

# ESSENDON INCINERATOR COMPLEX



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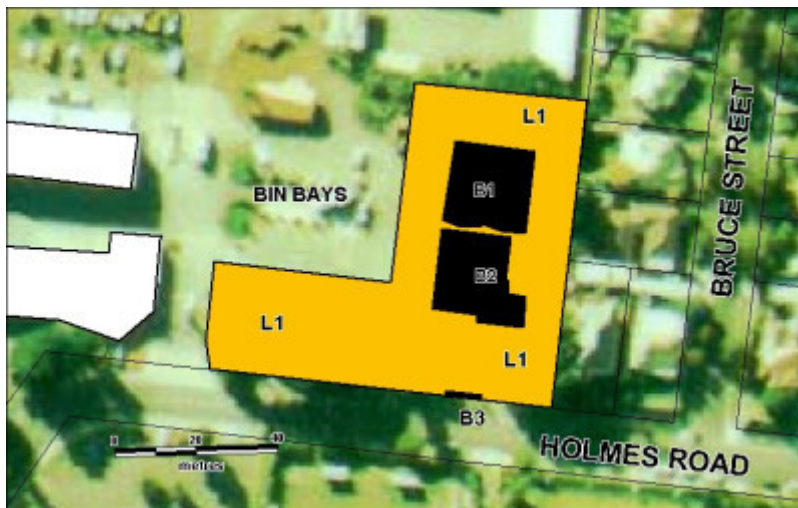
walter burley griffin  
incinerator holmes road  
moonee ponds entrance  
sep1985



walter burley griffin  
incinerator holmes rd moonee  
ponds side view sep1985



H00434 incinerator h434 front  
gates feb 2003



H00434 essendon incinerator extent of registration march 2003

## Location

180 HOLMES ROAD ABERFELDIE, MOONEE VALLEY CITY

## **Municipality**

MOONEE VALLEY CITY

## **Level of significance**

Registered

## **Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number**

H0434

## **Heritage Overlay Numbers**

HO57

## **VHR Registration**

January 31, 1979

## **Amendment to Registration**

June 12, 2003

## **Heritage Listing**

Victorian Heritage Register

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## **Statement of Significance**

Last updated on - March 6, 2003

"What is significant?"

The Essendon incinerator complex at Holmes Road, Moonee Ponds was built in 1929-1930 and operated until 1942. The two surviving buildings comprise a large reverberatory incinerator building with three incinerator units and distinctive 8m high chimney, and an adjacent two-storey plant-store and workshop building. The incinerator is constructed of reinforced concrete and brick, rendered externally. This building is dominated by its asymmetrical, terracotta tiled roof. Three furnaces survive internally, largely intact.

In the 1920s, incinerators were seen as a solution to shortages of suitable waste lands within municipalities for the tipping of household refuse. The decision by Essendon Council to build one caused much controversy, mainly due to the perceived unsightliness. Once built, the incinerator was widely praised for its attractive appearance. The incinerator building was designed by the Melbourne office of Walter Burley Griffin and Marion Griffin, under the direct supervision of architect Eric Nicholls. It was built by the Melbourne based Reverberatory Incinerator and Engineering Company (RIECo) and was one of the first incinerators designed by Griffin's office for RIECo.

RIECo incinerators established a new standard in the effective disposal and management of municipal waste through incineration, as well as providing vastly improved working conditions for the related council staff.

The plant-store and workshop building was designed and constructed under the supervision of the city surveyor for the City of Essendon.

The complex was designed to integrate with the character of the surrounding domestic suburb and to provide minimal disruption to its immediate environment in terms of discharge. It survives substantially as designed, although there have been minor modifications to the interior and some original features have been removed. The

iron gate to Holmes Road is believed to be original.

How is it significant?

The Essendon incinerator complex is of architectural, historical and technological (scientific) significance to the State of Victoria.

Why is it significant?

The Essendon incinerator complex is architecturally and historically significant for its important associations with the Griffins and with Eric Nicholls, who ran their Melbourne office. Its distinctive design is representative of the decorative interests of the Griffins. The designs set a new standard in Australia in the design of industrial buildings that could be accommodated within developed municipal areas rather than being banished to the unpopulated fringe. It is significant in terms of both its architectural expression, and its integration to the topography of the site and character of the surrounding built environment.

The Essendon incinerator complex is historically and technologically significant as the earliest surviving of the thirteen incinerators in Australia designed by Griffin's office and Nicholls, and is the only surviving Griffin incinerator in Victoria. It is believed to be the most intact of six surviving incinerators by Griffin's office. It is one of just three reverberatory incinerators surviving in Victoria. The Essendon incinerator is the only surviving RIECo reverberatory incinerator 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 exempted alterations are to be planned and carried out in a manner which prevents damage to the fabric of the registered place or object. General Conditions: 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. General Conditions: 3. If there is a conservation policy and plan approved by the Executive Director, all works shall be in accordance with it. General Conditions: 4. Nothing in this declaration prevents the Executive Director from amending or rescinding all or any of the permit exemptions. General Conditions: 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. All internal works to the workshop building (B2) that do not impact the exterior appearance of this building are permit exempt.

Construction dates 1929,  
Architect/Designer Griffin, Walter Burley,  
Heritage Act Categories Registered place,  
Other Names INCINERATOR GALLERY, WALTER BURLEY GRIFFIN INCINERATOR,  
Hermes Number 847  
Property Number

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## History

Associated People: Assoc.People REVERBATORY INCINERATOR & ENGINEERING CO

## Extent of Registration

### NOTICE OF REGISTRATION

As Executive Director for the purpose of the **Heritage Act 1995**, I give notice under section 46 that the Victorian Heritage Register is amended in that Heritage Register Number 434 in the category described as a Heritage place is now described as:

Essendon Incinerator Complex, 180 Holmes Road, Moonee Ponds, Moonee Valley City Council.

### EXTENT:

To the extent of all the land marked L1 on diagram 43 held by the Executive Director; all the buildings marked B1 (Incinerator and B2 (plant store and workshop) and B3 gates on diagram H434 held by the Executive Director.

Dated 10 June 2003

RAY TONKIN  
Executive Director

[*Victoria Government Gazette* No. G24 12 June 2003 1979 pp.1348-1349]

*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/>*