
RAILWAY BRIDGE OVER TARWIN RIVER



Railway Bridge

Location

SOUTH GIPPSLAND HIGHWAY, MEENIYAN, SOUTH GIPPSLAND SHIRE

Municipality

SOUTH GIPPSLAND SHIRE

Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO88

Heritage Listing

South Gippsland Shire

Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

What is significant?

The railway bridge over the Tarwin River east branch at Meeniyen, constructed by Andrew O'Keefe in 1891.

Why is it significant?

The railway bridge over the Tarwin River east branch at Meeniyen is of historical, technological and aesthetic significance to South Gippsland Shire.

Historically, it is one of three original large trestle bridges constructed over the Tarwin River as part of the South Eastern Railway, which facilitated the settlement and development of the South Gippsland region. (AHC criteria - A.4 and D.2)

Aesthetically, the bridge is one of the most powerful expressions of how early European settlement altered the natural and cultural landscape as well a highly visible illustration of the engineering feats that were required to construct the line. (AHC criterion - E.1)

Technically, it is believed to be the longest extant timber railway bridge in Victoria to be built entirely using the 20 feet span timber beam design used by the Victorian Railways at the time. (AHC criterion - F.1)

Heritage Study/Consultant	South Gippsland - South Gippsland Heritage Study, David Helms with Trevor Westmore, 2004;
Construction dates	1891,
Architect/Designer	Victorian Railways,
Other Names	South Eastern Railway, Great Southern Railway,
Hermes Number	30895
Property Number	

Physical Description 1

The railway bridge at Meeniyan is multi-trestle timber bridge across a wide valley of the east branch of the Tarwin river where the line runs close and parallel to the South Gippsland Highway, between Koonwarra and Meeniyan.

The bridge has a gently curving transverse timber deck 210 metres in length of typical construction with hardwood trestles formed of paired hardwood tree posts braced diagonally and carrying multiple beams below the rail deck. All of the 35 timber beam spans are built to a standard Victorian Railways 20 feet span design.

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/>