VICTORIA FALLS HYDRO-ELECTRIC POWER STATION

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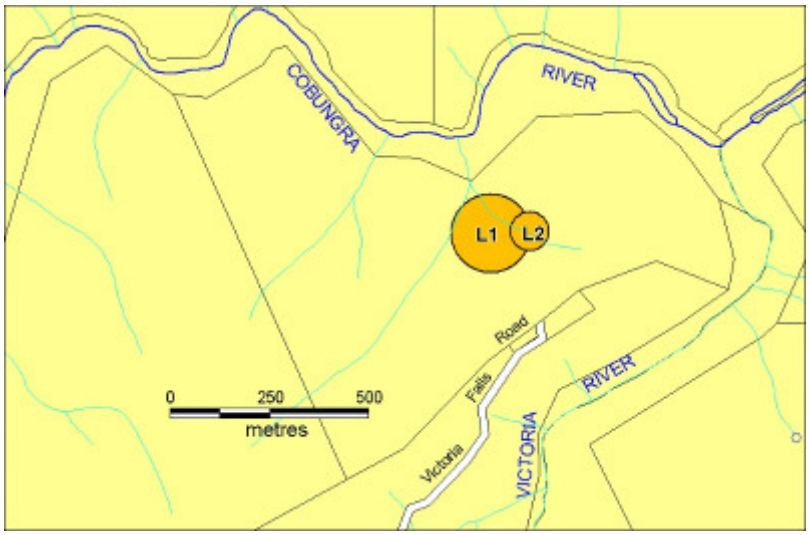

victoria falls plan

Location

VICTORIA FALLS ROAD COBUNGRA, EAST GIPPSLAND SHIRE

Municipality

EAST GIPPSLAND SHIRE

Level of significance

Registered

Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

H1942

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO235

VHR Registration

September 13, 2001

Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Register

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - April 7, 2021

What is significant?
The Victoria Falls Hydro-Electric Power Station was constructed by the Cassilis Gold Mining Company on the Cobungra River, just below the Victoria Falls. It is the site of Victoria?s earliest large-scale hydro-electric power scheme constructed for gold mining purposes. Power was generated through a Pelton wheel. The scheme was completed in 1907, and by 1909 all steam engines at the mine in Power?s Gully at Cassilis had been replaced with electric motors. The power station operated until the mine closed in 1916. The machinery from the power station was sold and removed to Tasmania where it continued it involvement with the mining industry. The significant visible components of the site are:
* Concrete and stone foundations of the power station.
* Settling dam with masonry outlet
* Pipeline route

How is it significant?
The Victoria Falls Hydro-Electric Power Station is of historical and technological significance to the State of Victoria.

Why is it significant?
The Victoria Falls Hydro-Electric Power Station is historically important due to its association with the construction of Victoria?s earliest gold related hydro-electric scheme. The gold mine was located at Cassilis, 27kms away.

The Victoria Falls Hydro-Electric Power Station is of technological importance for the survival of a range of foundations and earthworks that illustrate all aspects of the underlying technology. No other site of its age and type retains this evidence. The site is archaeologically important for its potential to yield artefacts and evidence which may be able to contribute to an understanding of the use of hydro electric power in Victoria.

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.
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.
Exemptions of Permit
No permits are required for the following classes of works:
* Works required to leave abandoned adits in a safe condition.
* Undertaking of safety and access works to restrict vehicular access to the site and minimise removal of machinery and foot traffic near or on foundations.
* Repairs to the tailings pond.
* Installation of information signage for interpretation and public risk purposes.
* On-site works confined to protect and stabilise buildings and structures.
* Control of pest plants and animals.

Exemption Review
Permit exemptions will be reviewed in conjunction with a Conservation Management Plan when supplied by the owners and to the satisfaction of the Executive Director.

Construction dates	1907,
Heritage Act Categories	Registered place,
Hermes Number	11869
Property Number	

History

Contextual History: HISTORY OF PLACE
In 1907, the Cassilis GMC constructed a hydro-electric power station on the Cobungra River, about 6.5 km from its junction with the Victoria River, just below the Victoria Falls. Water from Victoria River was delivered to the power station by a race built along the spur separating the Cobungra and Victoria Rivers. The race was unlined and measured 3 ft deep, 4 ft wide at the bottom, and 7 ft wide at the top. It filled a settling dam at the top of the spur, from which point water was delivered to the power plant by 1650 ft of piping, which reduced in size from 34 inches to 38 inches diameter. The powe station was equipped with a Voith pelton wheel, and began operating in 1908. A power line ran between the power station and the Cassilis mine, a distance of some 27 km.A holding dam of 250 million-gallon capacity was to have been constructed on the Victoria River, at the commencement of the water race, but this was not done. As a result, an insufficient supply of water caused frequent power shortages and stoppages at the Cassilis mine. The power station's poor performance was largely to blame for the ultimate closure of the Cassilis mine in 1916. Early in that year, a dam was built above the power plant, but the first substantial rains washed it away. The power plant was sold to a Tasmanian silver mine in 1917.

Assessment Against Criteria

Criterion Criterion A
The historical importance, association with or relationship to Victoria's history of the place or object.
It is the site of Victoria's earliest large-scale hydro-electric power scheme constructed for gold mining purposes. Power was generated through a Pelton wheel. The scheme was completed in 1907, and by 1909 all steam engines at the mine in Power's Gully at Cassilis had been replaced with electric motors. The power station operated until the mine closed in 1916. Criterion B
The importance of a place or object in demonstrating rarity or uniqueness.
The Victoria Falls Hydro-Electric Power Station is of technological importance for the survival of a range of foundations and earthworks that illustrate all aspects of the underlying technology. No other site of its age and type retains this evidence. Criterion C
The place or object's potential to educate, illustrate or provide further scientific investigation in relation to Victoria's cultural heritage.
The site is archaeologically important for its potential to yield artefacts and evidence which may be able to contribute to an understanding of the use of hydro electric power in Victoria. Criterion D
The importance of a place or object in exhibiting the principal characteristics or the representative nature of a place or object as part of a class or type of places or objects. Criterion E
The importance of the place or object in exhibiting good design or aesthetic characteristics and/or in exhibiting a richness, diversity or unusual integration of features. Criterion F
The importance of the place or object in demonstrating or being associated with scientific or technical innovations or achievements.
The Victoria Falls Hydro-Electric Power Station is of technological importance for the survival of a range of foundations and earthworks that illustrate all aspects of the underlying technology. No other site of its age and type retains this evidence. Criterion G
The importance of the place or object in demonstrating social or cultural associations. Criterion H
Any other matter which the Council considers relevant to the determination of cultural heritage significance

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 by including the Heritage Register Number 1942 in the category described as a Heritage place.

Victoria Falls Hydro-Electric Power Station, Victoria Falls Road, Cobungra, East Gippsland Shire Council.

EXTENT:

1. All of the Crown land including above ground features associated with the generation of electric power and all archaeological relics and deposits within 100 metre radius of power station foundations or Australian Map Grid co-ordinates E404 N967 on 1: 100,000 map sheet number 8323, Dargo shown marked L1 on Diagram 1942 held by the Executive Director and 50 metre radius of the settling Dam or Australian Map Grid co-ordinates E405 N965 on 1:100,000 map sheet number 8323, Dargo shown marked L2 on Diagram 1942 held by the Executive

Director.

Dated 11 September 2001

RAY TONKIN
Executive Director

[*Victoria Government Gazette* G 37 13 September 2001 2318]