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# McMorran's Oak Tree



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## Location

High Street,CRANBOURNE, Casey City

## Municipality

CASEY CITY

## Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

## Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO139

## Heritage Listing

Casey City

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - January 4, 2022

### What is significant?

McMorran's Oak, located at 125 South Gippsland Highway (opposite Brunt Avenue), is significant.

### How is it significant?

McMorran's Oak is of local historical significance to the City of Casey.

### Why is it significant?

McMorran's Oak is of historical significance as one of the earliest surviving Oak Trees within the municipality, dating from c1867, and as surviving evidence of the early residential history and use of Cranbourne town centre, which is now highly urbanised and developed. The tree is believed to have been part of 'The Willows', Alexander and Emily McMorran's residence and garden of seven acres, which was located on this site from 1863. McMorran was Cranbourne's first saddler, and later became a highly successful farmer, with small holdings on the outskirts of Cranbourne township. The tree is considered a local historical landmark within Cranbourne for its early date and associations with the early development of Cranbourne. (Criterion A)

## Theme

### 6. Building towns cities and the garden state

Heritage Study/Consultant	Casey - Casey Heritage Study, Context Pty Ltd, 2004; Casey - City of Casey Heritage Study: Cranbourne, Knox, Graeme Butler & Associate, 1998; Cranbourne Town Centre Heritage Overlays Review, Plan Heritage, 2020;
Hermes Number	63202
Property Number	

## Physical Description 1

McMorran's Oak Tree is a substantial and over mature specimen of English Oak *Quercus robur*, located on the western side of the South Gippsland Highway (previously High Street), Cranbourne. The tree is believed to have been planted in the 1860s.

The tree has been encroached upon by the nearby multi-storey Centro shopping centre to the south, and the associated car park to the north.

The tree was once part of a substantial residential garden, set on seven acres, owned by Alexander McMorran, farmer. Now located within a highly urbanised space, the tree is surrounded by hard landscaping comprised of concrete paving. The tree is in fair condition, and exhibits signs of very severe pruning, likely to have been undertaken in the past ten years, which has reduced the canopy spread.

## Physical Conditions

Poor-Fair

*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/>*