

# FORMER YALLOURN POWER STATION ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING



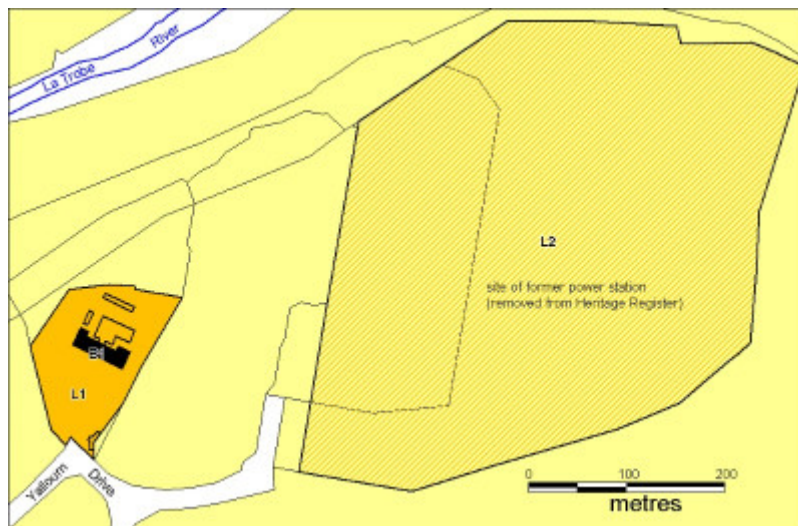
FORMER YALLOURN POWER STATION ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING  
SOHE 2008



1 former yallourn power station administrative building



1 yallourn a b c d & e power stations latrobe valley  
yallourn property view



former yallourn power station administrative building plan

## Location

YALLOURN DRIVE YALLOURN, LATROBE CITY

## Municipality

LATROBE CITY

## Level of significance

Registered

## Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

H1054

## Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO6

## VHR Registration

March 15, 2001

## Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Register

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

What is significant?

The State Electricity Commission was formed in 1918 in response to increased demands for electricity and the dependence on erratic New South Wales coal supplies. It was planned to exploit the large deposits of brown coal in the La Trobe Valley. The planning, construction and operation of Yallourn was carried out under the direction of Australia's most famous soldier and engineer, Sir John Monash. The first Yallourn Power Station was opened in 1924. Located alongside and operating in conjunction with an extensive open-cut brown coal deposit, the station quickly established brown coal as a viable fuel source and expansion followed. "B" Station was completed in 1938; "C" Station in 1956; "D" Station in 1958 and "E" Station in 1962. From its inception in 1924 until the 1950s, the Yallourn power station was the base-load power station for the Victorian electricity grid. But the Yallourn Station was rapidly displaced by advancing technology in the 1960s and the 1970s, and by the late 1980s, was a relatively insignificant contributor to the grid, ceasing generation altogether in 1989. Throughout its sixty-five years of operation, it was a central element in the state electricity network and pioneered the technological development of large scale brown coal use for energy production in Victoria. The Yallourn Power Station was included in the Victorian Heritage Register in 1994 but was permitted to be demolished.

The only remnant of the earliest period of power generation at Yallourn is the Administrative Building designed in the SEC architectural department under the direction of chief architect AR La Gersch. The two storey brick building in Inter-war Academic Classical style features a portico with giant order Ionic columns. The building has a garden and pond and is set rather incongruously amongst large industrial buildings. The building was the administrative headquarters of the power station from its construction in 1922-23 until its redundancy in the mid 1980s. It was sold in 1996 and has operated since then mainly as an entertainment venue. Despite losing virtually all internal fittings and joinery over the years, and despite unsympathetic modern additions at the rear, the building is in relatively good condition and exhibits a high degree of external integrity.

How is it significant?

The former Yallourn Power Station Administrative Building is historically, socially and architecturally significant to the State of Victoria.

Why is it significant?

The former Yallourn Power Station Administrative Building is historically important as a key component of the first power station complex in Victoria designed to provide state-wide public supply of electricity. It is also significant for its part, under the visionary leadership of Sir John Monash, in the innovative use of brown coal for power generation in Australia and the first step in Victoria's independence from NSW coal supply. The power station

complex of which it was an integral part has additional symbolic value as the first major industrial plant in the Latrobe Valley and therefore a major historical milestone in the industrial development of Victoria.

The former Yallourn Power Station Administrative Building is historically and socially important as the last remnant of the earliest period industrial development in the La Trobe Valley. The generation of electricity in the Valley has been a cornerstone of Victoria's economy, particularly after the Second World War when the abundant and reliable supply of electricity stimulated the development of manufacturing industries throughout the State. The massive increase in power generation capability provided by the Yallourn Power Station was socially important for its improvement to domestic life through the introduction of labour saving electric appliances, and generally enhanced health, occupational safety and leisure.

The former Yallourn Power Station Administrative Building is of architectural interest as an imposing design by SEC architect AR La Gersch who also designed the Yallourn township and the SEC's administrative building in Flinders Street.

## Permit Exemptions

### General Exemptions:

General exemptions apply to all places and objects included in the Victorian Heritage Register (VHR). General exemptions have been designed to allow everyday activities, maintenance and changes to your property, which don't harm its cultural heritage significance, to proceed without the need to obtain approvals under the Heritage Act 2017.

Places of worship: In some circumstances, you can alter a place of worship to accommodate religious practices without a permit, but you must **notify** the Executive Director of Heritage Victoria before you start the works or activities at least 20 business days before the works or activities are to commence.

Subdivision/consolidation: Permit exemptions exist for some subdivisions and consolidations. If the subdivision or consolidation is in accordance with a planning permit granted under Part 4 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* and the application for the planning permit was referred to the Executive Director of Heritage Victoria as a determining referral authority, a permit is not required.

Specific exemptions may also apply to your registered place or object. If applicable, these are listed below. Specific exemptions are tailored to the conservation and management needs of an individual registered place or object and set out works and activities that are exempt from the requirements of a permit. Specific exemptions prevail if they conflict with general exemptions.

Find out more about heritage permit exemptions [here](#).

### Specific Exemptions:

General Conditions:

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.
2. Should it become apparent during further inspection or the carrying out of alterations 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 alteration shall cease and the Executive Director shall be notified as soon as possible.
3. If there is a conservation policy and plan approved by the Executive Director, all works shall be in accordance with it.
4. Nothing in this declaration prevents the Executive Director from amending or rescinding all or any of the permit exemptions.
5. Nothing in this declaration exempts owners or their agents from the responsibility to seek relevant planning or

building permits from the responsible authority where applicable.

#### Exterior

- \* Minor repairs and maintenance which replace like with like.
- \* All works including demolition, removal or replacement of rear, later additions to B1 and making good.
- \* All works to the gatehouse within its current envelope but including demolition.
- \* Demolition or removal of outbuildings, garages and sheds to the rear of B1.
- \* Construction of new buildings to the rear of B1, provided that such buildings do not exceed the height of B1.
- \* Removal of extraneous items such as, pipe work, ducting, wiring, antennae, aerials etc, and making good.
- \* Removal of paint from brickwork by chemical or non-abrasive methods.
- \* Installation or repair of damp-proofing by either injection method or grouted pocket method.
- \* Regular garden maintenance, pruning of trees and repair to landscape elements.

#### Interior

- \* All non-structural internal works.

Construction dates            1922,  
Architect/Designer            La Gerche, A.R.,  
Heritage Act Categories      Registered place,  
Hermes Number                11491  
Property Number

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## Extent of Registration

### NOTICE OF REGISTRATION

As Executive Director for the purpose of the Heritage Act, I give notice under section 46 that the Victorian Heritage Register is amended in that the Heritage Register Number 1054 in the category described as a Heritage place is now described as:

Former Yallourn Power Station Administrative Building, Yallourn Drive, Yallourn North, La Trobe Shire Council

#### EXTENT:

1. All the building (excluding modern rear additions) marked B1 on diagram 1054 held by the Executive Director.
2. All the land marked L1 on Diagram 1054 held by the Executive Director being all the land described in certificate of title Volume 10303 Fol. 288.
3. Removal of the land marked L2 on diagram 1054 held by the Executive Director from the Victorian Heritage Register being the land gazetted on 10 November 1994.

Dated 13 March 2001

RAY TONKIN  
Executive Director

[Victoria Government Gazette G 11 15 March 2001 414]

*This place/object may be included in the Victorian Heritage Register pursuant to the Heritage Act 2017. Check the Victorian Heritage Database, selecting 'Heritage Victoria' as the place source.*

*For further details about Heritage Overlay places, contact the relevant local council or go to Planning Schemes Online <http://planningschemes.dpcd.vic.gov.au/>*