

## HERITAGE COUNCIL DETERMINATION

Determination Date	3 August 2017
Place/Object Name	Rothwell Bridge
Location	Old Melbourne Road, Little River
VHR Number	H1454
Category	Heritage Place

At a meeting of the Heritage Council of Victoria on 3 August 2017 it was determined that, in accordance with Section 54 of the *Heritage Act 1995*, the Victorian Heritage Register entry for the above place should be amended. This decision was reached having considered the assessment against the Heritage Council's criteria and other information, including the proposed amendments contained in the attached report and submissions received in response to the Executive Director's recommendation.

The Heritage Council endorses and adopts the attached report for the purposes of making its decision.



**Professor Stuart Macintyre AO**  
**Chair, Heritage Council of Victoria**

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

**NAME** ROTHWELL BRIDGE  
**DATE REGISTERED:** 20 AUGUST, 1982  
**VHR NUMBER:** VHR H1454  
**LOCATION** OVER LITTLE RIVER, OLD MELBOURNE ROAD, LITTLE RIVER,  
CITY OF GREATER GEELONG and WYNDHAM CITY  
**CATEGORY:** HERITAGE PLACE  
**FILE NUMBER:** FOL/17/19644  
**HERMES NUMBER:** 1000



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

- That the record of the above Heritage Place in the Victorian Heritage Register be amended under the *Heritage Act 1995* to include the addition of land [Section 27(1)].

**Reasons for the proposed amendment:**

The registration of Rothwell Bridge, which was gazetted in 1982, requires updating. No land is currently included in the registration and it is proposed to add land. There are no other changes proposed to this registration.

**TIM SMITH OAM**  
**Executive Director**

**Recommendation Date:** 19 May 2017

This recommendation report has been issued by the Executive Director, Heritage Victoria under s.32 of the *Heritage Act 1995*.

## PREVIOUS EXTENT OF REGISTRATION

Amendment of Register of Government Buildings

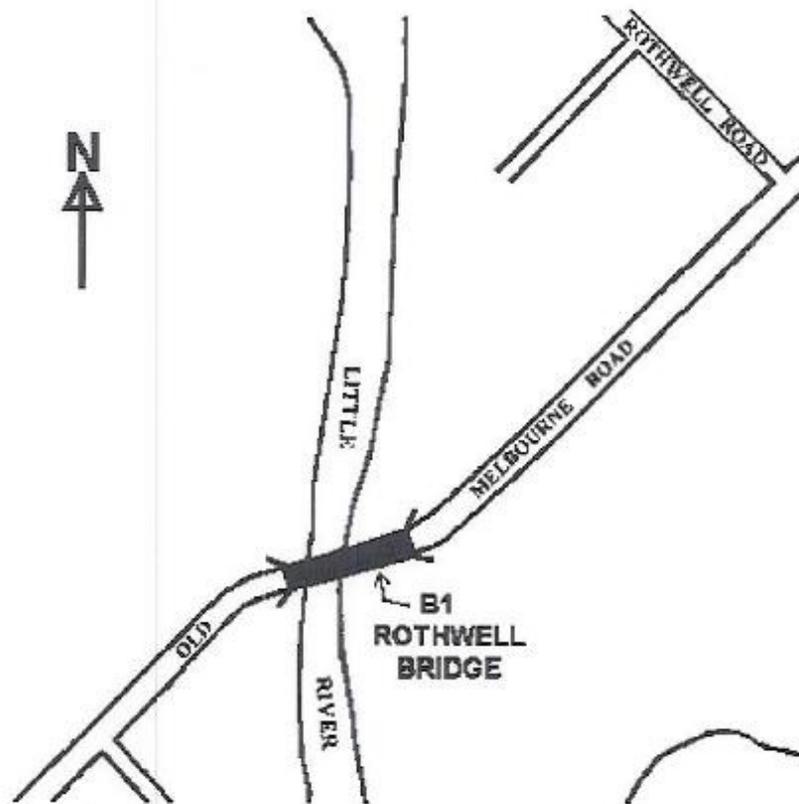
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Bridge over Little River, Old Melbourne Road, Rothwell.

[*Victoria Government Gazette* No. G39 12 October 1988 p3088]

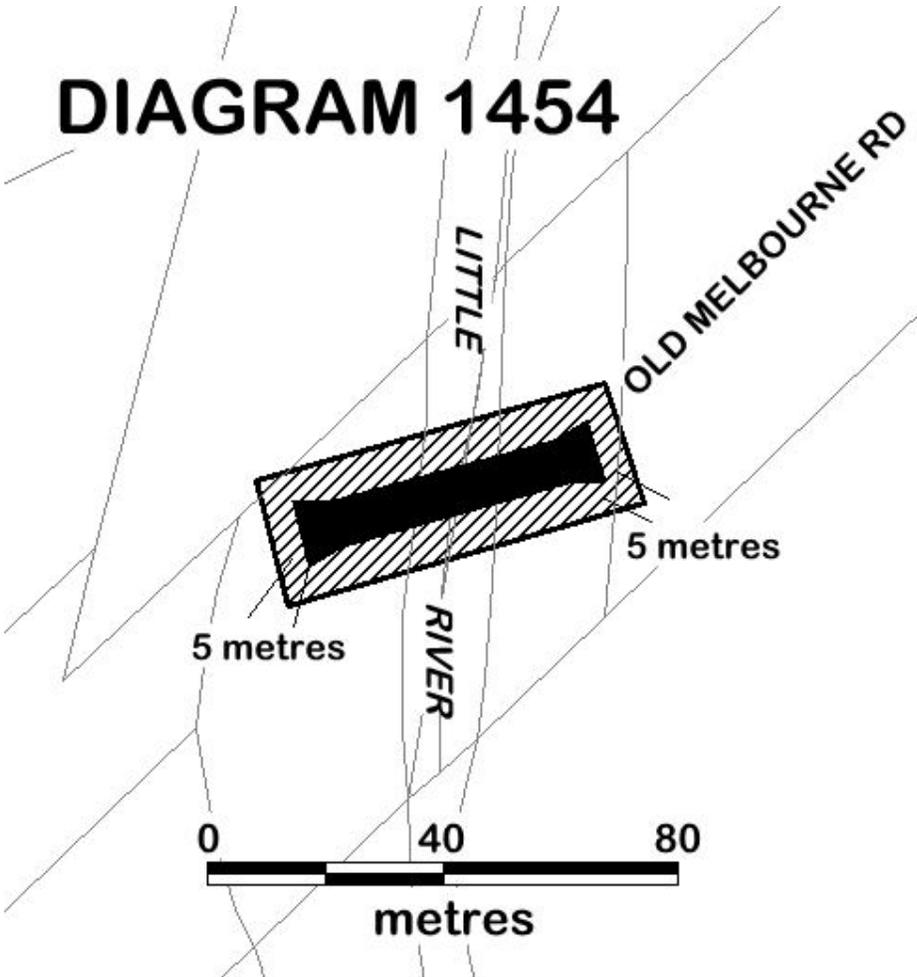
Transferred to the Victorian Heritage Register 23 May 1998 (2 years after the proclamation of the Heritage Act 1995 pursuant to the transitional provisions of the Act)

DIAGRAM NUMBER: 602881

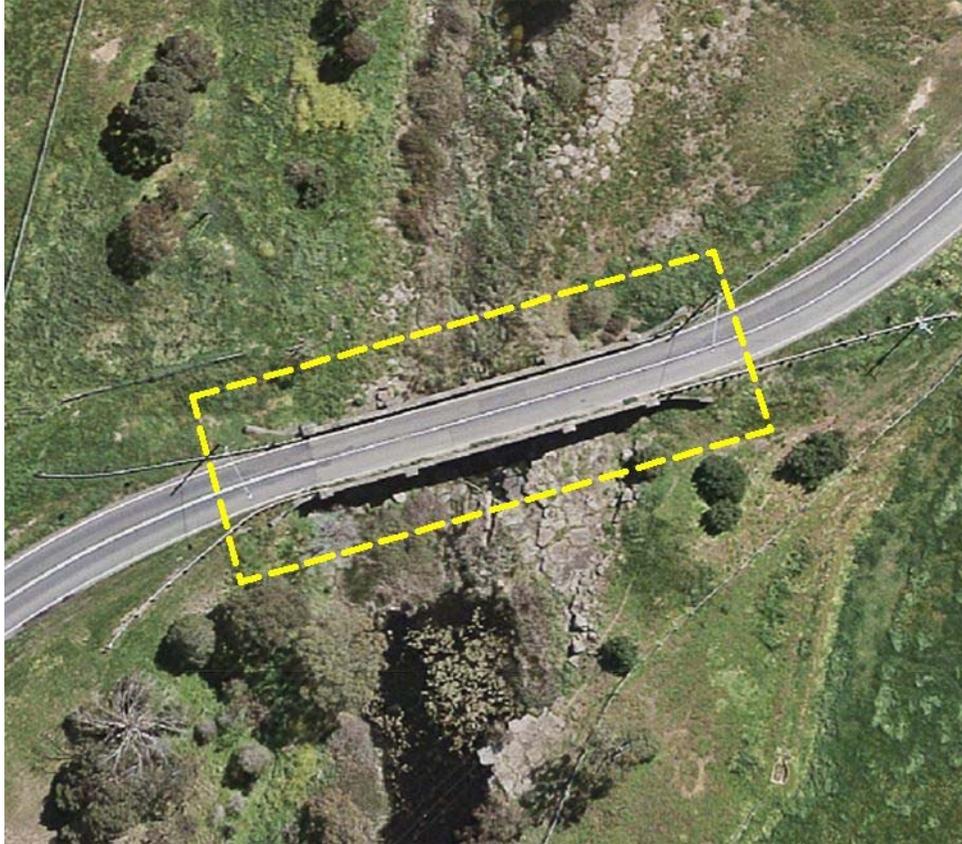


**AMENDED EXTENT OF REGISTRATION**

All of the place shown hatched on Diagram 1454 encompassing parts of Crown Allotments 2011, 2012, 2013 and 2014, Township of Little River being a curtilage of 5 metres from the bridge.



## AERIAL PHOTO OF AMENDED EXTENT OF REGISTRATION



The extent of registration of the Rothwell Bridge in the Victorian Heritage Register affects the whole place shown on Diagram 1454 including the land, bridge, road, landscape elements and other features.

## RATIONALE FOR EXTENT AND RECOMMENDATION REASONS

Following is the Executive Director's assessment of the place in relation to adding land under s.27 of the *Heritage Act 1995*.

**The cultural heritage significance of the registered place would be substantially less if the land or any part of it were developed [Section 27(1)(a)]**

**The land surrounding the registered place is important to the protection, conservation or understanding of that place [Section 27(1)(b)]**

The significance of the Rothwell Bridge has been recognised by its inclusion on the Victorian Heritage Register (VHR). This is an early listing (1982) and only the bridge and not the land on which it stands is included in the registration.

The Rothwell Bridge is a four-span structure with piers separating the central two arches from the end ones. The structure is faced with rusticated bluestone masonry and has substantial abutments. Features are the voussoirs, imposts, string courses and piers. The inner two spans are marked by buttresses which separate them from the inside spans and there is special springing for the segmental arches. The bridge carries a roadway that is 6.35m wide between the integral bluestone parapet walls.

The Rothwell Bridge over the Little River was erected as a double-span segmental arched stone structure in 1866-67 from designs prepared by the Shire of Wyndham Engineer, John Baxter. Clement Nash was the contractor. The bridge and approaches were partially destroyed by flood in September 1880, and PE Nolan, Shire of Wyndham Engineer, designed the present segmental arch bridge from spans, apparently reconstructing the original section and widening the approaches. Rothwell bridge has been by-passed by the modern Melbourne-Geelong Road, however it is still in use as a road bridge.

Any development of the land on which the Rothwell Bridge is located or which immediately surrounds the bridge would have the potential to negatively impact the cultural heritage significance of the registered place. It is therefore recommended that all of the place shown hatched on Diagram 1454 encompassing parts of Crown Allotments 2011, 2012, 2013 and 2014, Township of Little River being a curtilage of 5 metres from the bridge, be included in the registration.

The land proposed for inclusion is sufficient to protect and conserve the place and contribute to its understanding. It is consistent with registrations of similar types of places in the VHR.