
WANNON RIVER ROAD BRIDGE (FORMER)



23628 Copy of 4471 Former
Wannon Road Bridge
Dunkeld

Location

Victoria Valley Road DUNKELD, Southern Grampians Shire

Municipality

SOUTHERN GRAMPIANS SHIRE

Level of significance

Stage 2 study complete

Heritage Listing

Southern Grampians Shire

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - March 1, 2004

What is significant?

The former Wannon River Road Bridge is located on the Victoria Valley Road over the Wannon River, immediately beside the present bridge, about 2.2kms north-west of the centre of Dunkeld.

The bridge dates from the Interwar period, although from early on, this place was used as a crossing. A crossing over the Wannon River was of critical importance for road access to and from the squatting runs in the Victoria Valley and the Wimmera and central goldfields via Hall's Gap. This position offered a single crossing before the two roads separated and was also strategically located to take advantage of the gap between Mount Sturgeon and The Piccanniny. There has been no architect or engineer associated with the design. The bridge remains in good condition with a very high degree of integrity. It should be viewed in comparison to other concrete structures built in the Interwar period, such as the Monier bridge at the Wannon.

How is it significant?

The former Wannon Road Bridge is of historical significance to the township of Dunkeld and the Southern Grampians Shire.

Why is it significant?

The former road bridge is historically significant as it represents an early an important crossing point of the Wannon River, which continued to be used and eventually had permanent structures built to span the Wannon. This allowed easy access between squatting runs in the Victoria Valley and the Wimmera and central goldfields via Hall's Gap.

Heritage Study/Consultant	Southern Grampians - Southern Grampians Shire Heritage Study, Timothy Hubbard P/L, Annabel Neylon, 2002;
Construction dates	1920,
Heritage Act Categories	Registered place,
Hermes Number	23628
Property Number	

Physical Conditions

The bridge is in good condition with some localised failure due to corrosion of the reinforcing cables.

Physical Description 1

The former road bridge is a reinforced concrete structure. Damaged concrete with exposed rusting reinforcing indicates that cables rather than rods were used to reinforce the side beams of the bridge. It has three spans supported by two very thin piers. The piers have flanges to connect structurally with the bed of the road. The marks of timber boards used for formwork remain on the concrete surface but this is not done for aesthetic reasons. The road remains asphalted. The balustrading is steel pipe with Cyclone wire. There are moulded concrete piers at either end of the bridge. The south-west pier has a marker "SN 9061" on top. The former bridge is lower than the present and aligned at a different angle. There is no indication of an earlier structure.

Historical Australian Themes

Theme 3 Developing local, regional and national economies

3.8 Moving goods and people

3.8.7 Building and maintaining roads

Usage/Former Usage

Disused

Integrity

Excellent degree of integrity

Physical Description 3

Road Reserve

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/>