road, Myers Creek Road and Maroondah Highway, Healesville, Chaffer Street and Healesville-Kinglake Road, Chum Creek, Maroondah Highway and Road 24 Fernshaw and Badger Weir Road, Badger Creek being the footprint of the concrete junction basin, a 5 metre curtilage from the Plenty River pipe bridge and a curtilage of 5 metres either side of the centre line of the aqueduct, tunnels and inverted siphons.
Diagram 2381A showing entire extent from the reservoir and catchment on the right, the aqueduct in the centre and the pipe bridge and junction basin on the left.

Diagram 2381B showing Junction Basin.
The extent of registration of the Maroondah Water Supply System in the Victorian Heritage Register affects the whole place shown on Diagrams 2381A, 2381B and 2381C, including but not limited to the Watts River catchment, the location of the former township of Fernshaw, including oak and redwood trees, the Maroondah dam and reservoir, outlet tower, two valve houses, caretakers huts, weirs and their associated picnic areas, tunnels, aqueduct, siphons, pipes, drains and scours from the south western edge of the Yarra Ranges to Diamond Creek, Junction Basin at Preston and the Plenty River Pipe Bridge at Greensborough. It also includes Maroondah Reservoir Park comprising roads and paths, two rotundas, fences and gates and extensive tree planting and gardens.

The extent of registration of the Maroondah Water Supply System comprises the Upper and Central Sections of the Maroondah Water Supply System. The Upper Section from Healesville to Yering Gorge remains intact and operational. The Central Section from Yering Gorge to Research is no longer operational but the route and much of the infrastructure survives. The Maroondah Water Supply System also includes Junction Basin at Preston and the Plenty River Pipe Bridge. These two items have been included as they are part of what was once a continuous system from Healesville to Preston.
RATIONALE FOR EXTENT
The extent of registration includes elements of the Maroondah Water Supply System which together demonstrate the process of collecting and supplying water. The extent includes all working infrastructure around Healesville and the upper section of the aqueduct to Yarra Glen. It also includes the decommissioned central section of the aqueduct to Diamond Creek, the Plenty River Pipe Bridge and Junction Basin at Preston.

AERIAL PHOTO OF THE PLACE SHOWING EXTENT OF REGISTRATION
The extent of registration for the Maroondah Water Supply System includes land from Healesville to Preston which cannot be shown in a single aerial photo. The following aerial photos illustrate the entire system, beginning with the catchment, reservoir, weirs and aqueduct east of Healesville and ending with the Reservoir at Preston.

Aerial photo of the catchment, reservoir, weirs and aqueduct east of Healesville.
Aerial photo of the upper and lower sections of the aqueduct.

Aerial photos of the Plenty River Pipe Bridge, Greensborough with a 5 metre curtilage.
Aerial photo of Junction Basin, Preston.
Aerial photo of a typical section of aqueduct with a curtilage of 5 metres either side of the centre line of the aqueduct. A curtilage of 5 metres either side of the centre line also applies to all tunnels and inverted siphons.
STATEMENT OF CULTURAL HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

WHAT IS SIGNIFICANT?
The Maroondah Water Supply System including but not limited to the Watts River catchment, the location of the former township of Fernshaw, including oak and redwood trees, the Maroondah dam and reservoir, outlet tower, two valve houses, caretakers cottage, caretakers huts, weirs and their associated picnic areas, aqueduct, tunnels, siphons, pipes, drains and scours from the south western edge of the Yarra Ranges to Diamond Creek, Junction Basin at Preston and the Plenty River Pipe Bridge at Greensborough. It also includes Maroondah Reservoir Park comprising roads and paths, two rotundas, fences and gates and extensive tree planting and gardens.

History Summary
The Maroondah Water Supply System was operational from 1891 and is Melbourne’s second large scale water supply system. The system was built because the Yan Yean Water Supply System constructed in 1853 (VHR H2333) was no longer able to serve the growing population of Melbourne and the water quality was poor. During the early 1870s, the Watts River and its tributaries were surveyed and considered suitable for either a diversion weir or reservoir. The Watts River catchment was gazetted in 1886 and construction began on what was originally known as the Watts River System in the same year. The Watts River System comprised a weir on the Watts River east of Healesville and an aqueduct with open channels, tunnels and pipes which joined with the Yan Yean system at Junction Basin, Preston. Originally known as the ‘Watts River Scheme’ it was renamed the Maroondah Water Supply System when it was officially opened by the Governor of Victoria, the Earl of Hopetoun, in 1891. Water supply was increased with additional weirs and aqueducts in 1893, and again in 1909. The second stage of the scheme was completed in 1927, with the construction of the Maroondah dam and reservoir. Each stage incorporated picnic areas for the enjoyment of visitors, culminating with the construction of the Maroondah Reservoir Park in 1927. The upper section of the Maroondah Water Supply System remains operational, while the central section of the aqueduct was entirely decommissioned in the mid 2000s but remains intact.

Description Summary
The Maroondah Water Supply System comprises the Watts River catchment and water collecting infrastructure near Healesville, and an aqueduct which runs from Healesville to Greensborough. The weirs, dam and reservoir, outlet tower and valve houses are located on the eastern side of Healesville and are set against the backdrop of mountain ranges which make up the Watts River catchment. The Maroondah Reservoir Park is located at the foot of the dam wall and is formally laid out with stone paths, caretakers cottage, garden structures and planted with trees mostly planted to Hugh Linaker’s 1928 plan. The outlet tower, balustrade at the top of the dam, and valve houses at the foot of the dam reference classical architecture and are particularly striking against the backdrop of native vegetation. Publicly accessible picnic areas are located at Badger Creek Weir and Donnelly’s Weir. The upper section of the aqueduct (Healesville to Yarra Glen) is operational and largely intact with tunnels, open and covered channels, siphons, pipes, drains and scours. The central section from Yarra Glen to Diamond Creek has been decommissioned but the route remains evident and most infrastructure survives.

This site is located on the traditional land of the Wurundjeri people.
HOW IS IT SIGNIFICANT?
The Maroondah Water Supply System is of historical significance to the State of Victoria. It satisfies the following criteria for inclusion in the Victorian Heritage Register:

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 D
Importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of cultural places and objects.

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 Maroondah Water Supply System is significant at the State level for the following reasons:

The Maroondah Water Supply System is historically significant as one of Victoria’s earliest major infrastructure projects which contributed to the continued growth and development of Melbourne and continues to provide water to Melbourne via the Sugarloaf Reservoir. The first stage of the Maroondah Water Supply System was constructed between 1886 and 1891 after it became apparent that the Yan Yean Water Supply System (VHR H2333) could no longer meet demand. The Maroondah Water Supply System harvested water from the Watts River catchment which was gazetted in 1886 as a closed catchment which ensured water purity and the reduction of water borne diseases such as typhoid. The catchment is an early example of compulsory land acquisition and required the removal of the entire township of Fernshaw. The picturesque design of the functional elements of the system, and the landscaping of the Maroondah Reservoir Park demonstrates the Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works (MMBW) policy of creating large infrastructure systems which were also places of beauty and recreational activity. The Maroondah Reservoir Park contains many mature trees from the 1928 design by Hugh Linaker. [Criterion A]

The Watts River Catchment associated with the Maroondah Water Supply System is rare in Victoria, and in Australia. It comprises 43,300 acres of bushland which was gazetted in 1886 and closed to all activity except water catchment. It represents an early and uncommon example of the compulsory acquisition of land for sanitary reasons. [Criterion B]

The Maroondah Water Supply System has a clear association with the process of water supply and demonstrates the principal characteristics of the class of place ‘water supply systems’, including the dam, reservoir, weirs, the various components of the aqueduct, and associated recreational areas. The Maroondah Water Supply System is a notable example of the class of ‘water supply systems’ and displays most if not all of the principal characteristics of such a system. The plantings and hard landscaping created from 1927 as the Maroondah Reservoir Park, as well as the valve houses, outlet tower and dam wall balustrading are a fine example of the MMBW’s philosophy of combining functionality with beauty. [Criterion D]

The Maroondah Water Supply System has a clear association with William Davidson, Inspector General of Public Works and Chief Engineer of the Melbourne Water Supply who was responsible for the design and construction of the system and for the establishment of the Watts River catchment in the late nineteenth century. He was important to Victoria’s history through his role in shaping Victoria’s infrastructure in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. [Criterion H]
The Maroondah Water Supply System also has a clear association with Hugh Linaker who designed numerous gardens and parks throughout Victoria. The Maroondah Reservoir Park was designed by Linaker and is a good example of his ability to use contrasting combinations of species and growth patterns to create a cohesive setting. It is one of the most intact surviving examples of his work in Victoria. [Criterion H]
PLACE 1: MAROONDAH WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM (UPPER AND CENTRAL SECTIONS)

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 Maroondah Water Supply System in the Victorian Heritage Register affects the whole place shown on Diagrams 2381A, 2381B and 2381C including but not limited to the Watts River catchment, the location of the former township of Fernshaw, including oak and redwood trees, the Maroondah dam and reservoir, outlet tower, two valve houses, caretakers huts, weirs and their associated picnic areas, tunnels, aqueduct, siphons, pipes, drains and scours from the south western edge of the Yarra Ranges to Diamond Creek, Junction Basin at Preston and the Plenty River Pipe Bridge at Greensborough. It also includes Maroondah Reservoir Park comprising roads and paths, two rotundas, fences and gates and extensive tree planting and gardens. 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.

Conservation management plans
A Conservation Management Plan was prepared for the Maroondah Water Supply System by Context in February 2011. It contains indepth assessment of all the elements of the Maroondah Water Supply System, and should be used in association with this Permit Policy to inform any future works. It also references Maroondah Aqueduct; Cultural Heritage Assessment completed by Tardis Enterprises Pty Ltd in 2005 and includes the Maroondah Reservoir Park Conservation Analysis by Lee Andrews & Associates Heritage Consulting.
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 at the place and, subject to the exemptions stated in this document, requires a permit.

Cultural heritage significance
*Overview of significance*
The cultural heritage significance of the Maroondah Water Supply System lies in but is not limited to the Watts River catchment, the location of the former township of Fernshaw, including oak and redwood trees, the Maroondah dam and reservoir, outlet tower, two valve houses, caretakers huts, weirs and their associated picnic areas, aqueduct, tunnels, siphons, pipes, drains and scours from the south western edge of the Yarra Ranges to Diamond Creek, Junction Basin at Preston and the Plenty River Pipe Bridge at Greensborough. It also includes Maroondah Reservoir Park comprising roads and paths, two rotundas, fences and gates and extensive tree planting and gardens.
PLACE 1: MAROONDAH WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM
(UPPER AND CENTRAL SECTIONS)

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
Permit Exemptions to ensure the ongoing Security of Melbourne’s Water Supply
- All repairs, maintenance, replacement, upgrade and works to the Maroondah Water Supply System, including the Watts River catchment, reservoir, dam, weirs, aqueduct, and all associated infrastructure, as well as protection, control and communications systems, to ensure the ongoing supply of water which do not impact on the cultural heritage fabric or values of the place.

The following activities relate to the Watts River Catchment and Maroondah Reservoir Park. They are permit exempt based on the agreed responsibilities of Melbourne Water and Parks Victoria outlined in the Yarra Ranges National Park Management Plan (2002)
Melbourne Water Activities
- Controlling and managing security for closed catchment areas (fences, gates, locks).
- Maintaining existing roads.
- Controlling, managing, operating and maintaining water supply structures and installations.
- Continuing existing hydrological research.
- Harvesting non-native timber.
Parks Victoria Activities
- Conserving and managing native flora and fauna.
- Controlling and managing visitors.
- Controlling and managing security for National Park facilities.
- Controlling and managing noxious and environmental weeds, except in or on reservoirs.
- Controlling and managing pest animals.
- Constructing and maintaining walking tracks.
- Carrying out catchment rehabilitation.

Joint Activities
- Fire protection and suppression.

Landscape Exemptions
- Minor repairs and maintenance to hard landscape elements including roads, steps, paths, and gutters.
- Subsurface works involving the installation, removal or replacement of watering and drainage systems or services in accordance with AS4970.
- Landscape maintenance works provided the activities do not involve the removal or destruction of any heritage fabric.
- Management of trees in accordance with Australian Standard: Protection of trees on development sites AS4970.
- Management of trees in accordance with Australian Standard; Pruning of Amenity Trees AS 4373.
- The process of gardening, including mowing, hedge clipping, bedding displays, removal of dead trees and shrubs and replanting the same species or cultivar, and maintenance to care for existing plants and planting themes.
- The removal or pruning of dead or dangerous trees to maintain safety. If the tree is identified as being of cultural heritage significance, the Executive Director must be notified of these works 21 days prior to them being undertaken.
- Removal of plants listed as noxious weeds in the Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994.
- Vegetation protection and management of possums and vermin.
- Fire suppression, fire-fighting duties.

NOTE: Parks Victoria infrastructure and visitor facilities are located at Mt Donna Buang Summit which is within the Watts River Catchment. These elements are not associated with the process of water supply and are not of cultural heritage significance in the context of the Maroondah Water Supply System. Works to Parks Victoria infrastructure and visitor facilities at Mt Donna Buang Summit do not require a permit.

Maintenance and signage
- Maintenance, replacement and installation of electrical and fire services where this does not impact on the heritage fabric.
- Erecting, repairing and maintaining signage (directional signage, road signs, speed signs). Signage must be located and be of a suitable size so as not to obscure or damage heritage fabric, and must be able to be later removed without causing damage to the place. The development of signage must be consistent in the use of format, text, logos, themes and other display materials.

Public Safety and Security
- Public safety and security activities provided the works do not adversely affect heritage fabric.
- The erection of temporary security fencing, scaffolding, hoardings or surveillance systems to prevent unauthorised access or secure public safety which will not adversely affect heritage fabric.
- Emergency stabilisation necessary to secure safety where a site feature has been irreparably damaged or destabilised and represents a safety risk to its users or the public.
Note: All works, including urgent or emergency site works are to be undertaken by an appropriately qualified specialist such as a structural engineer, or other heritage professional.

Caretakers Cottage in Maroondah Reservoir Park - Building Exterior

- Minor repairs and maintenance which replace like with like.
- Removal of any non-original extraneous items such as air conditioners, pipe work, ducting, wiring, antennae, aerials etc and making good.
- Installation or repair of damp-proofing by either injection method or grouted pocket method.
- Painting of previously painted surfaces provided that preparation or painting does not remove evidence of original paint or decorative schemes.

Caretakers Cottage in Maroondah Reservoir Park - Building Interior

- Painting of previously painted walls and ceilings provided that preparation or painting does not remove evidence of original paint or decorative schemes.
- Installation, removal or replacement of non-original carpets and/or flexible floor coverings, wall coverings, curtain, blinds, curtain tracks, rods, blinds, and hooks, nails and other devices for hanging artwork and mirrors.
- Demolition or removal of non-original stud/partition walls, suspended ceilings or non-original wall linings, non-original doors, windows, bathroom and kitchen fit-outs or lights.
- Installation of removable stud walls provided that installation does not damage/remove original fabric.
- Refurbishment of non-original bathrooms, toilets and kitchens including removal, installation or replacement of non-original sanitary fixtures and associated piping, mirrors, wall and floor coverings.
- Removal of non-original tiling or concrete slabs in wet areas provided there is no damage to or alteration of original structure or fabric.
- Installation, removal or replacement of electrical wiring provided that all new wiring is fully concealed and any original light switches, pull cords, push buttons or power outlets are retained in-situ. Note: if wiring original to the place was carried in timber conduits then the conduits should remain in situ.
- Installation, removal or replacement of bulk insulation and plant in the roof space.
- Installation, removal or replacement of smoke detectors.
PLACE 1: MAROONDAH WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM 
(UPPER AND CENTRAL SECTIONS)

RELEVANT INFORMATION

HERITAGE LISTING INFORMATION
Local Government Authority
Yarra Ranges Shire, Nillumbik Shire, Whittlesea Shire, Darebin Shire

Heritage Overlay
Yarra Ranges Shire
Badger Creek Weir and Park, Badger Weir Road, Healesville HO156
Grace Burn Weir and Aqueduct Healesville HO173
Maroondah Reservoir: Water Supply Catchment, Reservoir and Park, Healesville HO174
Donnelly’s Creek Weir and Environs Condon’s Gully, Healesville HO177
Nillumbik Shire
Maroondah Aqueduct; Entire Length (within Nillumbik) at various sites from Skyline Road, Christmas Hills to Allendale Road, Diamond Creek HO2
Maroondah aqueduct pipe track 23 Grevillea Close, Eltham North HO56

Heritage Overlay Controls
Yarra Ranges Shire
HO156, HO173, HO174, HO177: Tree Controls
Nillumbik Shire
HO2, HO56: No controls

Other Overlays
Yarra Ranges Shire: ESO1Z17, ESO1B43, ESO1B18
Nillumbik Shire: ES01

Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Register
Yes

Other listing
Victorian Heritage Inventory (VHI)
H7922-0466 - Maroondah Aqueduct Former Caretakers Hut
H7922-0468 - Tunnel Nine Workers camp and artefact scatter, off Mount Lebanon Road, Chum Creek
H8022-0113 – Former Fernshaw Township

National Trust of Australia (Victoria) Tree Register
Cork Oak (Quercus suber), Fernshaw Park
English Oak (Quercus robur), Fernshaw Park
Coast Redwood (Sequoia sempervirens) x7, Fernshaw Park

Other Names
Watts River Scheme
HISTORY

Main periods of construction

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<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>ELEMENT</th>
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<tr>
<td>1886</td>
<td>The Watts River catchment is gazetted</td>
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<tr>
<td>1886 - 1891</td>
<td>Construction of Watts River Weir, Graceburn Weir, aqueduct from Healesville to Preston</td>
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<tr>
<td>1891 - 1909</td>
<td>Construction of Donnelly’s Weir, Sawpit Weir, Badger/Coranderrk Weir and associated aqueducts</td>
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<tr>
<td>1917 - 1927</td>
<td>Construction of Maroondah dam, reservoir, Maroondah Reservoir Park</td>
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_Demelbourne’s early water supply_
Melbourne’s earliest water supply was derived from the Yarra River and its contributaries. As Melbourne grew, factories and industries were established on the banks of the rivers and creeks and together with the lack of a sewerage system, the water supply became severely polluted. In 1853, the Yan Yean Water Supply System was completed, allowing water from the Plenty River to be brought to Melbourne via a gravity fed system. This was the first large scale engineered water supply system in Victoria and was critical to the development of Melbourne in the gold rush period. By 1870 Melbourne’s population had reached 200,000, which was the maximum that the Yan Yean had been designed to serve. Further works to augment the Yan Yean system, and provide a cleaner water supply were completed during the 1870s and 1880s, however a larger system with a consistently higher water quality was soon required.

_Preparing for the Maroondah Water Supply System (1880 – 1886)_
In 1880 the Watts River and its tributaries in the Yarra Ranges were surveyed by J H Davies, and recommended as suitable for a diversion weir (a small structure which diverts water) or a reservoir (a large body of water contained by a dam). As well as increasing water supply, water purity was also an important consideration in a time when there was significant concern about typhoid and other infectious diseases. To preserve the purity of the supply, the Watts River catchment of 43,300 acres was gazetted in 1886 as a closed water catchment. This caused objection from the tourism and logging industries who were reliant on access to the surrounding countryside. It also meant that the entire township of Fernshaw located within the catchment area was compulsorily acquired, and the entire town was removed. Houses, the hotel and the post office were auctioned and moved, and everything else was demolished and burnt, including cesspits.

_Stage One: The Watts River Scheme (renamed the Maroondah Water Supply System) (1886 – 1891)_
The design and construction of the Watts River Scheme (renamed the Maroondah Water Supply System at its opening in 1891) was overseen by William Davidson. Davidson was not an engineer, but had trained as a surveyor on the Ballarat goldfields. In April 1873, he was appointed assistant to the Superintending Engineer of the Melbourne Water Supply, Charles Taylor. In 1878, Taylor was dismissed, leaving Davidson in charge when a bridge carrying a section of pipe within the Yan Yean Water Supply System was washed out, severing the water supply. He managed to restore water to Melbourne within three days and was rewarded by being appointed Superintending Engineer. He oversaw the expansion of the Yan Yean system before developing the Watts River Scheme.

Due to the plentiful flow of the Watts River, it was decided to proceed with the construction of a weir rather than a reservoir. Construction began on the Watts River weir in 1886 which was 100 feet (30.5 m) long and constructed of Portland cement concrete, with stone coping. The smaller Graceburn Weir was also constructed at this time, as well as the gravity fed aqueduct which ran for 41 miles (66 km) from the weir to the Preston Reservoir through 6 miles (9.6 km) of tunnels and more than nine miles (14.5 km) of inverted siphons. With the inevitable construction of the dam and reservoir in mind, Davidson had the foresight to
ensure that the tunnels were large enough to carry increased flows in anticipation of the need for additional supply in the future.

The system was opened on 18 February 1891 by the Governor of Victoria, the Earl of Hopetoun, who renamed the scheme ‘Maroondah’ which was incorrectly thought to be the indigenous name for the area. In the same year, the Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works (MMBW) was formed to manage the city’s water supply and sewers.

Stage Two: Construction of additional weirs (1891-1909)
Among the first works carried out by the newly formed MMBW was the construction of new weirs at Donnelly’s Creek and Sawpit Creek in 1893 to provide additional flow into the Maroondah aqueduct. The MMBW also purchased land in Badger Creek where another weir was completed in 1909. These new weirs were connected to the Maroondah aqueduct via open channels, pipes and siphons.

Stage Three: Construction of the Maroondah dam and reservoir (1917 - 1927)
In the early twentieth century, Melbourne’s population began to increase again, making further demands of the existing systems. It had been assumed that the Maroondah dam would be constructed to alleviate this demand, however its location would make it difficult to service the elevated and rapidly expanding eastern suburbs of Melbourne. In response, C E Oliver, Engineer in Chief of the MMBW, proposed a new diversion weir high on the O’Shannassy River. Discussions generated so much political debate that a Royal Commission was called in 1909 to determine a decision. The commissioners included William Davidson, creator of the Maroondah scheme, and the Commission came down in favour of the O’Shannassy scheme. The Commission also acknowledged that there would eventually be a need for the Maroondah dam. In 1917, preparations for the Maroondah dam finally began. The valley floor was cleared by timber cutters, and in the following year, the Watts River was diverted.

The first elements of the Maroondah dam to be completed were the valve houses, followed by the outlet tower in 1925. The dam itself was completed in 1926. Materials were brought to the site by an aerial ropeway which operated for almost nine hours each day, for six years. Forty two large buckets were filled with sand or cement before making the 45 minute journey to the dam site. The buckets then returned to the station where they were refilled. Although steam power was used where possible, most of the construction was completed by the labour of the several hundred men on site at any one time.

The reservoir was filled in 1927, submerging the original Watts River weir. The capacity of the aqueduct was also increased at this time, with an upper ‘berm’ added to deepen the open channels, and duplication of some of the siphons. Water supply was further increased with the construction of a second diversion weir on Badger Creek upstream from the first weir, in 1928. During the 1930s and 40s, the Maroondah Reservoir was one of Melbourne’s largest and most visited reservoirs. It is now one of the smallest, but still plays an important role in supplying water to Melbourne.

Gardens and plantings
Gardens and picnic areas were traditionally provided at weirs and dams. The weirs associated with the Maroondah Water Supply System were located in areas which had been popular with tourists as places for outdoor recreational activities since the 1860s. When the weirs were constructed, picnic areas were provided and the bush settings were complimented with the planting of firs and ferns. In the 1930s the weirs at Donnelly’s, Graceburn and Coranderrk/Badger Creek were planted with pines for their antiseptic qualities, and toilets were installed. Fireplaces were built and firewood was provided. Pines and other conifers were planted along the aqueducts as it was thought that the dense foliage would filter pollution. It is likely that the Coast Redwoods (Sequoia sempervirens), oaks and other exotic species at the former location of the township of Fernshaw were also planted at this time. Most of the picnic areas have been damaged through bushfires and storms and very few built structures survive.
The flat area below the Maroondah dam was also to become parkland. It was the view of the Board of the MMBW that as the ‘great engineering work belonged to the people ... it should be available to the people as a place for recreation.’ The indigenous vegetation was to be retained, however the area was destroyed by bushfire in 1926. Parts of the site had also been compromised by the building works, leaving it unsightly and unsafe. In March 1927, the Water Supply Committee asked E G Ritchie, Engineer of Water Supply to develop a planting plan. He did this in association with Hugh Linaker, landscape gardener who then became closely involved with the development of the park for the next fifteen months. Not only was he involved in the planting plan, but he also advised on pruning, monitored the suitability of the trees to the area and it is also likely that he supplied the trees from his own nursery. Linaker planned the planting using his typical contrasting combinations of evergreen and deciduous, natives and exotics, and upright and spreading species. The concept for the park is thought to have been influenced both by nineteenth century English landscapes and National Parks in the United States.

In 1929, the Board reported that ‘a very large number of deciduous and other trees have been planted and most of these are growing well.’ Additional trees were planted at the Park in the early to mid 1930s including a number of elms at the base of the dam wall which were removed from Sydney Road, Brunswick when new electric lights were installed. Parts of the catchment were destroyed in the 1939 bushfires and were replanted in the 1940s under the leadership of E G Ritchie, who was a strong supporter of forest conservation. From the 1940s to the 1960s, two rotundas, a bridge over the lily pond, stone edging and pathways, the rose steps, and a sundial were constructed. Importantly for the increased use and ownership of motor cars in the age of the ‘day trip’, was the construction of a large carpark.

**Changes to the Maroondah system (1970s – mid 1980s)**

In the 1970s the Sugarloaf Reservoir was constructed. From 1978 water from the Maroondah reservoir still flowed into the upper section of the Maroondah aqueduct but was redirected to the Sugarloaf reservoir via pump at Yering Gorge. Further changes took place in the mid 1980s including the extension of the bottom outlet system of the Maroondah dam and construction of a new valve house on the Watts River. The width of the spillway channel was also increased to allow for greater flood flows. The final stage of works stabilised the dam structure with a series of vertical cable anchors within the dam wall.

**CONSTRUCTION DETAILS**

**Design engineer:** William Davidson (Maroondah Water Supply Scheme)  
Water Supply Department of the MMBW, supervised by E.G. Ritchie, Engineer of Water Supply (dam, outlet tower, valve houses etc)
Hugh Linaker, E G Ritchie (Maroondah Reservoir Park)

**Dam construction type:** Gravity arch dam

**Builder name:**  
Guy & Pickering (diversion channel)  
E. Carroll (dam)  
G.W. Kelly & Lewis Pty Ltd (aerial ropeway)

**Construction started date:** 1886 (Watts River Weir and aqueduct)  
**Construction ended date:** 1927 (Maroondah dam and reservoir)

**VICTORIAN HISTORICAL THEMES**

04 Transforming and managing land and natural resources  
4.6 Exploiting other mineral, forest and water resources  
4.7 Transforming the land and waterways
PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION
The Maroondah Water Supply System begins east of Healesville on the western slopes of the Great Dividing Range and ends at Junction Basin in Preston. The aqueduct is no longer operational along this entire route, having been diverted to the Sugarloaf Reservoir at Yering Gorge. Only the main components of the system are described.

Components surrounding the Maroondah Reservoir,
Refer to the following descriptions of the elements numbered on this plan.

1. Watts River catchment
The Watts River catchment comprises 43,300 acres and was gazetted in 1886. It is a closed catchment, meaning little human activity takes place within the area. It comprises native bush, primarily mature Mountain Ash (Eucalyptus regnans). Some areas have been replanted with introduced species following bushfires in 1926, 1939, 1962 and 2009.

2. Maroondah dam (2a), spillway (2b) and reservoir (2c)
The Maroondah dam is a gravity arch dam, spanning the Watts River valley to the east of the township of Healesville. The dam curves upstream and is built of cyclopean rubble concrete. It is 41 metres high, 291 metres long and 31.5 metres wide at the base, tapering to almost 5 metres wide at the top. The top of the dam has a walkway across it with a concrete balustrade with panels of arched openings separated by square posts with pyramid-shaped capping. A spillway is located at the northern end of the wall, with a walkway leading to walking trails beyond. The Watts River Weir, the first part of what is now the Maroondah Water Supply System is submerged within the reservoir. When full, the reservoir covers an area of 486 acres, is 38 metres deep and has a capacity of 20,000 mega litres. It is set against a backdrop of mountain ranges (the Watts River catchment) comprising native and introduced species.
3. **Outlet tower (3a) and valve houses (3b)**

The outlet tower is located within the reservoir on the northern side, near the dam wall. It allows for the controlled flow of water from various levels in the reservoir into the aqueduct. It is influenced by classical design with a hemispherical domed roof surmounted with a finial and supported by eleven pillars. Access to the tower is via a bridge below the north caretakers house. Two concrete valve houses are located at the foot of the dam. They are circular with domed roofs with ball finials at their apex. They are connected by a path of square concrete pavers laid in a diamond pattern. Their purpose is to allow for the quick release of water from the reservoir. The outlet tower, valve houses and balustrade to the top of the dam are all elements which demonstrate the MMBW’s philosophy that functional elements should also be aesthetically pleasing.
4. **Reservoir Park**

The park provides a picturesque setting for the dam wall, and combines mature trees (most planted in 1927) with gardens beds, grassed areas, walking paths with stone borders, and stone steps. A large carpark is located on the western side of the park with a roadway leading down from the Maroondah Highway. Amenities blocks, rotundas and picnic tables are located throughout the park. Trees are a combination of native and exotic species, deciduous and evergreen, and spreading or vertical growth patterns.

5. **The Aqueduct (including channels, tunnels, siphons, scourcs, bridges and other elements)**

The aqueduct transfers water from the reservoir westward by gravity feed. It originally supplied water to Junction Basin at Preston, but now supplies only to Yering Gorge where it is transferred by pump to Sugarloaf Reservoir. It is a series of open channels, tunnels and siphons. The open channels are trapezoidal concrete channels, some of which now have plastic lining. They carry the water by means of gravitation along a gradient of one foot per mile. The capacity of the channels have been increased by the addition of a concrete ‘berm’ to the upper edges. In some areas, the channel has been covered with a shallow concrete vault. To prevent potential water contamination, topside or catch drains catch water run-off on the high side of the aqueduct and carry it over or under the aqueduct via flumes (over or under drains).

**Tunnels**
There were originally twelve tunnels along the route of the aqueduct. They either have concrete or brick vaulting to the entrances, and most have simple rock cut ceilings. Each tunnel has an inlet and outlet portal, with screens erected over the openings to prevent bat or bird access, and for OH&S purposes in areas of public access. Tunnel No. 9 from Chum Creek to Long Gully is the longest tunnel and the remains of the workers’ camp are located in the bush nearby (VHI H7922-0468).

**Siphons and scours**

Siphons are u-shaped pipes which follow the contour of a valley. They were originally located at Donnelly’s Creek, Myers Creek, Long Gully, View Hill, Dixon’s Creek, Steels Creek, Stevenson’s Creek, Watson’s Creek, Stoney Creek, Diamond Creek and Plenty River. The original pipes are constructed of wrought iron, while those installed to increase capacity are constructed of mild steel. Scours are located at intervals along the aqueduct and are used to quickly empty it. They were operated via a valve located in the centre of a concrete platform spanning the aqueduct. Those in the eastern section of the aqueduct have new metal grated platforms placed over the concrete platforms. Those in the remainder of the aqueduct have mostly had the valves removed.

**Bridges**

There were originally twenty bridges of ten different types located along public roads and on private properties. Most survive and are a simple vaulted arch constructed in brick or concrete with side walls in the same material.
Weirs
Donnelly’s Weir and Coranderrk/Badger Weir are in working condition. Gardens and picnic areas are located at each location, although Badger Weir is currently closed due to extensive storm damage.

Other elements
Caretakers originally monitored the aqueduct for leaks and fallen debris, and huts and shelter sheds were located along its length. There are now only a few surviving, as most have been lost in bushfires or removed. Artefacts from a caretaker’s hut at View Hill between Healesville and Yarra Glen which burnt down in the 2009 bushfires also survive (VHI H7922-0466). Pine trees were planted along the aqueduct to shield the water from pollution. Most have since been removed or lost in bushfires or storms, although new-growth trees are evident in some areas. Other built elements along the aqueduct include pumps, white painted guide posts, plate gates and caissons which were inserted in the aqueduct to stop the water flow for maintenance.

LANDSCAPES, TREES & GARDENS
The Maroondah Reservoir Park is of cultural heritage significance for its ability to demonstrate the MMBW’s philosophy of combining function with beauty. It contains many plantings dating from the establishment of the Park. The landscapes at Badger Creek/Coranderrk and Donnelley’s weirs are significant for their association with the early practice of providing access to particular parts of the Maroondah Water Supply System for recreational pursuits. Much of the infrastructure such as rotundas and seating has been replaced.
or destroyed by bushfires or storms but the cleared picnic areas and some exotic plantings survive. Donnelly’s Weir remains open to the public, but Badger Creek/Coranderrk weir was significantly damaged by storms in 2015 and remains closed. Graceburn Weir is not open to public access. The location of the former township of Fernshaw is now known as Fernshaw Park. It contains plantings which include various species of oaks (*Quercus suber* and *Quercus robur*) and Coast Redwoods (*Sequoia sempervirens*) which were probably planted in the 1930s.

**ARCHAEOLOGY**

There is no identified archaeology of state level significance at this place.

**INTEGRITY/INTACTNESS**

*Intactness* – The upper sections of the Maroondah Water Supply System including the catchment, reservoir, dam, outlet tower, valve houses, Reservoir Park, aqueduct and tunnels are mostly intact, although changes have been made to ensure the system is maintained in working order. Most changes are confined to the scours and pipelines. The central section of the aqueduct (from Yering Gorge to Research) was decommissioned in the mid 2000s and most elements survive intact. Fencing has been installed in some locations for public safety reasons. The Plenty River Pipe Bridge and Junction Basin at Preston are included in the extent of registration and are in fair condition (June 2017).

*Integrity* – The integrity of the Maroondah Water Supply System (Upper and Central Sections) is good. The cultural heritage values of the place can be read in the extant fabric. (June 2017).

**CONDITION**

The Maroondah Water Supply System Upper and Central Sections) is in good condition. (June 2017).

**COMPARISONS**

*Water Supply Systems in the VHR*

**Yan Yean Water Supply System (VHR H2333)**

The Yan Yean Water Supply System is of historic and technical significance at a State level. The Yan Yean Water Supply System was constructed from 1853 to 1857 as the first large scale engineered water supply system in Victoria. It consists of a series of catchment weirs and reservoirs connected by gravity operated aqueducts and pipe track which extend from north of the Great Dividing Range to the Merri Creek. The new water source reduced the incidence of disease in the first two decades of its operations, but the system was plagued with problems of water quality and quantity. To overcome this, refinements were made including the 1864 construction of a holding reservoir at Preston and the northern extension of the system to harvest Wallaby Creek, Jacks Creek and Silver Creek. The 1886 construction of Toorrurrong reservoir allowed sediment from these sources to settle before water passed to Yan Yean Reservoir along the new 'Clearwater Channel', avoiding a polluted section of the Plenty River. In the same year, the catchments, which were originally open, were closed to all activity except water harvesting. In 1891, the Maroondah System was completed to augment supply, joining the Yan Yean pipe track at the Junction Basin. The Yan Yean Water Supply System has been continually in use since it was established, but as a result of the addition of new systems in the twentieth century it now supplies only a minor percentage of Melbourne’s water.
Coliban Water Supply System (VHR H1021)
The Coliban Water Supply System is of historic and technical significance at a State level. It commenced operation in 1877 and is one of the earliest water supply systems in the state. The system is important for the role that it has played firstly in providing a water supply to the major mining centre of Bendigo and then by ensuring its future as a major regional centre. The Coliban Water Supply System is a vast, gravity operated, open channel system which supplied water for both domestic and irrigation purposes. It is particularly interesting as the construction was commenced without adequate investigation and planning yet it remains functional. It demonstrates fine examples of craftsmanship and skill particularly evident in the Malmsbury outlet tunnel, the inlet and outlet structures of the back creek syphon, the five large tunnels, the expedition pass reservoir embankment, the Barkers Creek reservoir embankment and outlet tower, and the aqueduct system.
**Landscapes designed by Hugh Linaker in the VHR**

**Buchan Caves Reserve, East Gippsland (VHR H1978)**

Buchan Caves Reserve is of aesthetic, scientific and historical significance at a State level. The 285ha Buchan Caves Reserve is situated in the Buchan-Murridal cave system, a large outcrop of cave and karst-forming limestones in south-eastern Victoria. The earliest known written reference to the caves is in a report of Gippsland written in 1840 and the first government reservation was a camping reserve of 19 acres in 1887. Buchan had been gazetted as a township in 1873 and in 1901 the remaining unsold land in the township was reserved from sale. In 1906 Frank Moon explored Moon's Cave which led to the exploration of Kitson's Cave in 1906 and Fairy Cave in 1907. After the First World War an electric lighting plant was installed, and tunnelling provided a link for Fairy Cave and Royal Cave. In 1929 Hugh Linaker prepared a landscape plan. Linaker was a landscaping consultant to mental hospitals, prisons and local governments. His plan showed predominantly exotic trees although natives were not entirely excluded and the Reserve contains a variety of vegetation, both native and introduced species including rare or outstanding trees in Victoria. Buchan Caves Reserve is aesthetically and scientifically significant for the spectacular caves and geological formations that comprise the underground features of the reserve. The Buchan Caves Reserve is historically significant for demonstrating the influence of 1930s National Parks landscape ideals, particularly contemporary developments in the United States. The Buchan Caves Reserve is historically significant as an example of an early tourist attraction based on natural themes.

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**Former Mont Park Hospital, McLeod (VHR H1872)**

The Former Mont Park Hospital is of architectural, historical, aesthetic, scientific (horticultural) and social significance at a State level. The former Mont Park/Bundoora Psychiatric and Repatriation Hospitals Complex consisted of seven hospitals on a site of 185 hectares, some of which were gradually split off from the Mont Park administration to form separate entities. In 1912 the landscape gardener Hugh Linaker was employed to lay out the grounds of Mont Park and other State mental hospitals. The Former Mont Park Hospital is architecturally significant as a representative example of asylum design in the early twentieth century. The Ernest Jones Hall, Mont Park is a rare example of an asylum chapel/hall in Victoria. The Chronic Ward Block is a rare example of en echelon pavilion hospital ward design. It is historically significant in demonstrating changing responses to twentieth century health needs and particularly mental illness in the planning and development of psychiatric institutions and repatriation hospital complexes on the site. The landscape design of the Former Mont Park Hospital is historically significant, owing much to early twentieth century ideas about the treatment and care of the mentally ill who were believed to benefit from a rural or natural
environment. The designed landscape is of historical and aesthetic significance as an early example of the prominent landscape designer, Hugh Linaker. Linaker was one of the most significant landscape designers in Victoria in the early 20th century and Mont Park is his first and an important example of his landscape style, mixing exotics and native trees and contrasting forms especially narrow crowned and fastigiate forms and palms. These were often planted in alternative arrangements in the landscape to give a striking and contrasting image. A number of trees on the Former Mont Park Hospital site are of scientific (horticultural) significance.

![Former Mont Park Hospital (VHR H1872)](image)

**SUMMARY OF COMPARISONS**

*Water Supply Systems in the VHR*

Like the Yan Yean Water Supply System and the Coliban Water Supply System, the Maroondah Water Supply System has been in continual operation since its completion. All three systems were constructed in the nineteenth century and continue to operate with essentially the same infrastructure. The Maroondah Water Supply System contributes to an understanding of the need for a clean water supply for the growth and expansion of Victoria, and to an understanding of the rapid growth of Melbourne in the late nineteenth century and early twentieth centuries.

*Gardens designed by Hugh Linaker in the VHR*

Maroondah Reservoir Park is comparable to Hugh Linaker’s designs at Buchan Caves Reserve and the Former Mont Park Hospital through similarities in layout, philosophy and tree species. Although Linaker designed many gardens throughout Victoria, few intact examples survive. Maroondah Reservoir Park became the MMBW’s exemplar public park and together with the earlier weirs demonstrates the MMBW’s philosophy of combining function with beauty better than most similar places in Victoria.
PLACE 1: MAROONDAH WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM
(UPPER AND CENTRAL SECTIONS)

ADDITIONAL IMAGES

2017, Part of the closed water catchment

2017, Looking north to the outlet tower

2017, The walkway across the dam

2017, The base of the dam
Place 1: Maroondah Water Supply System (Upper and Central Sections)
Hermes Number: 197552

2017, Water being released at the base of the spillway

2017, Maroondah Reservoir Park with the dam in the background

Place 2: Maroondah Water Supply System (Lower Section)
Hermes Number: 201257

2017, The spillway

2017, The Rose Steps
Place 1: Maroondah Water Supply System (Upper and Central Sections)
Hermes Number: 197552

Place 2: Maroondah Water Supply System (Lower Section)
Hermes Number: 201257
2011, Caretaker’s House, north of dam wall (Context CMP)

2011, Plenty River Pipe Bridge in lower section (Context CMP)

2011, Aqueduct in central section, now decommissioned (Context CMP)

2011, Filled in channel in lower section, now decommissioned (Context CMP)
Maroondah Reservoir and Park

1956, Maroondah Reservoir Park carpark with large floral display spelling out the word ‘carpark’
(Source, State Library of Victoria)

1950s, Looking north across dam and reservoir (Source, State Library of Victoria)
Late 1920s, Looking north across dam and reservoir (Source, State Library of Victoria)

c. 1926, Construction of the dam (Source, State Library of Victoria)
c 1950s, Souvenirs depicting the Maroondah Reservoir and Park (Source: Melbourne Water)
Weirs

1911, Watts River Weir (Source: State Library of Victoria)

c. 1900s Graceburn Weir (Source: State Library of Victoria)
c1910, Donnelly’s Weir
(Source: State Library of Victoria)

1915, Badger Weir
(Source: State Library of Victoria)
Watts River catchment

c. 1911, MMBW plan showing the various catchments and supply systems. The Maroondah Water Supply System is green and indicated by an orange arrow. (Source, Melbourne Water)

Detail of above plan showing the Maroondah Water Supply System in green, from the Watts River catchment on the right and the line of the aqueduct through to the left.
Fernshaw

2017, Mature trees at the location of the former township of Fernshaw.

c 1876 The township of Fernshaw (now demolished) within the Watts River catchment
Source, National Gallery of Victoria
# RECOMMENDATION: PLACE 2

## NAME OF PLACE

Maroondah Water Supply System (Lower Section)

The Maroondah Water Supply System (Lower Section) originally comprised the section of aqueduct from Research to Preston. It is now so degraded that the route and fabric is unable to be identified or mapped. Two surviving elements within the Lower Section are Junction Basin at Preston and the Plenty River Pipe Bridge. These two elements have been included in Place 1: Maroondah Water Supply System (Upper and Central Sections) as they are part of what was once the entire Maroondah Water Supply System.

## RECOMMENDATION REASONS

### REASONS FOR NOT RECOMMENDING INCLUSION IN THE VICTORIAN HERITAGE REGISTER

The Maroondah Water Supply System (Lower Section) does not satisfy any of the Heritage Council’s assessment criteria for inclusion in the Victorian Heritage Register at a State level.

**Criterion A:**
The place is not intact, and no longer allows the clear association with the processes and function of water supply to be understood better than most other places in Victoria with the same association.

**Criterion B:**
The place is not rare or uncommon and does not contain unusual features of note that were not widely replicated. The place is not endangered.

**Criterion C:**
The place is not likely to contain physical evidence of historical interest which is not already well documented or readily available from other sources.

**Criterion D:**
Due to a lack of intactness, the principal characteristics of a water supply system are no longer evident.

**Criterion E:**
The place does not exhibit particular aesthetic characteristics.

**Criterion F:**
The place does not demonstrates creative or technical achievement.

**Criterion G:**
The place does not have a direct association with a particular community or cultural group.

**Criterion H:**
The place is not intact and no longer allows the association with William Davidson, designer of the Maroondah Water Supply System to be readily appreciated better than most other places in Victoria.

The Maroondah Water Supply System (Lower Section) does not contain any heritage fabric that contributes to an appreciation of the cultural heritage significance of the Maroondah Water Supply System. Due to a lack of intactness, any extant fabric or the route of the Maroondah Water Supply System (Lower Section) cannot be accurately identified or mapped.
ASSESSMENT OF CULTURAL HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AUTHORITY Darebin, Banyule, Nillumbik, Whittlesea

HERITAGE LISTING INFORMATION

- Heritage Overlay: Partly in HO89 (Whittlesea)
- Other listing: No

HISTORY

The Maroondah Water Supply System (Lower Section) originally formed part of the Maroondah Water Supply System which ran from Healesville to Preston. The lower section of the aqueduct was decommissioned in 1978 and has since been filled in, dismantled and built over.

DESCRIPTION

There is very little surviving evidence of the Maroondah Water Supply System (Lower Section). The aqueduct has been filled in or built over and most of the infrastructure has been removed. The infrastructure which does survive including Junction Basin at Preston and the Plenty River Pipe Bridge has been included in Place 1: Maroondah Water Supply System (Upper and Central Sections) to demonstrate what was once a continuous water supply system.

ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Maroondah Water Supply System (Lower Section) does not satisfy any of the Heritage Council’s assessment criteria for inclusion in the Victorian Heritage Register. The route of the aqueduct is no longer discernible and the location of any extant fabric cannot be accurately identified or mapped.
KEY REFERENCES USED TO PREPARE ASSESSMENT


Ritchie, E G (no date) *Melbourne’s Water Supply Undertaking in One Hundred years of Engineering*


Interview with Jim Viggers (8 June 2017), Manager of Operations, Maroondah Water Supply System from 1976 – 1990