

**H1562 Essendon Railway Station Complex, 2-26 Russell Street and Buckley Street and Rose Street
ESSENDON**

Permit Application P28401

Why is the Essendon Railway Station of heritage significance?

Essendon Railway Station is included on the Victorian Heritage Register under the provisions of the *Heritage Act 2017* for its architectural, aesthetic, social and historical significance to the state of Victoria.

Essendon Railway Station is an excellent intact example of a Federation Free Style design station with elaborate detailing. The complex is important as the precursor of a group of stations constructed by the Victorian Railways Department between 1909 and 1922 and is thought to be the most representative of this style. It is of social and historical importance for its ability to demonstrate the expansion of Melbourne and its settlement of the suburbs after the turn of the century.

What was the permit application for?

In March 2018 the North West Program Alliance applied for a permit under the *Heritage Act 2017* for works to the station and its setting as part of the Buckley Street level crossing removal.

The proposed works to Essendon Railway Station included in the permit application are as follows:

- Demolition of existing retaining walls, and construction of new disability compliant access to the central subway.
- Upgraded drainage and lighting, and removal of paint to all three subways.
- Demolition of existing modern canopies above ramps to the central subway, and construction of new canopies to cover new ramps and stairs.
- Landscaping works including reconfiguration of garden beds and retaining walls, installation of new Federation-era plantings, and removal and reconfiguration of some palm trees.
- Relocation of the existing modern protective services officers' building.

The proposed works will have no physical impact on the station buildings or the island platform at the registered place.

How were public submissions considered in the decision-making process?

The permit application was advertised in *The Age* and through the placement of four advertising signs at the station. The advertising period concluded on 25 April 2018. Fifty written submissions were received during the advertising period. Heritage Victoria were only able to consider the content of submissions which related to the application under assessment.

Why has the permit been approved?

The *Heritage Act 2017* requires the Executive Director to consider various matters in determining a permit application including the extent that the application, if approved, would affect the cultural heritage significance of the place; the extent that refusal would affect the reasonable economic use of the place; and any submissions received in response to public notice of the permit application.

On 7 June 2018, the Executive Director approved the permit application as it was assessed that the proposed works at Essendon Railway Station are reasonable in terms of their relatively limited impact on the place.

What are the conditions of the permit?

The permit requires

- The submission of a revised landscaping plan which details treatment to the full extent of the garden beds.
- A bank guarantee for \$100,000.00 to ensure that the proposed landscaping and conservation works to the station are carried out in full.
- A methodology for the careful deconstruction and reconstruction of the horse ramp.
- Interpretation of the horse ramp, and the history of change at the station.
- The preparation of a photographic recording of the place.

Can I appeal the decision?

The applicant can make a written submission to the Heritage Council to review the decision of Heritage Victoria or the conditions imposed in the permit.