
STRZELECKI RAILWAY STATION AND TURNTABLE

Location

2 WILD DOG ROAD STRZELECKI, SOUTH GIPPSLAND SHIRE

Municipality

SOUTH GIPPSLAND SHIRE

Level of significance

Heritage Inventory Site

Heritage Inventory (HI) Number

H8021-0051

Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Inventory

Interpretation of Site	The site represents the turntable which allowed locomotives to turn at the end of the line. The turntable pit is quite well preserved including a circular depression and concrete sleepers. To the north west, the passenger platform mound was bulldozed away in 1991, but a short section of track bed is preserved immediately before the platform area.
Archaeological Significance	The site has a low potential for sub-surface deposits or structural elements relating to the station.
Historical Significance	The site is significant for its association with the Koo-Wee-Rup to Strzelecki line branch line of the south Gippsland Railway. Its presence at this fairly inaccessible location reflects considerable effort and determination on the part of the railway engineers of the day.
Hermes Number	156520
Property Number	

History

The former Great Southern Railway (South Gippsland line), which opened in 1892, branched from the Gippsland line at Dandenong and ran to Port Albert. The Strzelecki railway line, which branched off this line at Koo-Wee-Rup, was opened in June 1922. The line served the farms of the western Strzelecki Ranges, and the stations provided facilities for the storage of goods and the loading of sheep and cattle. Historic photographs from the 1920s show stockyards next to Strzelecki Station.

Strzelecki was the eighth and last station on the Koo-Wee-Rup to Strzelecki line (after Bayles, Catani, Yannathan, Heathhill, Athlone, Topiram and Triholm).

Construction of the line came at a time when railway expansion was being curtailed as a result of increasing government expenditure on roads and the development of motor vehicles. But the continued development of this line can be largely attributed to the significant increase in vegetable crops and dairy produce arising from the draining of the Koo-Wee-Rup swamp, which in turn supplied Victoria's profitable overseas trade in perishable food stuffs.

Strzelecki Station was only 8 km to the east of Triholm but its elevation was almost 200m greater, and 23 cuttings were required between the two. The station closed on 22nd November 1930, in response to the severe financial difficulties experienced by the Victorian Railways, falling traffic and disrepair of infrastructure, including the bridge at Strzelecki. The closure came only eight years after the line opened.

The Triholm and Strzelecki (Dismantling) Act, No 4518 of December 1937 authorised the dismantling of the rails and the sale of land. The track in this section of the line was taken up in 1938, whilst the turntable and station buildings at Strzelecki had all gone by 1940.

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/>