

Statement of recommendation from the Executive Director, Heritage Victoria to the Heritage Council of Victoria

Name: School No. 2864
(Budgeree Primary School)

Address: 36 Roys Road, Budgeree

Local Government Authority: Latrobe City



Budgeree School (November 2021)

Executive Director recommendation

Under Part 3, Division 3 of the *Heritage Act 2017* ('the Act') I recommend to the Heritage Council of Victoria that School No. 2864 (Budgeree Primary School), 36 Roys Road, Budgeree should not be included in the Victorian Heritage Register (VHR).

STEVEN AVERY
Executive Director, Heritage Victoria
DATE OF RECOMMENDATION: 16 March 2022

Statement of recommendation from the Executive Director, Heritage Victoria to the Heritage Council of Victoria

Executive Director recommendation to the Heritage Council

The Executive Director, Heritage Victoria ('Executive Director') recommends that the Heritage Council not include School No. 2864 (Budgeree Primary School), 36 Roys Road, Budgeree in the VHR in accordance with section 49 of the Act by determining:

- That School No. 2864 (Budgeree Primary School) is not of State-level cultural heritage significance and should not be included in the VHR in accordance with s.49(1)(b) of the Act.
- The information presented in this recommendation suggests that School No. 2864 (Budgeree Primary School) may be of potential local significance.
- Under section 49(1)(c) of the Act, the Heritage Council may wish to refer the recommendation and any submissions to the relevant planning authority for consideration for an amendment to a planning scheme.

Explanatory note to readers

The system of heritage protection in Victoria essentially operates at two levels.

Most heritage places in Victoria will be important at a local-level to particular communities. These heritage place may be appropriate for protection by local government by means of a Heritage Overlay under the local planning scheme.

A much smaller percentage of places and objects will be important at a State-level. This means that they tell an important story in the history of Victoria, rather than the history of their local area or region. Places and objects of State-level cultural heritage significance may be considered for inclusion in the Victorian Heritage Register under the Heritage Act 2017.

The very high benchmark or 'threshold' for inclusion in the Victorian Heritage Register is demonstrated by the fact that as of 2019, there were just over 2,320 places of State-level significance which were included in the Victorian Heritage Register. This compares to over 19,000 places of local-level importance protected by Victoria's 79 councils in Heritage Overlays. In other words, roughly 12% of Victoria heritage places were protected at a State-level by inclusion in the Victorian Heritage Register compared with 88% being protected by local government.

Heritage Victoria's responsibility is to assess whether a place or object is of cultural heritage significance at the State-level. Heritage Victoria cannot assess or advise as to whether a place is of local-level significance, this being a matter for local government.

Finally, while the Heritage Council of Victoria's remit is to determine cultural heritage significance at the State level, this should not be seen to overshadow or outweigh any significance that a place or object may otherwise retain, particularly at the local level.

Site Visit Statement 2021-22

Coronavirus restrictions have impacted on the capacity Heritage Victoria assessors to undertake site inspections. In this instance, however, the assessor undertook a full site visit (interior and exterior) on 18 November 2021.

Statement of recommendation from the Executive Director, Heritage Victoria to the Heritage Council of Victoria

The process from here

1. The Heritage Council publishes the Executive Director's recommendation (section 41).

The Heritage Council will publish the Executive Director's recommendation on its website for a period of 60 days.

2. Making a submission to the Heritage Council (sections 44 and 45)

Within the 60 day publication period, any person or body with a real and substantial interest in the place or object. This submission can support the recommendation, or object to the recommendation and a hearing can be requested in relation to the submission. Information about making a submission and submission forms are available on the Heritage Council of Victoria's website:

<https://heritagecouncil.vic.gov.au/registrations-reviews/executive-director-recommendations/>

3. Heritage Council determination (sections 46 and 49)

The Heritage Council is an independent statutory body. It is responsible for making the final determination to include or not include the place or object in the VHR, or amend a place or object already in the VHR.

If no submissions are received the Heritage Council must make a determination within 40 days of the publication closing date.

If submissions are received, the Heritage Council may decide to hold a hearing in relation to the submission. If a hearing does take place, the Heritage Council must make a determination within 90 days after the completion of the hearing.

4. Obligations of owners of places and objects (sections 42 and 43)

The owner of a place or object which is the subject of a recommendation to the Heritage Council has certain obligations under the Act. These relate to advising the Executive Director in writing of any works or activities that are being carried out, proposed or planned for the place.

The owner also has an obligation to provide a copy of this statement of recommendation to any potential purchasers of the place or object before entering into a contract.

5. Further information

The relevant sections of the Act are provided at Appendix 1.

Statement of recommendation from the Executive Director, Heritage Victoria to the Heritage Council of Victoria

Description

The following is a description of School No. 2864 (Budgerie Primary School) – ‘Budgerie School’, at the time of the site inspection by Heritage Victoria in November 2021. The school building, the parcel on which it is located and other features within the cadastral block were nominated for inclusion in the VHR. Other nearby features were not nominated for inclusion.

Budgerie School is located in the Latrobe Valley, approximately 40km south-west of Traralgon. The school building is situated atop a small hill and set back from Roys Road, which comprises the northern boundary of the place. The western boundary of the place is marked by a fence line which separates the school grounds from the neighbouring private residence. To the east, immediately adjacent to the school, is the Budgerie Hall. The undulating landscape and surrounding bushland of Budgerie provide a picturesque setting for this remote school building.

The school building is a single room schoolhouse of timber construction with a gabled corrugated iron roof, skillion porch entrance and brick chimney. A small gravel yard lies to the east of the school building. The building is flanked by two water tanks; the smaller, on the building’s western elevation, dates to at least the 1920s. Internally, it has retained early timber beaded lining boards throughout, as well as its early wall vents and decorative ceiling vent covers. Double-hung windows are located on the building’s southern elevation, with a smaller window on the northern elevation.

The porch entrance features a single wash basin and two rows of coat hooks. The porch entrance and northern portion of the classroom are floored with cement sheeting, while early floorboards are retained under c.1960s carpeting in the southern portion of the classroom. The classroom comprises an open space of 23 x 23 feet (49 sq m) featuring a timber teachers’ platform to its western wall, surmounted by a brick fireplace, shelving units and blackboards. The platform, fireplace, and blackboards are early features. Other fixtures within the classroom – overhead fluorescent lights, gas heater and pinboard – date from the c.1980s.

The school grounds comprise a largely cleared area, with several plantings and ancillary structures across the site. A shelter shed, constructed c.1912, is located approximately five metres to the south of the school building. Other outdoor features include c.1950s-60s play equipment and a timber frame shelter situated to the south-east of the school building, a c.1980s play structure to the north, and various picnic benches.



2021, North elevation showing entrance to the school building with name board visible.



2021, Southern elevation showing double hung windows.

Statement of recommendation from the Executive Director, Heritage Victoria to the Heritage Council of Victoria



2021, Western elevation with early water tank.



2021, Porch entrance interior with coat hooks.



2021, School building interior with teachers' platform to the right. Two ventilation panels are visible in the ceiling, just above the fluorescent lighting.



2021, View from the teachers' platform. The building's early floorboards are protected underneath the c.1960s carpeting to the right.



2021, Timber teachers' platform, blackboards and brick fireplace.



2021, Shelter shed to the south of the school building.

Statement of recommendation from the Executive Director, Heritage Victoria to the Heritage Council of Victoria



2021, School yard with the school building and shelter shed to the right, and c.1950s-60s play structures at centre. The timber frame shelter (undated) is in the distance.



2021, View from Roys Road of the school building (background right) and Budgeree Hall (left).

History

The Education Act 1872 and the construction of schools in Victoria

Prior to the passage of the *Education Act 1872* ('the Education Act'), school education in Victoria was largely the remit of religious or private organisations. Attendance was generally optional, and parents were typically required to pay a fee for the education of their children.¹ The implementation of the Education Act from January 1873 effectively established the modern system of free, secular, and compulsory State education for children up to the age of fifteen. The Education Act also founded the Education Department of Victoria, which assumed responsibility for approximately 450 common schools previously vested in the Board of Education (1862-72).²

Within the first two years of its creation, the Education Department constructed over 200 new school buildings across the colony.³ While the size, configuration and construction materials of each school varied slightly according to the specific needs of its community, schools built by the Education Department were designed according to standardised plans. Throughout the 1870s and 1880s, single-room schools of timber construction were among the most common types of school buildings in rural Victoria. By 1890, the Education Department had constructed more than 800 timber single-room school buildings across the colony, over 600 of which were built to accommodate thirty to forty students.⁴

Single-room schools in rural Victoria

The Education Department recognised the need for affordable, portable schoolhouses as early as 1875. In areas of rural Victoria where permanent settlement was uncertain, or where no pre-existing building could be repurposed, the provision of a temporary facility was a common solution. During the 1870s, the Education Department provided rural communities across Victoria with small, portable timber schools. Typically built to accommodate up to forty students, these schools often had an attached residential quarters for the teacher and featured a shingle roof.⁵

¹ Peterson, Richard, *Historic Government Schools: a comparative study*, June 1993, pp.1-3.

² Blake, Leslie James, *Vision and realisation: a centenary of State Education in Victoria (Volume 1)*, Education Department of Victoria, 1973, pp.242-43.

³ Blake, 1973, pp.247-49.

⁴ Burchell, Lawrence E., *Victorian Schools: a study in colonial government architecture 1837-1900*, Melbourne University Press, 1980, p.114.

⁵ Burchell, 1980, pp.113-26.

Statement of recommendation from the Executive Director, Heritage Victoria to the Heritage Council of Victoria

As rural communities grew, it often became necessary for the Education Department to construct more permanent facilities. In communities such as Long Gully (VHR H0968), a larger brick schoolhouse was constructed alongside the earlier timber classroom to accommodate the booming student population and the evolving educational needs of children from the late nineteenth century. At other places, such as the Former State School No. 46 at Bulla (VHR H1643), the single-room school was redeveloped with the addition of various extensions and outbuildings. However, in smaller rural communities it was common practice to merely replace a pre-existing school building with that from another nearby town. By 1890, approximately a third of older portable school buildings were removed (usually by bullock team) to new sites, typically to serve as a new schoolhouse for a neighbouring town or district for which the building was better suited.⁶

History of the school building

The former Yinnar State School No. 2419

According to local histories and newspapers, the building currently known as the Budgeree School was formerly the original Yinnar State School No. 2419. In 1879 the residents of Yinnar requested that the Education Department establish a local school. Two years later, Yinnar State School commenced from a portable timber school building with 'two private rooms attached to the school as a teacher's residence'. School desks and other supplies were provided by various community members.⁷

During its time in Yinnar, the portable timber building fulfilled a range of functions: school, polling booth, temporary church and wedding venue. By 1889 the school population at Yinnar reached 53 students, well beyond the capacity of the portable timber building. In 1900, the attached teachers' quarters were converted into additional classrooms. A detached teachers' residence was eventually built in 1906.

Budgeree Primary School (State School No. 2864)

Budgeree and its surrounding district are on the traditional lands of the Gunaikurnai people. European settlement commenced from 1879, when selector Captain Herbert WG Payne took up land in the area. Much of the land comprising present-day Budgeree was subsequently adapted for farming activities such as dairying, fruit orchards and berry farms. A section of Payne's land was provided for the construction of a school in the 1880s.⁸

Budgeree School opened on 1 November 1887 in an earlier, single room schoolhouse in the vicinity of the current school building following efforts by the local community. The schoolhouse initially measured 14 x 10 feet and was expanded in 1899 to accommodate up to 25 students.⁹ Early photographs of this school building in-situ depict a partially cleared site with a makeshift swing, and noticeably denser surrounding bushland. Upon its opening, the school had eleven students enrolled. Its inaugural teacher, Mr. Albert Affleck, was employed to teach at Budgeree School for three days per week and at the nearby Budgeree East School for the remaining two days of the week.¹⁰

By 1907, the student population of Budgeree School had grown to over thirty and the original school building was no longer suitable. The Education Department signalled the possibility of replacing Budgeree's schoolhouse with one presently sitting unused at State School No. 2419 in nearby Yinnar. The following year, the *Morwell Advertiser* illustrated the worsening condition of Budgeree's school building, noting leaks from the roof and a smoking chimney.¹¹ In November 1908, tenders were advertised for the relocation of the former school building at Yinnar to Budgeree, forming State School No. 2864.¹² By May 1909, Budgeree's original schoolhouse had been relocated to

⁶ Burchell, 1980, pp.127-28.

⁷ Farago, Joan and Harris, Michele (ed.), *Yinnar Primary School 2419, a history*, The School Centenary Committee, 1981; Shoemaker, Karl (ed.), *Yinnar 1874-1974: then and now*, Yinnar Centenary Committee, 1974.

⁸ Budgeree Centenary Committee, *Budgeree: 'A Good Place'*, October 1987, pp.3-7.

⁹ Budgeree Centenary Committee, 1987, p.7.

¹⁰ *Gippsland Farmers' Journal and Traralgon, Heyfield and Rosedale News*, 21 November 1887, p.3.

¹¹ *Morwell Advertiser*, 30 October 1908, p.3.

¹² *Morwell Advertiser*, 6 November 1908, p.2.



Statement of recommendation from the Executive Director, Heritage Victoria to the Heritage Council of Victoria

a private property close by and the present school building was erected, having been brought from Yinnar by bullock team.¹³

Improvements to the school building commenced shortly after its opening and continued throughout the twentieth century. In 1912, the *Morwell Advertiser* reported on a successful fundraising concert, the proceeds of which were put towards the construction of a shelter shed for the Budgeree School.¹⁴ Local history resources indicate that other improvements from c.1912 included the raising of the ceiling, the installation of ventilators and 'better lighting'.¹⁵ Tenders for such works were advertised in 1914, and Public Works Department drawings created that year illustrate the proposed changes – a heightened roof, the construction of a new and larger porch to the northern elevation, and the re-orientation of windows from the eastern elevation to the southern elevation.¹⁶ A new freestanding teachers' residence was also constructed that year, approximately 64 metres north-west of the school building on Roys Road. Remodelling of the school was announced in January 1915, which may have referred to the proposed improvements of 1914.¹⁷

Further improvements were carried out during the 1930s and included general painting of the school building, the provision of a sink and new water tank, and repairs to the brick chimney.¹⁸ From the mid-twentieth century, other developments at the school included the planting of two tree ferns on the school building's northern elevation (1940); the planting of windbreak pines (1957, removed c.1980s); the installation of play equipment in the south-east of the school grounds (c.1950s-60s); the supply of electricity (1965); repainting of the school building's exterior (1970s); restumping of the school building (1970s), the temporary installation of a portable classroom (1975, later removed), the replacement of an early toilet block and the installation of a gas heater (1982).¹⁹

¹³ Farago, Joan and Harris, Michele (ed.), 1981, p.7; *Morwell Advertiser*, 7 May 1909, p.3.

¹⁴ *Morwell Advertiser*, 12 April 1912, p.2.

¹⁵ Budgeree Centenary Committee, 1987, p.7.

¹⁶ *Gippsland Farmers Journal*, 4 September 1914, p.2; PROV, VPRS 3686/P0006, SSO 2864.1.

¹⁷ *Morwell and Yinnar Gazette*, 22 January 1915, p.2.

¹⁸ *Morwell Advertiser*, 7 July 1933, p.4; *The Age*, 23 September 1939, p.28.

¹⁹ Budgeree Centenary Committee, 1987, p.8; Nominator, pers. comm., December 2021.

Statement of recommendation from the Executive Director, Heritage Victoria to the Heritage Council of Victoria

Historical images – the former Budgeree Primary School (1887 – c.1908)



c.1900, The earlier timber school building at Budgeree.
Source: Friends of the Budgeree School



1909, Arrival of the new Budgeree School building (left). The earlier school building is to the right, awaiting removal.
Source: [Federation University](#)



1909, The earlier Budgeree school building on the day of its removal.
Source: Friends of the Budgeree School Facebook Group



1909, The earlier Budgeree School being transported by bullock team to a private property.
Source: Friends of the Budgeree School Facebook Group

Statement of recommendation from the Executive Director, Heritage Victoria to the Heritage Council of Victoria

Historical images – the current Budgeree Primary School (c.1881 – present)

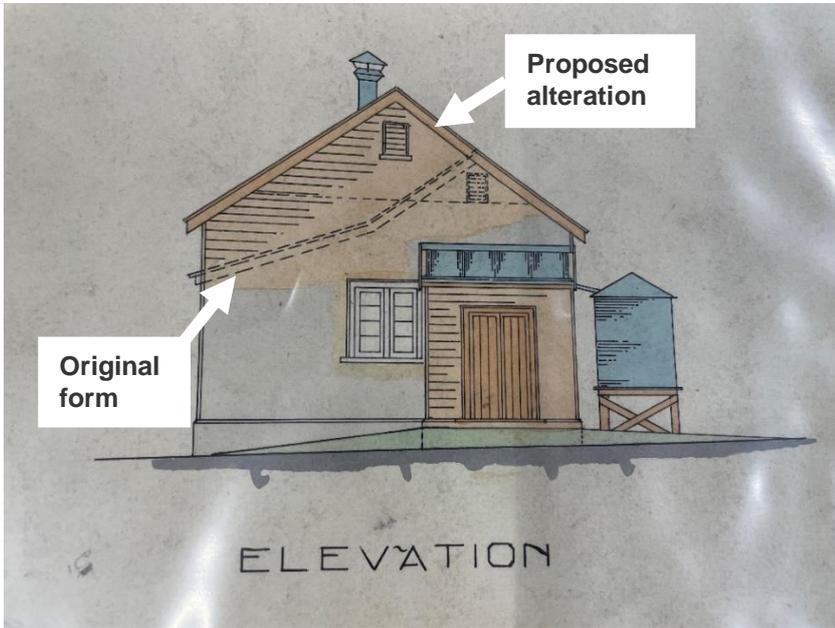


1914, Public Works Department drawing of Budgeree State School No. 2864 showing proposed alterations to the current school building. Proposed alterations are shaded in orange and blue, areas to remain unaltered are in grey. Details of this plan are shown below, juxtaposed with photographs.

Source: Public Records Office Victoria, VPRS 3686/P0006, SSO 2864.1

Statement of recommendation from the Executive Director, Heritage Victoria to the Heritage Council of Victoria

Historical images – northern elevation



1914, Public Works Department drawing of Budgeree State School No. 2864 showing proposed alterations to the roof and new porch. The original form of the school building is visible, with its roofline indicated in dashed lines and the skillioned teachers' quarters to the left. The proposed raising of the roof and repositioning of the louvred ventilation panel are indicated with solid lines.

Source: Public Records Office Victoria, VPRS 3686/P0006, SSO 2864.1



Early twentieth century, Northern elevation of the current school building prior to alterations. Note the skillion roof and brick chimney (indicated) and smaller, gabled entry porch.

Source: Friends of the Budgeree School Facebook Group

Statement of recommendation from the Executive Director, Heritage Victoria to the Heritage Council of Victoria



Early twentieth century, Group outside Budgerree Primary School. The low roofline over the former teachers' residence is visible to the left.

Source: Friends of the Budgerree School Facebook Group

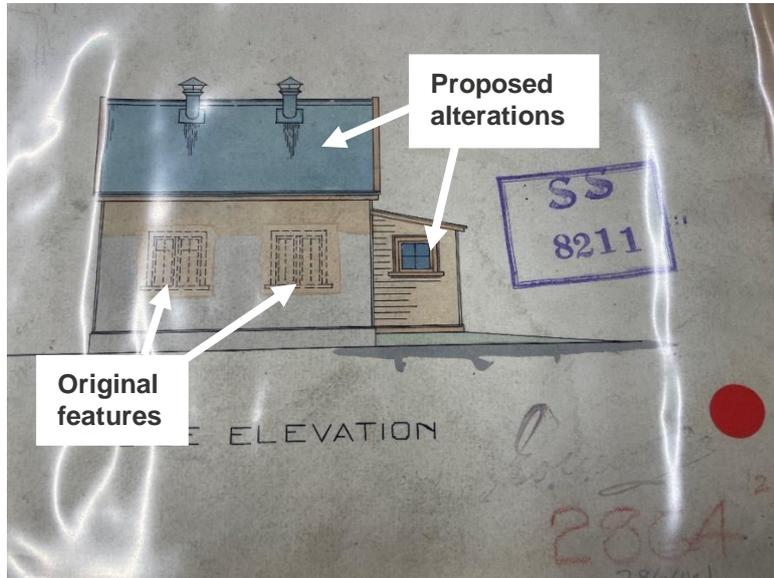


c.1925, Northern elevation of the school following improvements. The roofline has been raised, the entry porch enlarged and reoriented to face Roys Road.

Source: Friends of the Budgerree School Facebook Group

Statement of recommendation from the Executive Director, Heritage Victoria to the Heritage Council of Victoria

Historical images – eastern elevation



1914, Public Works Department drawing of Budgeree State School No. 2864 showing proposed alterations to the eastern elevation. The dashed lines indicate the original position of the double hung windows which initially flanked the entrance to the former teachers' residence.

Source: Public Records Office Victoria, VPRS 3686/P0006, SSO 2864.1



Mid-1890s, The current school building (background) in its earlier location in Yinnar. This photo shows the initial form of the building with its double hung windows along the attached teachers' residence (left) and a smaller porch entry on the northern elevation (right). These features were altered in c.1914 to accommodate the needs of the Budgeree community.

Source: *Yinnar Primary School 2419, a history*

Statement of recommendation from the Executive Director, Heritage Victoria to the Heritage Council of Victoria



c.1904, The current school building in its earlier location in Yinnar with the attached teachers' quarters at the fore. The skillion roof is indicated with an arrow.

Source: *Yinnar Primary School 2419, a history*



Early twentieth century, The current school building following the raising of the roofline, reorientation of the windows and addition of a larger skillion roofed porch. An additional structure, possibly the shelter shed, is visible to the left of the image.

Source: Friends of the Budgerie School Facebook Group

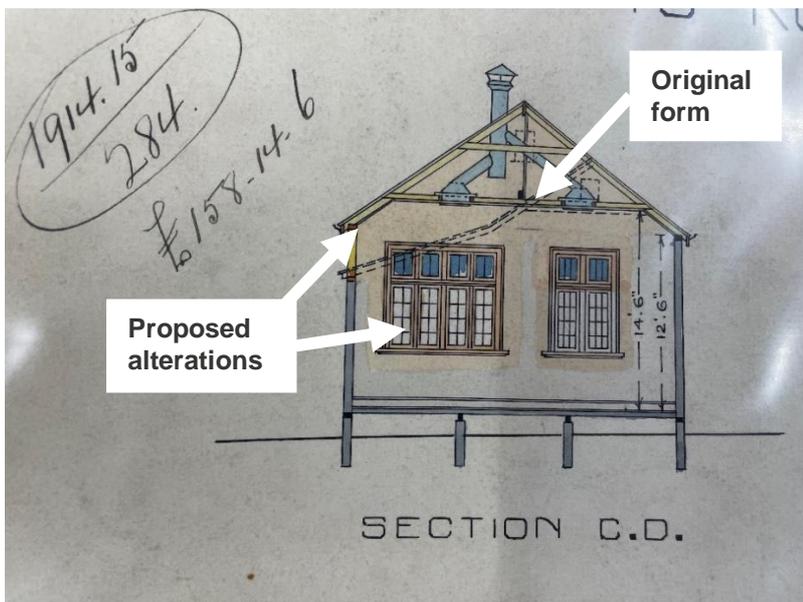
Statement of recommendation from the Executive Director, Heritage Victoria to the Heritage Council of Victoria



c.1919, Budgeree Primary School following improvement works. The shelter shed is visible on the left.

Source: Friends of the Budgeree School Facebook Group

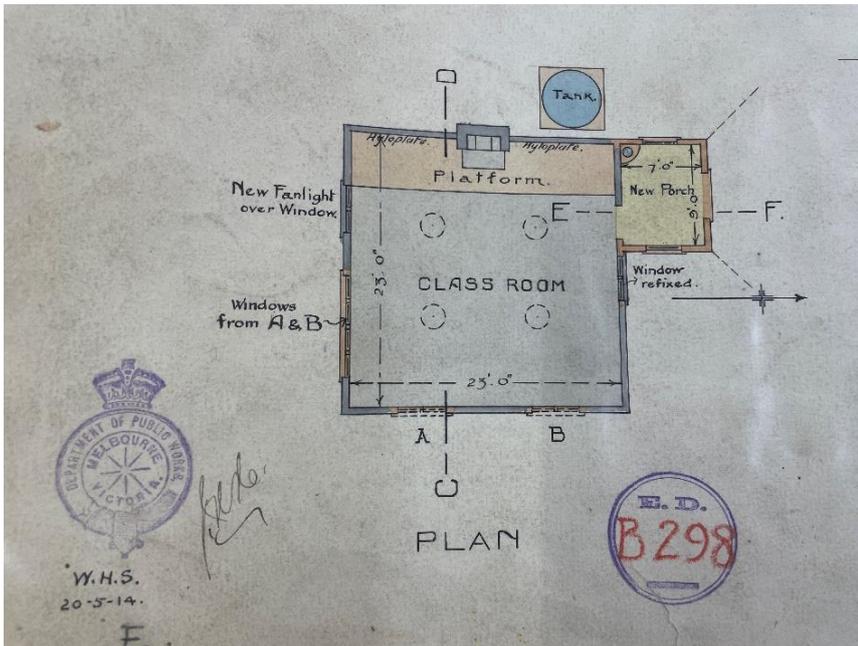
Other historical images



1914, Public Works Department drawing of Budgeree State School No. 2864 showing proposed alterations to the southern elevation, including the installation of the double hung windows from the eastern elevation and the raising of the roofline. The original form of the school building is clearly visible, with its skillioned teachers' quarters indicated in dashed lines. The addition of two ceiling ventilation panels is also visible.

Source: Public Records Office Victoria, VPRS 3686/P0006, SSO 2864.1

Statement of recommendation from the Executive Director, Heritage Victoria to the Heritage Council of Victoria



1914, Public Works Department drawings of Budgeree State School No. 2864 showing an aerial view of proposed alterations: the construction of a new porch and refixing of the window to the northern elevation; the relocation of two double hung windows from the eastern elevation to the southern elevation.

Source: Public Records Office Victoria, VPRS 3686/P0006, SSO 2864.1



c.1970s, School interior.

Source: Friends of the Budgeree School

Statement of recommendation from the Executive Director, Heritage Victoria to the Heritage Council of Victoria



c.1970s, School interior.

Source: Friends of the Budgeree School

Selected bibliography

Commissioned histories and heritage studies

- Blake, Leslie James, *Vision and realisation: a centenary of State Education in Victoria (Volume 1)*, Education Department of Victoria, 1973.
- Budgeree Centenary Committee, *Budgeree: 'A Good Place'*, October 1987.
- Burchell, Lawrence E., *Victorian Schools: a study in colonial government architecture 1837-1900*, Melbourne University Press, 1980.
- Farago, Joan and Harris, Michele (ed.), *Yinnar Primary School 2419, a history*, The School Centenary Committee, 1981.
- Peterson, Richard, *Historic Government Schools: a comparative study*, June 1993.
- Shoemaker, Karl (ed.), *Yinnar 1874-1974: then and now*, Yinnar Centenary Committee, 1974.

Newspapers

- *Gippsland Farmers Journal*.
- *Gippsland Farmers' Journal and Traralgon, Heyfield and Rosedale News*.
- *Morwell Advertiser*.

Other sources

- Public Records Office Victoria, Series 3686.

Statement of recommendation from the Executive Director, Heritage Victoria to the Heritage Council of Victoria

Further information

Relevant Authority	Latrobe City Council
Heritage Overlay	There is no Heritage Overlay for this place.
Other Overlays	Bushfire Management Overlay (BMO)
Other Listings	There are no other listings for this place.
Other Names	Budgeree Primary School Budgeree School
Date of construction	c.1881
Architect	Education Department of Victoria
Architectural style	Victorian Period (1851-1901)

Traditional Owner Information

School No. 2864 (Budgeree Primary School) is located on the traditional land of the Gunaikurnai people. Under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006*, the Registered Aboriginal Party for this land is the Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation.

Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Register

The Budgeree School is not included in the Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Register.

Integrity

The integrity of the place is very good. The local cultural heritage values of the place can be easily read in the extant fabric, although alterations in 1914 changed the form of the school building. Since this time there have been no major alterations to the school building, the shelter shed or to the landscape of the place. It can still be clearly understood as a late nineteenth century/early twentieth century school with associations with the provision of education to rural communities in the south Gippsland region. (November 2021)

Intactness

The intactness of the place is good. Early twentieth-century alterations have had an impact on the earlier form and appearance of the building. Subsequent improvements appear to have been limited to the installation of electricity (1965), restumping and repainting (1970s), and the installation of gas heating (1982). Additional structures constructed across the school grounds include a second water tank (c.1920s), play equipment (c.1950s-60s and c.1980s), and picnic benches. (November 2021)

Condition

The condition of the place is poor. The school building has experienced termite infestation and wombat burrowing in recent years, contributing to destabilisation and the loss of building fabric in some areas. Detailed condition and structural assessments were conducted by Apache Pest Control (August 2017), Glasgow Building Inspections (August 2017), and Hade Consulting (October 2021). (November 2021)

Statement of recommendation from the Executive Director, Heritage Victoria to the Heritage Council of Victoria

Note: The condition of a place or object does not influence the assessment of its cultural heritage significance. A place may be in very poor condition and still be of very high intactness and integrity. Conversely, a place may be in excellent condition but have poor intactness and integrity.



2021, Wombat burrowing beneath eastern elevation of school building.



2021, Areas of rot along the southern elevation of the school building.



2021, Losses to the internal southern wall and destabilisation of the floor.



2021, Termite infestation in skirting board along northern wall.



Statement of recommendation from the Executive Director, Heritage Victoria to the Heritage Council of Victoria

Statutory requirements under section 40.

Terms of the recommendation (section 40 (3)(a))

The Executive Director, Heritage Victoria, recommends that School No. 2864 (Budgerree Primary School) is not included in the VHR.

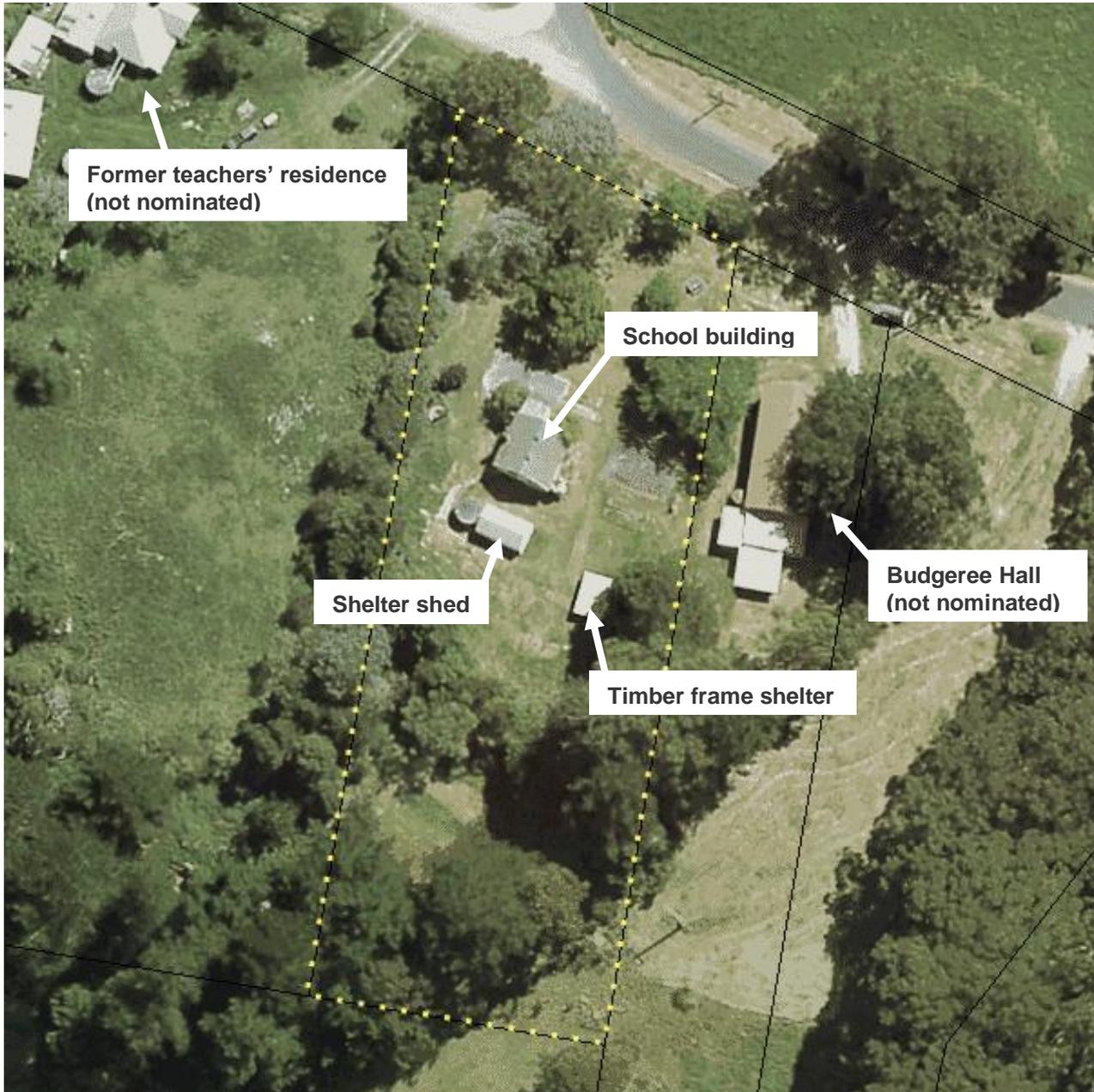
Information to identify the place or object (section 40(3)(b))

Name: School No. 2864 (Budgerree Primary School)

Address: 36 Roys Road, Budgerree VIC 3870

Statement of recommendation from the Executive Director, Heritage Victoria to the Heritage Council of Victoria

Location diagram (section 40(3)(b))



The nominated extent is indicated with a yellow dotted line.

Statement of recommendation from the Executive Director, Heritage Victoria to the Heritage Council of Victoria

Reasons for the recommendation, including an assessment of the State-level cultural heritage significance of place/object/object integral (section 40(3)(c))

Following is the Executive Director's assessment of School No. 2864 (Budgeree Primary School) against the tests set out in *The Victorian Heritage Register Criteria and Thresholds Guidelines*. A place or object must be found by the Heritage Council to meet Step 2 of at least one criterion to meet the State level threshold for inclusion in the VHR.

CRITERION A: Importance to the course, or pattern, of Victoria's cultural history.

Step 1: Test for satisfying Criterion A

The place/object has a *CLEAR ASSOCIATION* with an event, phase, period, process, function, movement, custom or way of life in Victoria's cultural history.
plus
The association of the place/object to the event, phase, etc *IS EVIDENT* in the physical fabric of the place/object and/or in documentary resources or oral history.
plus
The *EVENT, PHASE, etc* is of *HISTORICAL IMPORTANCE*, having made a strong or influential contribution to Victoria.

Executive Director's Response

School No. 2864 (Budgeree Primary School) – 'the Budgeree School' has a clear association with the phase of construction of single-room State schools during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries in Victoria. Between 1873 and 1890, over 800 timber single-room schools were built across Victoria. More than three-quarters of these were relatively small constructions, capable of accommodating thirty or forty students and comparable in size to the Budgeree School.²⁰ As school populations outgrew these smaller facilities, it was common for such buildings to be relocated to a nearby community with fewer students.²¹

This association is evident in the physical fabric of the Budgeree School, which has retained key features such as its teachers' platform and early blackboards. The association is also evident in documentary resources including photographs, local newspaper articles and Public Works Department drawings available at the Public Records Office Victoria. There is also abundant oral testimony relating to the history and use of the school throughout the twentieth century, much of which is captured in local history publications such as *Budgeree: 'A Good Place'*.

The phase of construction of single-room State schools is of immense historical importance to Victoria. In the years following the implementation of the *Education Act 1873*, many remote communities across Victoria received new school buildings in line with the Education Department's vision of an education system which was free, secular and compulsory. Many of these early single-room schools were built to accommodate fewer than forty students, providing Victorian children in remote communities the means and opportunity to receive a formal education.

Step 1 of Criterion A is likely to be satisfied.

²⁰ Burchell, Lawrence E., *Victorian Schools: a study in colonial government architecture 1837-1900*, Melbourne University Press, 1980, p.114,

²¹ Blake, Leslie James, *Vision and realisation: a centenary of State Education in Victoria (Volume 1)*, Education Department of Victoria, 1973, p.255.

Statement of recommendation from the Executive Director, Heritage Victoria to the Heritage Council of Victoria

Step 2: State Level significance test for Criterion A

The place/object allows the clear association with the event, phase etc. of historical importance to be *UNDERSTOOD BETTER THAN MOST OTHER PLACES OR OBJECTS IN VICTORIA WITH SUBSTANTIALLY THE SAME ASSOCIATION.*

Executive Director's Response

Over 100 single-room schools of timber construction were identified while preparing this recommendation, many of which are in local heritage overlays. The phase of construction of single-room State schools is evident in each of these places, which date from the 1870s to the 1920s. Places which illustrate this phase and are of a similar scale to the Budgeree School include:

- Former Longlea State School No. 1921 (built c.1875)
- Former Kanumbra State School No. 1932 (built 1877)
- Former Seaview State School No. 2636 (built c.1885)
- Former Crossover State School No. 3131 (built 1900)
- Former Fumina South Primary School No. 3396 (built 1900)
- Former Mongans Bridge School (built 1902)
- Former Wando Vale School (built 1906)

Each exhibits similar characteristics to the Budgeree School, e.g., gabled roof with porch entrance, double hung windows, and corrugated iron roofing. While it is unclear how many of these school buildings have retained key interior elements such as a teachers' platform and blackboards, their former function can still be discerned by their external appearance. Although demonstrably associated with the phase of construction of single-room State schools, the Budgeree School cannot be considered to allow this phase to be better understood than other places in Victoria with substantially the same association. Due to its remodelling in 1914-15 it does not allow the early decades of this phase to be well understood.

Criterion A is not likely to be satisfied at the State level.

CRITERION B: Possession of uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of Victoria's cultural history.

Step 1: Test for Satisfying Criterion B

The place/object has a *clear ASSOCIATION* with an event, phase, period, process, function, movement, custom or way of life of importance in Victoria's cultural history.

plus

The association of the place/object to the event, phase, etc *IS EVIDENT* in the physical fabric of the place/object and/or in documentary resources or oral history.

plus

The place/object is *RARE OR UNCOMMON*, being one of a small number of places/objects remaining that demonstrates the important event, phase etc.

or

The place/object is *RARE OR UNCOMMON*, containing unusual features of note that were not widely replicated

or

The existence of the *class* of place/object that demonstrates the important event, phase etc is *ENDANGERED* to the point of rarity due to threats and pressures on such places/objects.

Statement of recommendation from the Executive Director, Heritage Victoria to the Heritage Council of Victoria

Executive Director's Response

The Budgeree School has a clear association with the phase of construction of single-room State schools in Victoria during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Although this association is evident in the physical fabric of the place, documentary resources and oral history, the Budgeree School is not one of a small number of places that demonstrate this phase. Between 1873 and 1900, over 800 single-room schools like Budgeree were built in rural communities across Victoria. Although many have been demolished, removed or destroyed (being particularly vulnerable to fire) more than 100 of these survive, and a great number are included in various heritage overlays across the State. As such, the class of single-room State schools cannot be considered endangered.

The Budgeree School also does not exhibit unusual features of note that were not widely replicated.

Step 1 of Criterion B is not likely to be satisfied.

CRITERION C: Potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of Victoria's cultural history.

Step 1: Test for Satisfying Criterion C

The:

- visible physical fabric; &/or
- documentary evidence; &/or
 - oral history,

relating to the place/object indicates a likelihood that the place/object contains *PHYSICAL EVIDENCE* of *historical interest* that is *NOT CURRENTLY VISIBLE OR UNDERSTOOD*.

plus

From what we know of the place/object, the physical evidence is likely to be of an *INTEGRITY* and/or *CONDITION* that it *COULD YIELD INFORMATION* through detailed investigation.

Executive Director's Response

It is not likely that School No. 2864 (Budgeree Primary School) contains physical evidence of historical interest that is not currently visible or understood. The form, function and cultural heritage values of the place are clearly evident in the fabric of the place and existing documentary evidence. There is unlikely to be any archaeological evidence associated with the cultural heritage significance of the place.

Step 1 of Criterion C is not likely to be satisfied.

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

Step 1: Test for Satisfying Criterion D

The place/object is one of a *CLASS* of places/objects that has a *clear ASSOCIATION* with an event, phase, period, process, function, movement, important person(s), custom or way of life in Victoria's history.

plus

The *EVENT, PHASE, etc* is of *HISTORICAL IMPORTANCE*, having made a strong or influential contribution to Victoria.

plus

The principal characteristics of the class are *EVIDENT* in the physical fabric of the place/object.

Statement of recommendation from the Executive Director, Heritage Victoria to the Heritage Council of Victoria

Executive Director's Response

The Budgeree School belongs within the class of single-room State schools and has a clear association with the phase of construction of such places during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. As explored under Criterion A, the construction of single-room State schools is of historical importance and made a strong contribution to Victoria. The principal characteristics of this class are evident in the physical fabric of the Budgeree School and include:

- A modest, square or rectangular-form timber school building with porch entry
- A gabled, corrugated iron roof over the main classroom and porch entry
- Double-hung windows perpendicular to the teachers' platform and blackboards, allowing for better lighting conditions throughout the day.²²

Step 1 of Criterion D is likely to be satisfied.

Step 2: State Level Significance Test Criterion D

The place/object is a <i>NOTABLE EXAMPLE</i> of the class in Victoria (refer to Reference Tool D).
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Executive Director's Response

Under the definitions provided in Reference Tool D, Budgeree School cannot be considered a notable example of its class because it is not a fine, highly intact, influential or pivotal example of its class. These matters are explored in further detail below.

Fine

The construction and subsequent alteration of the Budgeree School was executed to a good quality, allowing the place to serve the Budgeree community for many years. However, the school building displays the standard range of characteristics that are typical of its class. Constructed from a standardised Education Department design, the overall form and principal elements of the Budgeree School are visible in similar places across Victoria (see 'Comparisons', p.29).

Highly intact

Public Works Department drawings and local history publications indicate that the place sustained improvement works in 1914, altering its original form. Proposed alterations included the raising of the school building's ceiling, effectively removing the attached teachers' quarters to create a single open-plan classroom, the re-orientation of windows and louvred ventilation panel, and the construction of a new porch. While the Budgeree School is still discernible as a school building, the erasure of an attached teachers' quarters is a substantial loss.

Influential

There are many current and former State schools across Victoria which display similar characteristics to the Budgeree School, dating from the 1870s to the 1920s. The Budgeree School was constructed to a standardised Education Department design developed from 1873 – one which was replicated in communities across Victoria well into the twentieth century. As such, the design of the Budgeree School cannot be considered influential.

Pivotal

The Budgeree School does not encapsulate a key evolutionary stage in the development of single-room State schools in Victoria.

Criterion D is not likely to be satisfied at the State level.

²² Peterson, Richard, *Historic Government Schools: a comparative study*, June 1993, pp.8-9.

Statement of recommendation from the Executive Director, Heritage Victoria to the Heritage Council of Victoria

CRITERION E: Importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics.

Step 1: Test for Satisfying Criterion E

The *PHYSICAL FABRIC* of the place/object clearly exhibits particular aesthetic characteristics.

Executive Director's Response

The physical fabric of the Budgeree School clearly exhibits particular aesthetic characteristics associated with its class, namely:

- A modest, square or rectangular-form timber school building with porch entry
- A gabled, corrugated iron roof over the main classroom and porch entry
- Double-hung windows perpendicular to the teachers' platform and blackboards, allowing for better lighting conditions throughout the day.

The building has a rustic appearance and is within a highly attractive setting, characterised by an undulating rural landscape. The school building is complemented by tree ferns planted at the north elevation.

Step 1 of Criterion E is likely to be satisfied.

Step 2: State Level Significance Test for Criterion E

The aesthetic characteristics are *APPRECIATED OR VALUED* by the wider community or an appropriately-related discipline as evidenced, for example, by:

- *critical recognition* of the aesthetic characteristics of the place/object within a relevant art, design, architectural or related discipline as an outstanding example within Victoria; or
- wide public *acknowledgement of exceptional merit* in Victoria in medium such as songs, poetry, literature, painting, sculpture, publications, print media etc.

Executive Director's Response

While there is evidence that the school is a popular photography destination and is appreciated by the Budgeree community, the aesthetic qualities of the Budgeree School have not received critical recognition or wide public acknowledgement of exceptional merit.

Criterion E is not likely to be satisfied at the State level.

CRITERION F: Importance in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement at a particular period.

Step 1: A Test for Satisfying Criterion F

The place/object contains *PHYSICAL EVIDENCE* that clearly demonstrates creative or technical *ACHIEVEMENT* for the time in which it was created.

plus

The physical evidence demonstrates a *HIGH DEGREE OF INTEGRITY*.

Executive Director's Response

The Budgeree School does not contain physical evidence that demonstrates creative or technical achievement for the time of its creation. The place exhibits design principles and construction techniques commonly employed by the Education Department from the 1870s in to the twentieth century.

Step 1 of Criterion F is not likely to be satisfied.

Statement of recommendation from the Executive Director, Heritage Victoria to the Heritage Council of Victoria

CRITERION G: Strong or special association with a particular present-day community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons.

Step 1: Test for Satisfying Criterion G

<p>Evidence exists of a community or cultural group. <i>(A community or cultural group is a group of people who share a common interest, including an experience, purpose, belief system, culture, ethnicity or values.)</i></p> <p><i>plus</i></p> <p>Evidence exists of a strong attachment between the COMMUNITY OR CULTURAL GROUP and the place/object in the present-day context.</p> <p><i>plus</i></p> <p>Evidence exists of a time depth to that attachment.</p>
--

Executive Director's Response

The Friends of the Budgeree School and the wider Budgeree community have a clear and strong attachment to the place, continuing into the present day. There is also a time depth to this attachment as the building has been an important part of the lives of local families across several generations.

This attachment is highly evident in local histories produced over the years which highlight warm recollections of the school including *Budgeree: 'A Good Place'*, published by the Budgeree Centenary Committee in 1987. It is also evident in online spaces such as the Friends of the Budgeree School Facebook group, and in the community's committed activism towards the preservation of the school building.

Step 1 of Criterion G is likely to be satisfied.

Step 2: State Level Significance Test for Criterion G

<p>Evidence exists that the social value resonates at a State Level, that is across the 'broader Victorian community'. <i>('Resonance' means the extent to which the social value of a place/object can be demonstrated to exert an influence. The social value must resonate beyond a particular local, social or cultural community into the 'broader Victorian community').</i></p>
--

Plus

<p>Evidence exists that the social value is part of an event or story that contributes to Victoria's identity.</p>
--

Executive Director's Response

While clearly valued by the Budgeree community, there is no evidence that the social value of the Budgeree School resonates at a State level. Most communities in Victoria likely have a historic school building that has social significance to its immediate community.

Criterion G is not likely to be satisfied at the State level.

Statement of recommendation from the Executive Director, Heritage Victoria to the Heritage Council of Victoria

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

Step 1: Test For Satisfying Criterion H

The place/object has a *DIRECT ASSOCIATION* with a person or group of persons who have made a strong or influential *CONTRIBUTION* to the course of Victoria's history.

plus

The *ASSOCIATION* of the place/object to the person(s) *IS EVIDENT* in the physical fabric of the place/object and/or in documentary resources and/or oral history.

plus

The *ASSOCIATION*:

- directly relates to *ACHIEVEMENTS* of the person(s) at, or relating to, the place/object; or
- relates to an *enduring and/or close INTERACTION* between the person(s) and the place/object.

Executive Director's Response

The Budgeree School has a direct association with the Education Department which implemented the modern system of free, secular and compulsory education for children in Victoria. The Education Department made a strong and influential contribution to the course of Victoria's history by providing the means and facilities for children across the state to receive a basic education.

The school's association with the Education Department is evident in the fabric of the place, as the building was designed and constructed in accordance with standard plans developed by the department. This association is less evident in documentary resources, which highlight the role of the Budgeree community and local government in the school's establishment.

The association between the Budgeree School and the Education Department relates directly to its achievements. From the time of its establishment in 1873 until 1890, the Education Department constructed over 800 single-room schools, one of which was the Budgeree School. The provision of school buildings to remote and small communities in rural Victoria was a key achievement of the Education Department, and a feat not realized to the same extent by its predecessor, the Board of Education (1862-72).

The Budgeree School also has a direct association with the pioneering Hall family, several generations of which attended the school. Their association with the Budgeree School is evident in local history publications, which include enrolment lists naming members of the Hall family. Individuals such as John Hall (1830-1915) and Alan Hall (1898-1986) were important and influential figures in the history of the Latrobe Valley; John Hall in the early development of infrastructure, and Alan Hall as the eight-times Mayor of Morwell Shire. Although members of the Hall family have made valuable contributions to the district, this contribution cannot be said to have resonated across Victoria more broadly.

Step 1 of Criterion H is likely to be satisfied.

Step 2: State Level Significance Test for Criterion H

The place/object allows the clear association with the person or group of persons to be *READILY APPRECIATED BETTER THAN MOST OTHER PLACES OR OBJECTS IN VICTORIA*.

Executive Director's Response

There are many places in Victoria which are associated with the Education Department, including State schools constructed from 1873 to present day. All have the potential to allow this association to be readily appreciated.

Criterion H is not likely to be satisfied at the State level.

Statement of recommendation from the Executive Director, Heritage Victoria to the Heritage Council of Victoria

Comparisons

While there are many nineteenth and early twentieth century State schools in the VHR, there are relatively few which compare directly with School No. 2864 (Budgeree Primary School). The majority of State schools in the VHR are typically multi-storey buildings of brick, or occasionally stone, construction. By comparison, there are relatively few single-room State schools or schools of timber construction in the VHR. As such, it is necessary to also compare School No. 2864 (Budgeree Primary School) with places not in the VHR.

Single-room State schools in the VHR

Former Kerrie Primary School No. 1290, 7 Cherokee Road, Kerrie, Macedon Ranges Shire (VHR H1631) – Destroyed by fire in 2021

The Former Kerrie Primary School No. 1290 was architecturally important as one of two identified Old Style (1875-79) Education Department portables remaining in Victoria. The school was also a rare example of a prefabricated timber building. The Former Kerrie Primary School demonstrated the early and common practice by the Education Department of using portable buildings due to the ever-changing nature of local populations during the late nineteenth century.



Little Hampton Primary School No. 1700, 113 Glenlyon-Little Hampton Road, Little Hampton, Hepburn Shire (VHR H0843)

Constructed in 1876, Little Hampton Primary School is one of few remaining 80-type timber schools in Victoria. It is historically significant as an early example of the types of facilities provided under the Education Department's 'free, secular and compulsory' system of education.



Statement of recommendation from the Executive Director, Heritage Victoria to the Heritage Council of Victoria

Primary School No. 2120 (Long Gully), 17 Jackson Street, Long Gully, Greater Bendigo City (VHR H0968)

Long Gully Primary School was constructed from 1879 to a design by Henry Bastow (1839-1920), the inaugural architect for the Victorian Department of Education. The place comprises a multi-roomed brick school with a verandah, and a free-standing timber classroom. It is significant as a high-quality yet representative example of Bastow's work.



Single-room State schools in Victoria (not in the VHR, but included in Heritage Overlays)

There are many single-room State schools across Victoria that are comparable to the Budgeree School, a great many of which are in local heritage overlays. The places listed following the examples below are indicative of the number of timber single-room State schools in Victoria which have local heritage protection.

Former Corack East Primary School at Watchem Primary School (c.1880), 17-19 Waddell Street, Watchem, Buloke Shire Planning Scheme HO262

The Former Corack East Primary School was built c.1880 and relocated to Watchem Primary School in 1974. Designed by the Education Department, the Former Corack East school building exhibits the typical design qualities of a Victorian-era weatherboard school including a main gable wing with a smaller gabled porch wing, timber-framed double-hung windows with multi-panes, weatherboard wall cladding and a corrugated galvanised iron roof. The building is architecturally significant to the Watchem district.



Statement of recommendation from the Executive Director, Heritage Victoria to the Heritage Council of Victoria

Former Seaview State School No. 2636 (c.1885), 26 Seaview School Road, Seaview, Baw Baw Shire Planning Scheme HO19

Along with the nearby Seaview Hall, the Former Seaview State School is the only extant public building in Seaview. It is a single-room school of timber construction, typical of many similar buildings erected throughout Victoria during the nineteenth century. Both the former school and its associated hall remain a focal point of the Seaview community and are protected by a local heritage overlay.



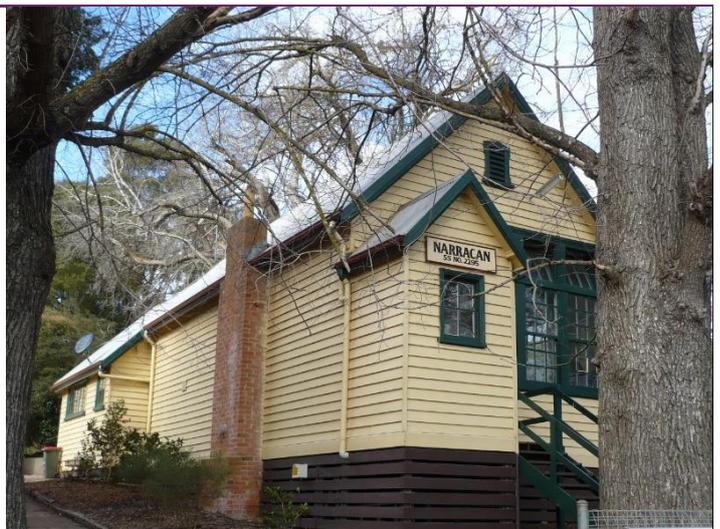
Former Warrak State School No. 834 (1886) and Former Tatyoon State School No. 1812 (1877) 1663 Warrak Road, Warrak, Ararat Shire Planning Scheme HO216

The Former Warrak and Tatyoon State schools are historically, aesthetically and socially significant to the Ararat district. Both school buildings reflect the shifting nature of small rural populations, having been relocated several times. The buildings are also substantially intact examples of Victorian-era weatherboard State schools and demonstrate the standard form of schools constructed across Victoria from the late-nineteenth century.



Narracan Primary School No. 2295 (1891), 32 School Road, Narracan, Baw Baw Shire Planning Scheme HO256

Narracan Primary School was constructed in 1891 as a single-room schoolhouse, and was expanded in 1912. The place is notable for its retention of its sloyd room, a once common feature in Victorian schools, which demonstrates the differing educational facilities for male students in the early twentieth century. Narracan Primary School is socially significant to the Narracan community, having operated as a school for over 110 years.



Statement of recommendation from the Executive Director, Heritage Victoria to the Heritage Council of Victoria

Former Fumina South Primary School No. 3396 at Hill End Primary School No. 3054 (1900), 22-24 Paynters Road, Hill End, Baw Baw Shire Planning Scheme HO273

The Former Fumina South Primary School is one of the smallest single-room schools designed and constructed by the Education Department during the early twentieth century. It illustrates the types of facilities that were provided to remote communities by the Education Department, as well as the portable nature of such school buildings. The site also features a representative example of a 1930s detached teachers residence.



Former Wando Vale School (1906), 628 Casterton-Edenhope Road, Wando Vale, Glenelg Shire Planning Scheme HO259

The Former Wando Vale School is a substantially intact example of an early twentieth century rural school. The landscape surrounding the school building has retained its original perimeter planting of sugar gums, which was a typical school garden design of the period. The design of the school building is typical of State schools built at the turn of the twentieth century.



Statement of recommendation from the Executive Director, Heritage Victoria to the Heritage Council of Victoria



**Former Tyrendarra State School No. 1630 (1875)
125 Tyrendarra School Road, Tyrendarra, Glenelg
Shire Planning Scheme HO254**



**Former Mandurang South Primary School No. 1628 (1875)
86 Mandurang South Road, Mandurang South, Greater
Bendigo City Planning Scheme HO712**



**Former Longlea State School No. 1921 (c.1875)
26 Longlea Lane, Longlea, Greater Bendigo City
Planning Scheme HO791**



**Drummond State School No. 1848 (1876-77)
Drummond-Lauriston Road, Drummond, Hepburn Shire
Planning Scheme HO850**



**Former Kanumbra State School No. 1932 (1877)
276 Kanumbra-Gobur Road, Gobur, Murrindindi Shire
Planning Scheme HO60**



**Former Corindhap State School No. 1906 (1877)
39 School Road, Corindhap, Golden Plains Shire Planning
Scheme HO110**

Statement of recommendation from the Executive Director, Heritage Victoria to the Heritage Council of Victoria



State School No. 2105 and Former Residence (c.1878)
275 Eltham-Yarra Glen Road, Kangaroo Ground,
Nillumbik Shire Planning Scheme HO47



Primary School No. 2210 and Residence (1879)
275 Barongarook Road, Barongarook, Colac Otway Shire
Planning Scheme HO29



Watchem Primary School (c.1880)
17-19 Waddell Street, Watchem, Buloke Shire Planning
Scheme HO262



Tallangatta Primary School (1887)
1 Wonga Grove, Tallangatta, Towong Shire Planning Scheme
HO72



St Andrews State School No. 128 (c.1887)
35 Caledonia Street, St Andrews, Nillumbik Shire
Planning Scheme HO20

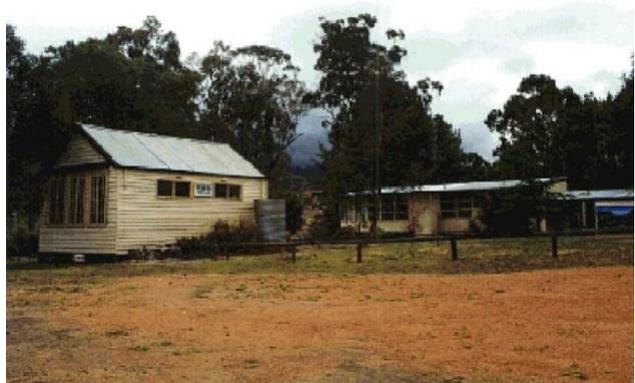


Walwa Primary School (c.1887)
4 Main Street, Walwa, Towong Shire Planning Scheme HO92

Statement of recommendation from the Executive Director, Heritage Victoria to the Heritage Council of Victoria



Former Boolarra State School No. 2617 (c.1890)
31-33 Tarwin Street, Boolarra, Latrobe City Planning Scheme HO15



Upper Sandy Creek School No. 3145 (1890s)
Sandy Creek Road, Sandy Creek, Indigo Shire Planning Scheme HO645



Former Crossover State School No. 3131 (1900)
31 School Road, Crossover, Baw Baw Shire Planning Scheme HO266



Former Glenburn Primary School No. 3344 (1900)
3873 Melba Highway, Glenburn, Murrindindi Shire Planning Scheme HO56



Former Mongans Bridge School (1902)
42 Bay Creek Lane, Mongans Bridge, Alpine Shire Planning Scheme HO130



Thornton State School No. 1371 (1902)
9 Back Eildon Road, Thornton, Murrindindi Shire Planning Scheme HO90

Statement of recommendation from the Executive Director, Heritage Victoria to the Heritage Council of Victoria



Former Berrivillock State School (1906)
18 McClelland Street, Berrivillock, Buloke Shire
Planning Scheme HO148



Former Heyfield Primary School (1907)
22-40 Temple Street, Heyfield, Wellington Shire Planning
Scheme HO310



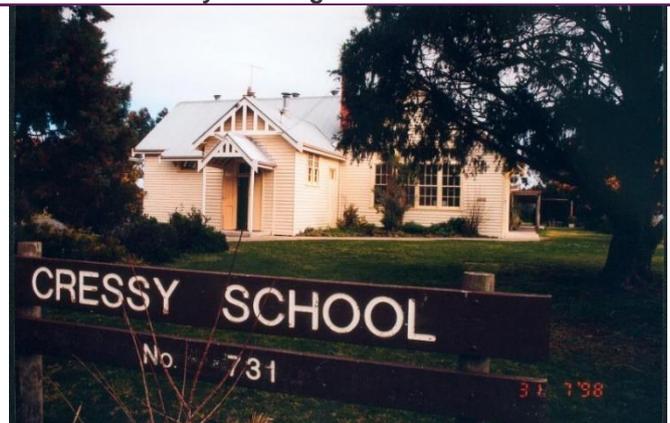
Former Miepoll School No. 2480 (c.1907)
37 Miepoll School Road, Miepoll, Strathbogie Shire
Planning Scheme HO65



Moyhu Public School (1910)
2799 Wangaratta-Whitfield Road, Moyhu, Wangaratta Rural
City Planning Scheme HO209



Former Gunbower Island State School No. 3503 (1911)
School Island Road, Gunbower, Campaspe Shire
Planning Scheme HO601



Cressy Primary School No. 731 (1912)
17-21 Yarima Road, Cressy, Colac Otway Planning Scheme
HO175

Statement of recommendation from the Executive Director, Heritage Victoria to the Heritage Council of Victoria



Former Moondarra State School No. 2320 (1913)
251-255 Old Coach Road, Moondarra, Baw Baw Shire
Planning Scheme HO290



Former Cloverlea Primary School No. 3520 (1914)
501 Darnum-Allambee Road, Cloverlea, Baw Baw Shire
Planning Scheme HO215



Walpeup Primary School (1914)
14 Glen Street, Walpeup, Mildura Regional City
Planning Scheme HO473



Former Westmere State School No. 3833 (c.1914)
18-28 School Road, Westmere, Ararat Shire Planning
Scheme HO221

Statement of recommendation from the Executive Director, Heritage Victoria to the Heritage Council of Victoria



Former Woolamai State School No. 3856 (1915)
722 Turnbull-Woolamai Road, Woolamai, Bass Coast
Shire Planning Scheme HO181



Wood Wood State School No. 3353 (1915)
Murray Valley Highway, Wood Wood, Swan Hill Rural City
Planning Scheme HO202



Carlisle River Primary School (1916)
55 Moomowroong Road, Carlisle River, Colac Otway
Shire Planning Scheme HO105



Hoddles Creek Primary School (1916)
700 Gembrook-Launching Place Road, Hoddles Creek,
Yarra Ranges Shire Planning Scheme HO180

Statement of recommendation from the Executive Director, Heritage Victoria to the Heritage Council of Victoria



Former Nandaly School (c.1916)
30-32 McKenzie Street, Nandaly, Buloke Shire
Planning Scheme HO220



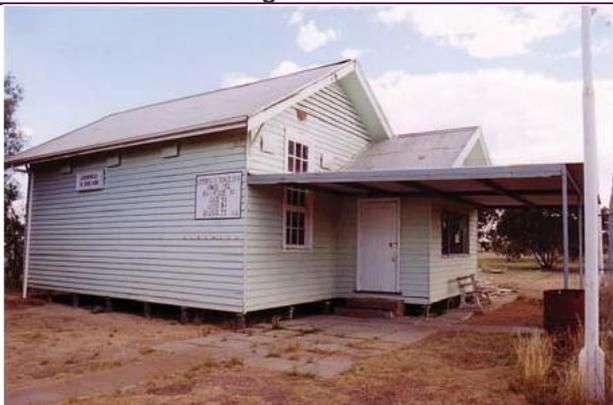
Former Ferndale State School No. 3571
(early twentieth century)
Ferndale-Strzelecki Road, Ferndale, Baw Baw Shire Planning
Scheme HO189



Powlett River Primary School (early twentieth century)
9-21 Bent Street, Dalyston, Bass Coast Shire
Planning Scheme HO65



Former Emu Flat State School No. 1232
55 Emu Flat-Baynton Road, Nulla Vale, Mitchell Shire
Planning Scheme HO299



Former Litchfield State School
14 Main Street, Litchfield, Buloke Shire Planning
Scheme HO212



**Former Hilldene State School No. 2361 & Kurruc Creek
State School No. 2212**
High Street, Broadford, Mitchell Shire Planning Scheme
HO11

Statement of recommendation from the Executive Director, Heritage Victoria to the Heritage Council of Victoria



Former Childers Primary School No. 2350
984 Allambee-Childers Road, Childers, Baw Baw
Shire Planning Scheme HO263



Former Waitchie State School
Waitchie Road, Waitchie, Swan Hill Rural City Planning
Scheme HO190



Former Gobur State School No. 3939
20 Anzac Avenue, Hurstbridge, Nillumbik Shire
Planning Scheme HO3



Former Nariel Creek School (1922)
2 Towong Road, Corryong, Towong Shire Planning Scheme
HO36

Summary of Comparisons

Single-room State schools in the VHR

The VHR contains many examples of State schools, although very few are of timber construction. Prior to 1872, it was not unusual for single-room schools to be built from brick or stone. However, this practice became less common following the formation of the Education Department and the shift in focus towards school buildings that could be readily moved or repurposed.

Little Hampton Primary School No. 1700 (VHR H0843) and Primary School No. 2121, Long Gully (VHR H0968) are substantially larger than the Budgeree School, having been constructed for upwards of 80 students. The former is recognised as one of few remaining single-room State schools of this scale, while the latter is primarily significant for its elaborate 1879 brick school building designed by the Education Department's inaugural Architect and Surveyor, Henry Bastow.

Statement of recommendation from the Executive Director, Heritage Victoria to the Heritage Council of Victoria

The Former Kerrie Primary School No. 1290 (VHR H1631) was destroyed by fire in mid-2021 but was the most comparable in scale to the Budgeree School. It was a rare example of an 'Old Style' prefabricated school, the earliest type of portable school building developed by the Education Department which was briefly supplied to rural Victoria between 1875 and the early 1880s. The Former Kerrie school also retained its attached teachers' quarters, a typical feature of single-room schools built before c.1890.²³

Single-room State schools in Victoria (not in the VHR, in HOs)

Between 1873 and 1890, over 800 timber single-room schools were built across Victoria. More than three-quarters of these were smaller constructions similar to the Budgeree School, capable of accommodating thirty or forty students. While larger timber single-room schools were also built during this period (e.g., Little Hampton Primary School No. 1700, VHR H0843), they were relatively uncommon.²⁴

Other known extant examples of single-room schools built for fewer than forty students include the Former Djerriwarrh Creek State School (Moorabool Shire Planning Scheme HO180), the Former Kanumbra State School No. 1932, the Former Myrning Primary School No. 487 (Moorabool Shire Planning Scheme HO192), and the Former Murphys Creek State School No. 1582 (Central Goldfields Shire Planning Scheme HO15).

Relocation of single-room schools

School buildings of a similar scale to Budgeree are extant in many locations across Victoria. In several instances, these school buildings have been moved from their original location, either for re-use at a larger nearby school or for other purposes. Such examples include:

- Former Corack East Primary – built c.1880 and relocated to Watchem Primary School in 1974.
- Former Warrak State School No. 834 – built in 1886 in Ballyrogan and relocated to Warrak in 1935.
- Former Tatyoon State School No. 1812 – built in 1877 and moved to Warrak during the early 1900s.
- Former Fumina South Primary School – relocated to Hill End Primary School.
- St. Andrews State School No. 128 – built c.1876 in Smith's Gully, relocated to present site c.1887.
- Wood Wood State School No. 3353 – built in Narrung in 1923, moved to current site in the late 1970s.
- Former Hilldene State School No. 2361 – originally constructed in Hilldene, relocated to Kurruc Creek in 1928, then to Broadford in 1995 to serve as a local history museum.
- Former Gobur State School No. 3939 – constructed in 1886 and relocated to Hurstbridge in 1947 to form part of a Scout hall.

There are likely to be many other examples of single-room schools that have been moved to new locations, whether for educational purposes or otherwise. At Budgeree, an earlier school building was relocated to a nearby private property for residential use. Similar examples may exist elsewhere in Victoria outside heritage overlays.

Alteration and expansion

In slightly larger communities, single-room school buildings continue to be used for educational purposes. While the original single-room building is still discernible in most cases, the setting of each school has been altered with the addition of sympathetic extensions, sheltered walkways and modern outbuildings. Places that have been largely altered to accommodate a growing student population include:

- Drummond State School No. 1848 (Hepburn Shire)
- Tallangatta Primary School (Towong Shire)
- St. Andrews State School No. 128 (Nillumbik Shire)

²³ Burchell, Lawrence E., *Victorian Schools: a study in colonial government architecture 1837-1900*, Melbourne University Press, 1980, p.117; pp.123-26.

²⁴ Burchell, Lawrence E., *Victorian Schools: a study in colonial government architecture 1837-1900*, Melbourne University Press, 1980, p.114.

Statement of recommendation from the Executive Director, Heritage Victoria to the Heritage Council of Victoria

- Walwa Primary School (Towong Shire)
- Narracan Primary School No. 2295 (Baw Baw Shire)
- Thornton State School No. 1371 (Murrindindi Shire)
- Walpeup Primary School (Mildura Regional City)
- Carlisle River Primary School (Colac Otway Shire)
- Hoddles Creek Primary School (Yarra Ranges Shire)
- Powlett River Primary School (Bass Coast Shire).

In comparison, the Budgeree School is one of several places which has remained as a standalone structure since its construction. Similar examples exist elsewhere in heritage overlays across Victoria.

Teachers' quarters and shelter sheds

A detached teachers' quarters was constructed at Budgeree in 1914 and remains there to this day, although it has since been subdivided from the school property. There are several other examples of single-room schools in Victoria which remain in proximity to their associated outbuildings. Free-standing teachers' quarters and shelter sheds, similar to those at the Budgeree School, are among the more common types of outbuildings. Those with extant detached teachers' quarters include:

- Former Boolarra State School No. 2617
- Former Westmere State School No. 3833
- Hill End Primary School No. 3054
- Former Moondarra State School No. 3628
- Drummond State School No. 1848
- Former Longlea State School No. 1921

Similarly, extant shelter sheds can be observed at places including the Former Gannawarra North State School No. 4547, the Former Westmere State School No. 3833, Gunbower Island State School No. 3503, and the Former Moondarra State School No. 3628.

Statement of recommendation from the Executive Director, Heritage Victoria to the Heritage Council of Victoria

Appendix 1

Heritage Council of Victoria determination (section 41)

The Heritage Council of Victoria is an independent statutory body that will make a determination on this recommendation under section 49 of the Act. It will consider the recommendation after a period of 60 days from the date the notice of recommendation is published on its website under section 41.

Making a submission to the Heritage Council (section 44)

Within the period of 60 days, any person or body with a real and substantial interest in the place or object may make a submission to the Heritage Council regarding the recommendation and request a hearing in relation to that submission. Information about making a submission and submission forms are available on the Heritage Council's website.

Consideration of submissions to the Heritage Council (section 46)

- (1) The Heritage Council must consider—
 - (a) any written submission made to it under section 44; and
 - (b) any further information provided to the Heritage Council in response to a request under section 45.
- (2) The Heritage Council must conduct a hearing in relation to a submission if—
 - (a) the submission includes a request for a hearing before the Heritage Council; and
 - (b) the submission is made by a person or body with a real or substantial interest in the place or object that is the subject of the submission.
- (3) Despite subsection (2), the Heritage Council may conduct a hearing in relation to a submission in any other circumstances the Heritage Council considers appropriate.

Determinations of the Heritage Council (section 49)

- (1) After considering a recommendation that a place or object should or should not be included in the Heritage Register and any submissions in respect of the recommendation and conducting any hearing into the submissions, the Heritage Council may—
 - (a) determine that the place or part of the place, or object, is of State-level cultural heritage significance and is to be included in the Heritage Register; or
 - (b) determine that the place or part of the place, or object, is not of State-level cultural heritage significance and is not to be included in the Heritage Register; or
 - (c) in the case of a recommendation in respect of a place, determine that the place is not to be included in the Heritage Register but—
 - (i) refer the recommendation and any submissions to the relevant planning authority for consideration for an amendment to a planning scheme; or
 - (ii) determine that it is more appropriate for steps to be taken under the Planning and Environment Act 1987 or by any other means to protect or conserve the place; or
 - (d) in the case of a recommendation in respect of additional land which has been nominated to be included in the Heritage Register as part of a registered place in accordance with section 32, determine that the land be included in the Heritage Register if—

Statement of recommendation from the Executive Director, Heritage Victoria to the Heritage Council of Victoria

- (i) the State-level cultural heritage significance of the place would be substantially less if the land or any part of the land which is or has been used in conjunction with the place were developed; or
 - (ii) the land surrounding the place is important to the protection or conservation of the place or contributes to the understanding of the place; or
 - (e) determine that the object is integral to understanding the cultural heritage significance of a registered place or a place the Heritage Council has determined to be included in the Heritage Register.
- (2) The Heritage Council must make a determination under subsection (1)—
- (a) within 40 days after the date on which written submissions may be made under section 44; or
 - (b) if any hearing is conducted into the written submissions, within 90 days after the completion of the hearing.
- (3) A determination that a place or part of a place, or object, should be included in the Heritage Register may include categories of works or activities which may be carried out in relation to the place or object for which a permit under this Act is not required, if the Heritage Council considers that the works or activities would not harm the cultural heritage significance of the place or object.
- (4) If the Heritage Council determines to include a place in the Heritage Register, with the consent of the owner of the place, the Heritage Council may determine to include in the Heritage Register additional land of the owner that is ancillary to the place.
- (5) If a member of the Heritage Council makes a submission under section 44 in respect of a recommendation, the member must not take part in the consideration or determination of the Heritage Council.
- (6) The Heritage Council must notify the Executive Director of any determination under this section as soon as practicable after the determination.

Obligations of owners of places and objects (section 42)

- (1) The owner of a place or object to whom a statement of recommendation has been given must advise the Executive Director in writing of—
- (a) any works or activities that are being carried out in relation to the place or object at the time the statement is given; and
 - (b) any application for a planning permit or a building permit, or for an amendment to that permit, that has been made in relation to the place but not determined at the time the statement is given; and
 - (c) any works or activities that are proposed to be carried out in relation to the place or object at the time the statement is given.
- (2) An advice under subsection (1) must be given within 10 days after the statement of recommendation is given under section 40.
- (3) The owner of a place to whom a statement of recommendation has been given must advise the Executive Director in writing of an application, permit or amendment if, before a determination under section 49 or 52 in respect of a place—
- (a) an application for a planning permit or a building permit or for an amendment to that permit in relation to the place is made; or
 - (b) a planning permit or building permit or an amendment to that permit in relation to the place is granted.

Statement of recommendation from the Executive Director, Heritage Victoria to the Heritage Council of Victoria

- (4) An advice under subsection (3) must be given within 10 days after the making of the application or the grant of the permit or amendment.
- (5) The owner of a place or object to whom a statement of recommendation has been given must advise the Executive Director in writing of the following activities or proposals if, before a determination is made under section 49 or 52 in respect of a place or object—
 - (a) any activities are carried out in relation to the place or object that could harm the place or object;
 - (b) any activities are proposed to be carried out in relation to the place or object that could harm the place or object.
- (6) An advice under subsection (5) must be given within 10 days after the owner becomes aware of the activity or the proposal, as the case requires.
- (7) If, before a determination is made under section 49 or 52 in respect of a place or object, a proposal is made to dispose of the whole or any part of the place or object, the owner of the place or object must advise the Executive Director in writing of that proposal.
- (8) An advice under subsection (7) must be given at least 10 days before entering into the contract for the disposal of the place or object.
- (9) The owner of a place or object who proposes to dispose of the whole or any part of the place or object before a determination is made under section 49 or 52 in respect of the place or object must, before entering into a contract for that disposal, give a copy of the statement of proposed contract, is to acquire the place or object or part of the place or object.

Owners of places and objects must comply with obligations (section 43)

An owner of a place or object to whom section 42 applies must comply with that section.

Penalty: In the case of a natural person, 120 penalty units;
 In the case of a body corporate, 240 penalty units.