

# WONTHAGGI STATE COAL MINE CENTRAL PRECINCT



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SOHE 2008



1 wonthaggi state coal mine  
central precinct side view  
jul1998



H1778 WONTHAGGI STATE  
COAL MINE CENTRAL  
PRECINCT LHA 2015 1.JPG



H1778 WONTHAGGI STATE  
COAL MINE CENTRAL  
PRECINCT LHA 2015 2.JPG



H1778 WONTHAGGI STATE  
COAL MINE CENTRAL  
PRECINCT LHA 2015 3.JPG



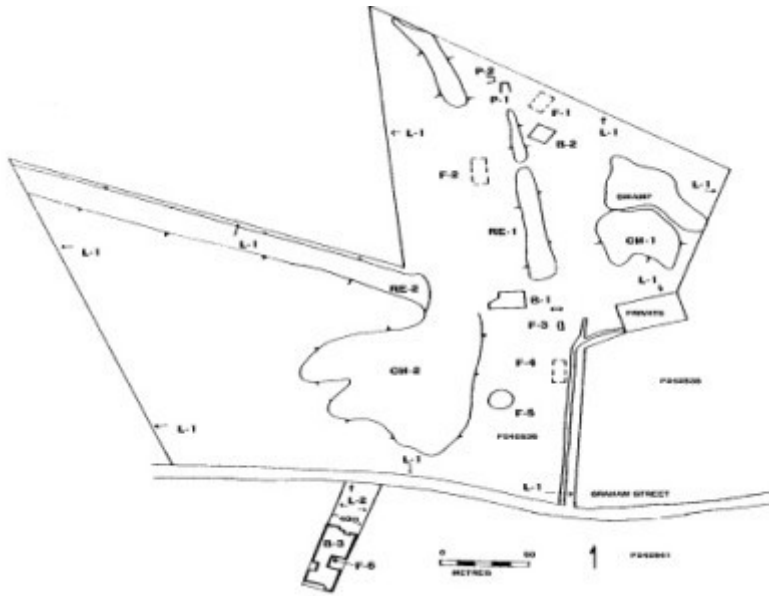
H1778 WONTHAGGI STATE  
COAL MINE CENTRAL  
PRECINCT LHA 2015 4.JPG



H1778 WONTHAGGI STATE  
COAL MINE CENTRAL  
PRECINCT LHA 2015 5.JPG



H1778 WONTHAGGI STATE  
COAL MINE CENTRAL  
PRECINCT LHA 2015 6.JPG



wonthaggi state coal mine central precinct plan

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## Location

GRAHAM STREET WONTHAGGI, BASS COAST SHIRE

## Municipality

BASS COAST SHIRE

## Level of significance

Registered

## Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

H1778

## Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO144

## VHR Registration

February 25, 1999

## Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Register

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - July 1, 1999

#### What is Significant?

At the beginning of the twentieth century black coal from New South Wales powered Victoria's railway system, gasworks and manufacturing industries. In 1909 a prolonged strike on the New South Wales coalfields threatened Victoria's economic viability, and the Victorian Government sought to end its dependence by mining its own, poorer-quality coal deposits in South Gippsland at Wonthaggi which at the time was sparsely settled and possessed no transport links with Melbourne. The first shipment of Wonthaggi coal occurred on 25 November 1909 being dispatched by bullock teams to Inverloch and thence by ship to Melbourne. Three months later transportation by rail commenced after the Railways Department constructed a line 27 miles from Nyora in the record time of ten weeks. In 1910 the Government laid out a model township and by 1921 Wonthaggi had a settled population of over 5,000 making it one of the largest towns in Gippsland.

The Wonthaggi State Coal developed into a huge mining complex which operated until 1968. Within the first year of operation a power station was built to supply electricity to the whole area and installation was under way of the necessary engineering works for mining, ventilation, water drainage, haulage, and coal processing. At a very early stage, the mine also had a brickworks, operated initially to construct the power station. The mine's peak period of employment was the year 1925-26 when 1,821 men were employed. During its operational life, the Wonthaggi State Coal Mine produced 16.74 million tons, making the field the largest black coal producer in the State's history and the fourth largest in Australia.

#### How is it significant?

The Wonthaggi State Coal mine is of historical and scientific importance to the State of Victoria

#### Why is it significant?

The Wonthaggi State Coal Mine Central Precinct (comprising No.5 Brace, Rescue Station, McBride's tunnel, Power Station and Workshops, and associated archaeological relics) is historically and scientifically significant as an integral part of the State's most significant black coal mine. The Wonthaggi State Coal Mine Central Precinct was the heart of the field: the first place where coal was mined, the first major mining, haulage, processing and servicing centre, and the only site which was continuously operated until the mine's closure in 1968. The three most significant features of the precinct (No. 5 Brace, Rescue Station, and Power Station & Workshops) are not only scientifically important as rare industrial relics, but their size and prominence are tangible evidence of the former scale of the State Coal Mine's operations. The state of deterioration of the place is illustrative of the disintegration of Wonthaggi's central role in Victoria's black coal industry.

The Wonthaggi State Coal Mine Central precinct makes a unique contribution to defining the character of the Wonthaggi State Coal Mine and also has potential to yield significant archaeological evidence of the technological development of coal mining 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 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.

#### General

\* General site works to allow for public safety, weeds and vermin control, conservation and maintenance of buildings and archaeological relics, tourism and recreational development, and cultural landscape preservation. Buildings, Foundations and Archaeological Relics

\* Use of the buildings as 'shells' to accommodate current and/or future uses(s).

\* Repairs and maintenance which replace like with like.

\* New openings in buildings provided they are located and sized to respect the pier and panel construction of the brick walls, are the minimal size necessary for their function, and are located on the elevations away from Graham Road

Construction dates            1910,

Heritage Act Categories    Registered place, Registered archaeological place,

Hermes Number                5637

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 by including the Heritage Register Number 1778 in the category described as a Heritage Place and Archaeological Place:

Wonthaggi State Coal Mine Central Precinct, Graham Street, Wonthaggi, Bass Coast Shire.

#### EXTENT:

1. All the coal mining engineering works marked as follows on diagram 607792 held by the Executive Director:  
B 1 No. 5 brace  
B 2 rescue station

B 3 power station & workshops  
CH 1 coal heap (slack heap)  
CH 2 mullock heaps  
P 1 McBride's tunnelling portal  
P 2 McBride's horse entry tunnel portal  
F 1 stables foundations  
F 2 railway yards remnants  
F 3 winding engines foundations  
F 4 store foundations  
F 5 railway turntable remnants  
F 6 chimney stack base  
RE 1 haulage-way embankment to No. 5 brace  
RE 2 haulage-way embankment to western area.

2. All the archaeological relics and deposits within the land marked L 1 and L 2 on Diagram 607792 held by the Executive Director including all historic machinery such as workshop gantry and winch, the power station gantry and winch and the cooling tower winch.

3. All the land marked L 1 and L 2 on Diagram No. 607792 held by the Executive Director comprising all of Crown Parcel P242635 (L 1) and part of Crown Land Parcel P242541 (L 2) being all the land forming the footprint of B 3 and a scenic easement 40 metres wide between B 3 and the roadway.

Dated: 4 February 1999

RAY TONKIN

Executive Director

[Victoria Government Gazette G 8 25 February 1999 pp.501-502]

*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/>*