ASSESSMENT OF CULTURAL HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE HERITAGE COUNCIL

Recommendation to include in VHR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>MORWELL POWER STATION AND BRIQUETTE FACTORIES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LOCATION</td>
<td>412 COMMERCIAL ROAD, MORWELL, LATROBE CITY, VICTORIA 3840</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CATEGORY</td>
<td>HERITAGE PLACE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VHR PROV NUMBER</td>
<td>PROV H2377</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HERMES NUMBER</td>
<td>200429</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Recommendation not to include in VHR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>ANCILLARY LAND SURROUNDING MORWELL POWER STATION AND BRIQUETTE FACTORIES</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LOCATION</td>
<td>412 COMMERCIAL ROAD, MORWELL, LATROBE CITY, VICTORIA 3840</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CATEGORY</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VHR PROV NUMBER</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HERMES NUMBER</td>
<td>200673</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE HERITAGE COUNCIL:

- That the Morwell Power Station and Briquette Factories be included as a Heritage Place in the Victorian Heritage Register under section 32 (1)(a) of the Heritage Act 1995.
- That the ancillary land surrounding the Morwell Power Station and Briquette Factories NOT be included in the Victorian Heritage Register under section 32 (1)(b) of the Heritage Act 1995.

TIM SMITH OAM
Executive Director, Heritage Victoria
Recommendation Date: 26 May 2017

This recommendation report has been issued by the Executive Director, Heritage Victoria under s.32 of the Heritage Act 1995. It has not been considered or endorsed by the Heritage Council of Victoria.
BACKGROUND TO RECOMMENDATION

INTERIM PROTECTION ORDER (IPO)
On 27 March 2017 the Heritage Council of Victoria issued an Interim Protection Order (IPO) over the Morwell Power Station, Briquette Factory and SECV Railway Line. The IPO has been in force for 60 days (from 27 March 2017 to Friday 26 May 2017).

EXTENT OF INTERIM PROTECTION ORDER
The area covered by the IPO is outlined in yellow here.
NOMINATION FOR INCLUSION IN THE VHR

On 20 April 2017 the Executive Director accepted a nomination for the Morwell Power and Briquette Factory (after the IPO had been issued). The nomination included a larger area than that covered by the IPO. The Executive Director has assessed the place based on this larger nominated area.

EXTENT OF 20 APRIL 2017 NOMINATION

The spur line off the main regional railway (for the transport of briquettes out of the site), the old briquette storage and ash pit area (appearing as an empty paddock west of the railway spur), the Morwell Power Station and Briquette Factory proper, and the area now known as Power Works Community Museum Zone, to the west of the old briquette storage and ash pit area.
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR RECOMMENDATIONS
The Executive Director recommends the following:

**Morwell Power Station and Briquette Factories**
- That this place be included in the Victorian Heritage Register.

**Ancillary land surrounding the Morwell Power Station and Briquette Factories**
- That this place NOT be included in the Victorian Heritage Register.

AERIAL PHOTO SHOWING BOTH RECOMMENDATIONS

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**Recommendation 1**: Morwell Power Station and Briquette Factories  
**Recommendation 2**: Ancillary land surrounding Morwell Power Station and Briquette Factories
RECOMMENDED REGISTRATION
Morwell Power Station and Briquette Factories
All of the place shown hatched on Diagram 2377 encompassing Part of Lot 2 on plan of Subdivision 449983, All of Lot 2 on plan of Subdivision 623138, All of Lot 1 on plan of Subdivision 512365, All of Crown Allotment 6G1 Section A Parish of Hazelwood, All of Crown Allotment 6H Section A Parish of Hazelwood, All of Crown Allotment 5F Section A Parish of Hazelwood, part of the road reserve for Ridge Road.

Diagram 2377

The extent of registration of the Morwell Power Station and Briquette Factories in the Victorian Heritage Register affects the whole place shown on Diagram 2377 including the land and buildings.

Recommendation 1: Morwell Power Station and Briquette Factories
Recommendation 2: Ancillary land surrounding Morwell Power Station and Briquette Factories
RATIONAL FOR EXTENT

Morwell Power Station and Briquette Factories
The recommended extent for the Morwell Power Station and Briquette Factories includes the principal buildings and features required to demonstrate the historical process of power and briquette production at this place. It includes the key elements related to the delivery of brown coal, processing, briquetting, storage, transport, power generation and electricity transmission. The recommended extent allows the place to demonstrate the state level cultural heritage significance values as a power station and briquette factory. The extent is curved on the south western side to follow the alignment of an access roadway which forms a clear boundary to the complex.

Ancillary land surrounding the Morwell Power Station and Briquette Factories
The Ancillary Land Surrounding Morwell Power Station and Briquette Factories, including its structures and features, does not satisfy any of the Heritage Council’s criteria for inclusion in the Victorian Heritage Register at the level of state significance. This area is not integral to the demonstration of the historical process of power and briquette production at the Morwell Power Station and Briquette Factories. The state level cultural heritage significance values of the place can be clearly read without this land.

Recommendation 1: Morwell Power Station and Briquette Factories
Recommendation 2: Ancillary land surrounding Morwell Power Station and Briquette Factories
STATEMENT OF CULTURAL HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE
MORWELL POWER STATION AND BRIQUETTE FACTORIES

WHAT IS SIGNIFICANT?
The Morwell Power Station and Briquette Factories including the power station, two briquette factories, coal transportation systems, storage areas and ancillary buildings. The interiors of the buildings and all plant and equipment are also of significance.

History Summary
The Morwell Power Station and Briquette Factories was constructed between 1949 and 1959 by the State Electricity Commission of Victoria (SECV). It was the centrepiece of the Victorian Government’s postwar strategy to revitalise Victoria’s industrial and economic growth through the development of the Latrobe Valley into the state’s principal power and energy producing region. The Yallourn Power Station had been established in 1921 and electricity started flowing to Melbourne in 1924. Morwell was the next project to capitalise on the region’s brown coal resources. Its purpose was to provide electricity to a rapidly growing population, alleviate power shortages, produce briquettes for industrial and domestic use, and to reduce the reliance of Victoria on black coal from New South Wales. Building on knowledge from Yallourn, the SECV sourced briquetting equipment from Germany and boilers and turbines from Britain. Electricity production at Morwell Power Station commenced in December 1958. The first commercial briquette production commenced in December 1959. It was soon discovered that the brown coal from the Morwell open cut mine was unsuitable for briquetting, and Yallourn coal had to be transported to the Morwell factories. By the early 1960s, Morwell, not Yallourn, had become the nerve centre of the new industrial valley. After Hazelwood Power Station went into operation the proportion of Victoria’s electricity supply sourced from brown coal in the Latrobe Valley reached almost 90%. The briquette plant at Morwell was one of the first components of the SECV to be privatised in late 1993 with the creation of Energy Brix Australia. Following declining profits and the impact of fires in 2003 the plant closed in 2014.

DESCRIPTION SUMMARY
The Morwell Power Station and Briquette Factories is a large industrial complex located approximately two kilometres south east from the Morwell Railway Station and includes a power station, two briquette factories, coal transportation systems, storage areas and ancillary buildings. Buildings are constructed using a variety of different methods and materials. The layout of the place is informed by the processes of power generation and the manufacture of briquettes, with coal conveyed into the place from the west, and distributed to either the Power Station or the Briquette Factories. Output in the form of electricity or briquettes occurs at the eastern side of the site.

Registered Aboriginal Party (RAP)
The Morwell Power Station and Briquette Factories is located on the traditional land of the Braiakaulung people of the Gunnaikurnai clan. There is no Registered Aboriginal Party (RAP) for the site. The Gunnaikurnai hold Native Title over this area. A Recognition and Settlement Agreement under the Traditional Owner Settlement Act 2010 also covers this area.
**HOW IS IT SIGNIFICANT?**

The Morwell Power Station and Briquette Factories is of historical significance to the State of Victoria. It satisfies the following criterion for inclusion in the Victorian Heritage Register:

- **Criterion A** Importance to the course, or pattern, of Victoria’s cultural history.
- **Criterion B** Possession of uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of Victoria’s cultural history.
- **Criterion D** Importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of cultural places and objects.

**WHY IS IT SIGNIFICANT?**

The Morwell Power Station and Briquette Factories is significant at the State level for the following reasons:

The Morwell Power Station and Briquette Factories is historically significant as the centrepiece of the Victorian Government’s post-WWII strategy to revitalise Victoria’s economic growth through the development of the Latrobe Valley by the State Electricity Commission of Victoria (SECV) into the state’s principal power and energy producing region. Built between 1949 and 1959, it was the second of Victoria’s large scale power stations (the first being the Yallourn Power Station which started powering Melbourne in 1924). With the demolition of Old Yallourn between 1995 and 1999, Morwell is now the earliest surviving large-scale power station designed to provide electricity to the state electricity network. The Morwell Power Station and Briquette Factories site has remained largely intact since the 1950s and demonstrates the processes of brown coal electricity generation and briquette production which underpinned Victoria’s postwar industrialisation. [Criterion A]

The Morwell Power Station and Briquette Factories is rare for containing the only remaining, intact assemblage of briquetting machinery from the mid-twentieth century in Victoria. The boilers used in the production of electricity at the Morwell Power Station are rare examples of water tube boilers which have been specifically adapted for the burning of brown coal. [Criterion B]

The Morwell Power Station and Briquette Factories is a highly intact example of a mid-twentieth century power station and briquetting factory. It contains buildings and machinery which demonstrate the ‘start to finish’ production phases related to brown coal electricity generation and transmission, and briquette manufacture. Few substantial alterations have been made since the 1950s and the place demonstrates a high level of integrity, allowing a strong understanding of the industrial processes for which the place was built. [Criterion D]

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**Recommendation 1**: Morwell Power Station and Briquette Factories

**Recommendation 2**: Ancillary land surrounding Morwell Power Station and Briquette Factories
MORWELL POWER STATION AND BRIQUETTE FACTORIES
REASONS FOR RECOMMENDING INCLUSION IN THE VICTORIAN HERITAGE REGISTER
Following is the Executive Director’s assessment of the place against the tests set out in The Victorian Heritage Register Criteria and Thresholds Guidelines (2014).

CRITERION A
Importance to the course, or pattern, of Victoria’s cultural history.

STEP 1: A BASIC TEST FOR SATISFYING CRITERION A

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The place/object has a <strong>CLEAR ASSOCIATION</strong> with an event, phase, period, process, function, movement, custom or way of life in Victoria’s cultural history.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Plus</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The association of the place/object to the event, phase, etc <strong>IS EVIDENT</strong> in the physical fabric of the place/object and/or in documentary resources or oral history.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Plus</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The <strong>EVENT, PHASE, etc</strong> is of <strong>HISTORICAL IMPORTANCE</strong>, having made a strong or influential contribution to Victoria.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Executive Director’s Response**
The Morwell Power Station and Briquetting Factories was constructed between 1949 and 1959. It was a key part of the Victorian Government’s strategy after WWII to revitalise Victoria’s economic growth through the transformation of the Latrobe Valley into an industrial region for power and energy production. It was built by the State Electricity Commission of Victoria (SECV) to provide electricity to a rapidly growing population, to alleviate power shortages, to produce briquettes for industrial and domestic use, and to reduce the state’s reliance on black coal from New South Wales. This historical association is clearly demonstrated in the fabric of the place as well as in documentary evidence and oral histories. The transformation of the Latrobe Valley into a power and energy producing region is a phase of historical importance and made a strong and influential contribution to Victoria. Brown-coal power generation and briquette production was key to the post-war industrialisation of Victoria. The Morwell Power Station and Briquette Factories was one of Victoria’s major power station complexes and was integral to the industrialisation of the state during the second half of the twentieth century.

Criterion A is likely to be satisfied.

STEP 2: A BASIC TEST FOR DETERMINING STATE LEVEL SIGNIFICANCE FOR CRITERION A

| The place/object allows the clear association with the event, phase etc. of historical importance to be **UNDERSTOOD BETTER THAN MOST OTHER PLACES OR OBJECTS IN VICTORIA WITH SUBSTANTIALLY THE SAME ASSOCIATION.** |

**Executive Director’s Response**
The Morwell Power Station and Briquette Factories demonstrates better than most other places or objects the Victorian Government’s strategy after WWII to revitalise Victoria’s economic growth through the transformation of the Latrobe Valley into an industrial region for power and energy production. Since Yallourn Power Stations A, B, C, D and E (1968, 1985, 1985, 1986 and 1989) have been demolished, Morwell is now the earliest surviving large-scale power station designed to provide electricity to the state electricity network. The Morwell Power Station is also the earliest and only surviving site with remaining briquetting factories, with the Yallourn Briquette Works (built with Yallourn A) demolished in 1975. The Morwell Power

Recommendation 1: Morwell Power Station and Briquette Factories
Recommendation 2: Ancillary land surrounding Morwell Power Station and Briquette Factories
Station and Briquette Factories displays the principal characteristics of its class and retains a high level of intactness and integrity which allows it to be understood better than most similar places.

Criterion A is likely to be satisfied at the State level.

**CRITERION B**
Possession of uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of Victoria’s cultural history.

**STEP 1: A BASIC TEST FOR SATISFYING CRITERION B**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The place/object has a CLEAR ASSOCIATION with an event, phase, period, process, function, movement, custom or way of life of importance in Victoria’s cultural history.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Plus</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The association of the place/object to the event, phase, etc IS EVIDENT in the physical fabric of the place/object and/or in documentary resources or oral history.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Plus</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The place/object is RARE OR UNCOMMON, being one of a small number of places/objects remaining that demonstrates the important event, phase etc, OR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The place/object is RARE OR UNCOMMON, containing unusual features of note that were not widely replicated, OR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The existence of the class of place/object that demonstrates the important event, phase etc is ENDANGERED to the point of rarity due to threats and pressures on such places/objects.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Executive Director’s Response**

The Morwell Power Station and Briquette Factories was constructed between 1949 and 1959. It was a key part of the Victorian Government’s strategy after WWII to revitalise Victoria’s economic growth through the transformation of the Latrobe Valley into an industrial region for power and energy production. This is a phase of historical importance and made a strong and influential contribution to Victoria. This historical association is clearly demonstrated in the fabric of the place as well as documentary evidence and oral histories.

The Morwell Power Station and Briquette Factories is rare for containing the only mid-twentieth century intact assemblage of briquetting machinery surviving in Victoria. This class of heritage (briquetting machinery) is endangered. While some of the briquetting machinery at Morwell has been gradually disassembled for use as spare parts in the repair of other briquette presses, the briquetting process is able to be read through the extant machines. The boilers used in the production of electricity at the Morwell Power Station are rare examples of water tube boilers which have been specifically adapted for the burning of brown coal. [Criterion B]. These are uncommon and contain unusual features of note that were not widely replicated.

Criterion B is likely to be satisfied.

**Recommendation 1**: Morwell Power Station and Briquette Factories

**Recommendation 2**: Ancillary land surrounding Morwell Power Station and Briquette Factories
STEP 2: A BASIC TEST FOR DETERMINING STATE LEVEL SIGNIFICANCE FOR CRITERION B

The place/object is RARE, UNCOMMON OR ENDANGERED within Victoria.

Executive Director’s Response

The Morwell Power Station and Briquette Factories is rare in Victoria because it contains the only remaining, intact assemblage of mid-twentieth century briquetting machinery in the state. This class of heritage (briquetting machinery) is endangered. Other examples of briquette factories in Victoria, such as those constructed as part of the Great Morwell Brown Coal Mine (1896), Yallourn Briquette Works (1925-1975) and the Gelliondale Briquette plant (1934-1950), have all been demolished. The boilers used in the production of electricity at the Morwell Power Station are rare examples of water tube boilers which have been specifically adapted for the burning of brown coal. They are uncommon in Victoria.

Criterion B is likely to be satisfied at the State level.

CRITERION C

Potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of Victoria’s cultural history.

STEP 1: A BASIC TEST FOR SATISFYING CRITERION C

The:

• visible physical fabric; &/or
• documentary evidence; &/or
• oral history,

relating to the place/object indicates a likelihood that the place/object contains PHYSICAL EVIDENCE of historical interest that is NOT CURRENTLY VISIBLE OR UNDERSTOOD.

Plus

From what we know of the place/object, the physical evidence is likely to be of an INTEGRITY and/or CONDITION that it COULD YIELD INFORMATION through detailed investigation.

Executive Director’s Response

It is not likely that the Morwell Power Station and Briquette Factories contains physical evidence of historical interest that is not currently visible or understood, which would contribute to an understanding of Victoria’s cultural history. There is extensive documentary evidence regarding the history and operations of this place. While physical investigation of the industrial archaeological evidence at the site may yield information, it is unlikely to be information that is not already accessible through other sources. Sub-surface archaeological investigation may reveal features or deposits that have potential to yield information, however, any information is unlikely to be new or different to that which is already known.

Criterion C is not likely to be satisfied.

Recommendation 1: Morwell Power Station and Briquette Factories
Recommendation 2: Ancillary land surrounding Morwell Power Station and Briquette Factories
CRITERION D
Importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of cultural places and objects.

STEP 1: A BASIC TEST FOR SATISFYING CRITERION D

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The place/object is one of a CLASS of places/objects that has a CLEAR ASSOCIATION with an event, phase, period, process, function, movement, important person(s), custom or way of life in Victoria’s history.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Plus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The EVENT, PHASE, etc is of HISTORICAL IMPORTANCE, having made a strong or influential contribution to Victoria.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The principal characteristics of the class are EVIDENT in the physical fabric of the place/object.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Executive Director’s Response
The Morwell Power Station and Briquette Factories is one of a class of ‘power stations’. The Morwell Power Station and Briquette Factories was a key part of the Victorian Government’s strategy after WWII to revitalise Victoria’s economic growth through the transformation of the Latrobe Valley into an industrial region for power and energy production. The transformation of the Latrobe Valley into a power and energy producing region is a phase of historical importance that made a strong and influential contribution to Victoria. The principal characteristics of the class ‘power stations’ are evident in the physical fabric of the place. The place retains a high degree of intactness and integrity with few major alterations made to the plant or operations since it was commissioned. The extant elements and their intact configuration retains the ability to demonstrate the processes involved in brown coal power generation and briquette manufacture. While some changes to technologies/machinery have occurred over its 60 plus years of operation (for example the cooling towers have been demolished and some new supplementary buildings have been constructed) the Morwell Power Station and Briquette Factories (layout, buildings and machinery) is relatively unchanged since its construction.

Criterion D is likely to be satisfied.

STEP 2: A BASIC TEST FOR DETERMINING STATE LEVEL SIGNIFICANCE FOR CRITERION D

| The place/object is a NOTABLE EXAMPLE of the class in Victoria (refer to Reference Tool D). |

Executive Director’s Response
The Morwell Power Station and Briquette Factories is a notable example of a power station in Victoria. The place is notable for its display of a large number and range of characteristics that are typical of the class. It contains a highly intact collection of buildings and machinery which demonstrates the start to finish production phases related to brown coal electricity generation and briquette manufacture, including conveyors, boilers, turbines, control room and transformer yard, briquetting machines and rail for the transportation of brown coal products. The only phase not represented is the use of the cooling towers, as they have both been demolished. In relation to the rare briquetting machinery, the place is notable for its display of characteristics that are of a higher quality or historical relevance than are typical of places in the class. The Morwell Power Station and Briquette Factories displays the principal characteristics of power stations and allows the class to be readily understood and appreciated. The Morwell Power Station and Briquette Factories displays characteristics of the class that remain mostly unchanged from the historically important period of development or use of the place.

Criterion D is likely to be satisfied at the State level.

Recommendation 1: Morwell Power Station and Briquette Factories
Recommendation 2: Ancillary land surrounding Morwell Power Station and Briquette Factories
CRITERION E
Importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics.

STEP 1: A BASIC TEST FOR SATISFYING CRITERION E

| The PHYSICAL FABRIC of the place/object clearly exhibits particular aesthetic characteristics. |

Executive Director’s Response
The Morwell Power Station and Briquette Factories demonstrates particular aesthetic characteristics. The scale, composition, form and materiality of the complex visually expresses the technology, operations and processes used to process and manufacture briquettes from brown coal in the mid-twentieth century, as well as the process of electricity generation.

Criterion E is likely to be satisfied.

STEP 2: A BASIC TEST FOR DETERMINING STATE LEVEL SIGNIFICANCE FOR CRITERION E

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The aesthetic characteristics are APPRECIATED OR VALUED by the wider community or an appropriately-related discipline as evidenced, for example, by:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• critical recognition of the aesthetic characteristics of the place/object within a relevant art, design, architectural or related discipline as an outstanding example within Victoria; or</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• wide public acknowledgement of exceptional merit in Victoria in medium such as songs, poetry, literature, painting, sculpture, publications, print media etc.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Executive Director’s Response
The Morwell Power Station and Briquette Factories is a large and striking industrial complex in the landscape. Its aesthetic characteristics may be appreciated by some Victorians. But these aesthetic characteristics have not received critical recognition within a relevant art, design, architectural or related discipline as an outstanding example within Victoria; or wide public acknowledgement of exceptional merit in Victoria in medium such as songs, poetry, literature, painting, sculpture, publications, print media etc.

Criterion E is not likely to be satisfied at the State level.

CRITERION F
Importance in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement at a particular period.

STEP 1: A BASIC TEST FOR SATISFYING CRITERION F

| The place/object contains PHYSICAL EVIDENCE that clearly demonstrates creative or technical ACHIEVEMENT for the time in which it was created. |

| Plus |
| The physical evidence demonstrates a HIGH DEGREE OF INTEGRITY. |

Executive Director’s Response
The Morwell Power Station and Briquette Factories is a standard industrial series of buildings, structures and operations. This was one in a series of power stations constructed by the SECV and does not stand out as creative or technically remarkable when compared with other power stations of the mid to late-twentieth century. Some machinery purchased from Germany and the UK was adapted for use at Morwell but that technology was otherwise standard and bought ‘off the shelf’. The complex does not clearly demonstrate physical evidence of creative or technical achievement for the time in which it was created.

Criterion F is not likely to be satisfied.
CRITERION G
Strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons. This includes the significance of a place to indigenous people as part of their continuing and developing cultural traditions.

STEP 1: A BASIC TEST FOR SATISFYING CRITERION G

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Evidence exists of a <strong>DIRECT ASSOCIATION</strong> between the place/object and a <strong>PARTICULAR COMMUNITY OR CULTURAL GROUP</strong>.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(For the purpose of these guidelines, ‘<strong>COMMUNITY or CULTURAL GROUP</strong>’ is defined as a sizable group of persons who share a common and long-standing interest or identity).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Plus**

| The **ASSOCIATION** between the place/object and the community or cultural group is **STRONG OR SPECIAL**, as evidenced by the regular or long-term use of/engagement with the place/object or the enduring ceremonial, ritual, commemorative, spiritual or celebratory use of the place/object. |

**Executive Director’s Response**

The Morwell Power Station and Briquette Factories has a direct association with the Latrobe Valley community. The Morwell Power Station closed in 2014. During this time, there has been no public access to the place. There is no evidence of regular engagement with the place since 2014 or any ceremonial, ritual, commemorative, spiritual or celebratory use. In this context, it is difficult to gauge, under the test in the Victorian Heritage Register Criteria and Threshold Guidelines, whether there is a strong or special relationship between the Latrobe Valley community and the place.

Criterion G **may** be satisfied.

STEP 2: A BASIC TEST FOR DETERMINING STATE LEVEL SIGNIFICANCE FOR CRITERION G

| The place/object represents a **PARTICULARLY STRONG EXAMPLE** of the association between it and the community or cultural group by reason of its **RELATIONSHIP TO IMPORTANT HISTORICAL EVENTS** in Victoria and/or its **ABILITY TO INTERPRET EXPERIENCES** to the broader Victorian community. |

**Executive Director’s Response**

If it were established that the Latrobe Valley community had a strong or special association with the Morwell Power Station and Briquette Factories, it is unlikely that this social significance would meet the state level threshold. The Morwell Power Station and Briquette Factories is one of many large former industrial workplaces extant across Victoria. These places are typically regarded as having local level social significance because of their association with local or regional workforces. Since the start of operations at Morwell Power Station and Briquette Factories in 1949 the multi-generational workforce has been drawn largely from the Latrobe Valley, rather than from across Victoria. There is no evidence of the social significance of the Morwell Power Station and Briquette Factories to communities outside the Latrobe Valley.

Criterion G is **not** likely to be satisfied at the State level.

**Recommendation 1**: Morwell Power Station and Briquette Factories

**Recommendation 2**: Ancillary land surrounding Morwell Power Station and Briquette Factories
CRITERION H
Special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in Victoria’s history.

STEP 1: A BASIC TEST FOR SATISFYING CRITERION H

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The place/object has a <strong>DIRECT ASSOCIATION</strong> with a person or group of persons who have made a strong or influential <strong>CONTRIBUTION</strong> to the course of Victoria’s history.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Plus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The <strong>ASSOCIATION</strong> of the place/object to the person(s) is <strong>EVIDENT</strong> in the physical fabric of the place/object and/or in documentary resources and/or oral history.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The <strong>ASSOCIATION</strong>:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• directly relates to <strong>ACHIEVEMENTS</strong> of the person(s) at, or relating to, the place/object; or</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• relates to an <strong>enduring</strong> and/or close <strong>INTERACTION</strong> between the person(s) and the place/object.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Executive Director’s Response*

The Morwell Power Station and Briquette Factories does not have a direct association with a person or group of persons who have made a strong or influential contribution to the course of Victoria’s history. Yallourn Power Station A (1924) was planned and constructed under the direction of Sir John Monash, who died in 1931 well before the construction of Morwell in 1949. The Morwell Power Station and Briquette Factories were designed by a group of SECV engineers.

Criterion H is not likely to be satisfied.

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**Recommendation 1**: Morwell Power Station and Briquette Factories

**Recommendation 2**: Ancillary land surrounding Morwell Power Station and Briquette Factories
MORWELL POWER STATION AND BRIQUETTE FACTORIES
PROPOSED PERMIT POLICY

Preamble
The purpose of the Permit Policy is to assist when considering or making decisions regarding works to a registered place. It is recommended that any proposed works be discussed with an officer of Heritage Victoria prior to making a permit application. Discussing proposed works will assist in answering questions the owner may have and aid any decisions regarding works to the place.

The extent of registration of the Morwell Power Station and Briquette Factories on the Victorian Heritage Register affects the whole place shown on in Diagram 2377. Under the Heritage Act 1995 a person must not remove or demolish, damage or despoil, develop or alter or excavate, relocate or disturb the position of any part of a registered place or object without approval. It is acknowledged, however, that alterations and other works may be required to keep places and objects in good repair and adapt them for use into the future.

If a person wishes to undertake works or activities in relation to a registered place or registered object, they must apply to the Executive Director, Heritage Victoria for a permit. The purpose of a permit is to enable appropriate change to a place and to effectively manage adverse impacts on the cultural heritage significance of a place as a consequence of change. If an owner is uncertain whether a heritage permit is required, it is recommended that Heritage Victoria be contacted.

Permits are required for anything which alters the place or object, unless a permit exemption is granted. Permit exemptions usually cover routine maintenance and upkeep issues faced by owners as well as minor works. They may include appropriate works that are specified in a conservation management plan. Permit exemptions can be granted at the time of registration (under s.42 of the Heritage Act) or after registration (under s.66 of the Heritage Act).

It should be noted that the addition of new buildings to the registered place, as well as alterations to the interior and exterior of existing buildings requires a permit, unless a specific permit exemption is granted.

Conservation management plans
It is recommended that a Conservation Management Plan is developed to manage the place in a manner which respects its cultural heritage significance.

Aboriginal cultural heritage
If works are proposed which have the potential to disturb or have an impact on Aboriginal cultural heritage it is necessary to contact Aboriginal Victoria to ascertain any requirements under the Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006. If any Aboriginal cultural heritage is discovered or exposed at any time it is necessary to immediately contact Aboriginal Victoria to ascertain requirements under the Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006.

Other approvals
Please be aware that approval from other authorities (such as local government) may be required to undertake works.

Archaeology
Ground disturbance may affect any archaeological deposits at the place and, subject to the exemptions stated in this document, requires a permit.

Recommendation 1: Morwell Power Station and Briquette Factories
Recommendation 2: Ancillary land surrounding Morwell Power Station and Briquette Factories
Cultural heritage significance

Overview of significance

The Morwell Power Station and Briquette Factories is historically significant as the centrepiece of the Victorian Government’s post-WWII strategy to revitalise Victoria’s economic growth through the development of the Latrobe Valley into the state’s principal power and energy producing region. The place is a highly intact example of a mid-twentieth century power station and briquetting factory. The place is rare for containing the only remaining, intact assemblage of mid-twentieth century briquetting machinery in Victoria. The boilers used in the production of electricity at the Morwell Power Station are rare examples of boilers which have been specifically adapted for the burning of brown coal.

Cultural heritage significance

a) All of the buildings, structures and features listed here are of **primary cultural heritage significance** in the context of the place. A permit is required for most works or alterations.
   - Power Station and four chimneys
   - Control Room
   - Mechanical Workshops
   - Boiler Makers Workshop
   - Briquette Factories No.1 and No.2
   - Loading Station
   - Briquette Storage Shed and Storage Areas
   - Raw Coal Bunker
   - Wet Section No.1 and Switch House
   - Transmission Yard
   - Conveyors (throughout the place, entering the site at the west, from raw coal bunker, from switch house, briquette conveyors, collecting and feeding conveyors)
   - North corner and south corner stations
   - Selected machinery/plant within each building or structure (including boilers, burners, turbines, briquette machines, primary and secondary crusher).

b) Buildings, structures and features listed here are of **contributory cultural heritage significance** in the context of the place. A permit is required for some works or alterations.
   - Ancillary/support buildings, including the amenities buildings, riggers shed, switch house control room, chemicals laboratory, water treatment plant, sites of the former cooling towers, lecture room, offices, battery house.

c) The following buildings and features are of **little or no cultural heritage significance**. Specific permit exemptions are provided for these items:
   - Former No.3 Ash Pond, settling ponds, gatehouse, steel sheds.

**Recommendation 1**: Morwell Power Station and Briquette Factories

**Recommendation 2**: Ancillary land surrounding Morwell Power Station and Briquette Factories
MORWELL POWER STATION AND BRIQUETTE FACTORIES
PROPOSED PERMIT EXEMPTIONS (UNDER SECTION 42 OF THE HERITAGE ACT)

It should be noted that Permit Exemptions can be granted at the time of registration (under s.42(4) of the Heritage Act). Permit Exemptions can also be applied for and granted after registration (under s.66 of the Heritage Act).

General Condition 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 Condition 2
Should it become apparent during further inspection or the carrying out of works 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 works shall cease and Heritage Victoria shall be notified as soon as possible.

General Condition 3
All works should be informed by Conservation Management Plans prepared for the place. The Executive Director is not bound by any Conservation Management Plan, and permits still must be obtained for works suggested in any Conservation Management Plan.

General Condition 4
Nothing in this determination prevents the Heritage Council from amending or rescinding all or any of the permit exemptions.

General Condition 5
Nothing in this determination exempts owners or their agents from the responsibility to seek relevant planning or building permits from the relevant responsible authority, where applicable.

Specific Permit Exemptions

Buildings of primary and contributory significance
- Repair, maintenance and patching like with like. This includes the removal of broken glass, replacement of existing fabric to match original.
- The temporary shuttering of windows and covering of holes as long as this work is reversible and does not impact on heritage fabric.
- Removal of non-original items such as plumbing work, ducting, wiring, fixtures and fittings such as hot water services and taps (excluding plant and machinery associated with power generation and briquetting), and making good in a manner that does not have a detrimental impact on the heritage fabric of the place.
- Painting of previously painted surfaces provided that preparation or painting does not remove original or early painted signage.
- Removal or replacement of hooks, nails, noticeboards, carpets, flexible floor coverings non-original curtain tracks, rods and blinds.
- Erecting, repairing and maintaining signage (safety and directional signage, road signs, and speed signs) where such signage does not have a detrimental effect on the heritage fabric of the place.

Recommendation 1: Morwell Power Station and Briquette Factories
Recommendation 2: Ancillary land surrounding Morwell Power Station and Briquette Factories
• Installation, removal or replacement of electric clocks, public address systems, detectors, alarms, emergency lights, exit signs, luminaires and the like in a manner that does not have a detrimental impact on the heritage fabric of the place.
• Removal, replacement or installation of fire hydrant services including sprinklers, fire doors and elements in a manner that does not have a detrimental impact on the heritage fabric of the place.
• The erection of temporary security fencing, scaffolding, hoardings or surveillance systems to prevent unauthorised access or secure public safety which will not adversely affect any building or element.
• Emergency stabilisation necessary to secure safety where a site feature has been irreparably damaged or destabilised and represents a safety risk to its users or the public. Note: Urgent or emergency site works are to be undertaken or supervised by an appropriately qualified heritage specialist such as a structural engineer, or other heritage professional.

**Buildings and features of little or no heritage significance** (Former No.3 Ash Pond, settling ponds, gatehouse, steel sheds)
• Demolition. A permit is required for any new structure.

**Landscape**
• Maintenance, removal and planting of vegetation.
• All works to manage possums and vermin (such as rats) which do not have a detrimental impact on the heritage fabric of the place.

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**Recommendation 1:** Morwell Power Station and Briquette Factories

**Recommendation 2:** Ancillary land surrounding Morwell Power Station and Briquette Factories
MORWELL POWER STATION AND BRIQUETTE FACTORIES
RELEVANT INFORMATION

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AUTHORITY

Latrobe City Council

HERITAGE LISTING INFORMATION

- Heritage Overlay: NA
- Heritage Overlay Controls: NA
- Other listing: None

HISTORY

Coal as a source of energy

Coal is a combustible black or brownish-black sedimentary rock usually occurring in rock strata in layers or veins called coal beds or coal seams. It is formed from accumulated vegetable matter that has been altered by decay and by heat and pressure over millions of years. The different types of coal (including black and brown) reflect the stages in the transformation of vegetable material into coal – a fossil fuel – over geological time. The use of coal as a source of energy goes back thousands of years. It became important in the Industrial Revolution of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, when it was primarily used to power steam engines, heat buildings and generate electricity. Transformed into coke, coal was an essential fuel for blast and reverberatory furnaces needed by the iron and steel industry. By-products from the coking process can be used to make bitumen, chemicals and dyes, and form compounds used to produce high explosives. Coal can also be transformed to fuels such as gas and petrol and diesel fuel.

Australian coal is either high-quality bituminous coal (black coal) or lower-quality lignite (brown coal). Black coal can be found in Queensland and New South Wales, whereas brown coal is found in Victoria. Brown coal is a lesser quality coal, usually with a very high moisture content. But this ‘not very good’ coal can be economical if mined in large quantities and fed into boilers adjacent to the mine site. Victoria lacks significant deposits of black coal, but there are large deposits of brown coal in the Latrobe Valley. These deposits are close to the surface and are able to be mined by open cut methods.

Coal in Victoria 1900 to WWII

At the turn of the twentieth century, Victoria’s main fuel and energy source was black coal imported from New South Wales. Electricity was generated by steam raised from black coal, trains were powered by black coal, and black coal was used in factory furnaces. Supply was always uncertain, interrupted by strikes on the NSW coal fields and in the transport industry. At the time, Victoria’s electricity supply was also haphazard, provided by private companies or local councils. To help boost the state’s fuel independence, the government began developing Victoria’s limited black coal resources, by establishing a state coal mine at Wonthaggi in 1909.

Victoria had another energy resource to exploit: massive deposits of brown coal lying along the Latrobe River in Gippsland. Brown coal was used extensively in Germany for power generation and briquetting. In 1917, a Brown Coal Mine Advisory Committee that had been formed to consider electricity production, acted swiftly to recommend building a power station on the south side of the Latrobe River. In 1918, legislation was passed that determined that electricity generation in Victoria would be provided by a public corporation, and not by private enterprise. This was the genesis of the State Electricity Commission of Victoria (SECV), which would have a mandate to electrify Victoria with a state-wide supply. The man chosen to head the SECV was Melbourne engineer Sir John Monash, one of the most talented of the Allied generals

Recommendation 1: Morwell Power Station and Briquette Factories
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in World War One. The task ahead of him was immense: overseeing the development of an open cut mine, power station and briquette factory ten kilometres to the north of Morwell which became known as the Yallourn Power Station. Electricity began flowing to Melbourne from Yallourn in winter 1924 and supplied power throughout the 1930s although expenditure was curtailed by the onset of the Great Depression.

During WWII the demands placed on the SECV were immense. It was supplying munitions factories and other industries involved in the war effort, connecting country areas to the grid to increase food production, and using its own workshops to assist with manufacturing and assembling vitally-needed war equipment. At Yallourn, generating capacity was greatly increased. In 1941-2, 67% of Victoria’s electrical energy came from the Yallourn power station, while the briquette factory worked 24 hours a day. During the war years, the SECV was already formulating postwar plans for increasing Victoria’s fuel and energy supplies. The state was still reliant on New South Wales coal for about half of its energy needs, in spite of the Yallourn works and the SECV’s hydro-electric scheme. On top of this power rationing was introduced in Victoria in 1946 and 1947, and as a consequence a Royal Commission was held to inquire into the situation. The SECV had to prepare for a postwar society that would have dramatic increases in population, industry and energy demands.

Postwar power and energy supply
In its 1947 annual report the SECV revealed plans for massive developments. A new industrial region stretching from Moe in the west to Traralgon in the east, the Latrobe Valley, was to be developed. Coal mining, briquetting and power generation would no longer be restricted to Yallourn. A new open cut would be developed south of Morwell, supplying brown coal to two briquette factories and a power station. In this new region, Morwell, Moe and Traralgon would expand as urban centres with large increases in population. The Victorian Government considered that the state’s future was based on the provision of brown coal in the form of briquettes as fuel for industrial and domestic use, and that this would effectively sever Victoria’s reliance on black coal from NSW.

Briquettes
During the mid-twentieth century, briquettes were a key source of fuel for domestic heating and cooking and as an industrial energy source in Australia. A ‘briquette’ is a small compressed block of coal used for fuel. Victoria’s initial briquette plant was established at Yallourn during the 1920s to take advantage of the extensive brown coal deposits in the area. The SECV encouraged the use of briquettes as a replacement for imported black coal in subsequent decades. After the introduction of natural gas to the state from the 1950s, briquette usage in Victoria decreased. The Morwell Energy Brix factory continued in operation until August 2014.

The establishment of the Morwell Power Station and Briquette Factories
Work began on the Morwell open cut and briquette factories in 1949 and the SECV’s chief engineer, Ernest Bate travelled to Germany and ordered plant for the first two briquette factories as well as dredges and other machinery. In June 1950 Bate visited the United Kingdom and Germany to review progress of the contracts. On his return, he reported that the equipment should be ready for the first factory to be brought into operation in 1953, and the second in 1954. He also advised that further orders would be accepted for additional plant by the suppliers as set out in the overall plan for four briquetting plants. The SECV expected the first factory to start operating in 1953. But by 1952, the whole project had come to a halt. The recession of 1951 with its credit restrictions had resulted in dismissal of half of the workforce, while equipment for the first two factories lay in limbo at the site. Delivery of the further two factories had been deferred.

Four years later, the project was recommenced. The Government’s plan, however, was a very different one from that of the late 1940s. Although the SECV decided to persevere with the first two briquette factories, it

Recommendation 1: Morwell Power Station and Briquette Factories
Recommendation 2: Ancillary land surrounding Morwell Power Station and Briquette Factories
cancelled the orders for the planned third and fourth. The Morwell project’s priorities were now changed from briquetting to electrical power generation. In 1956, the SECV announced that a gigantic new power station, the Hazelwood power station, with a capacity for 1000 megawatts, would be built to the south of the open cut.

The briquette factories at Morwell opened in December 1959 but their operation became secondary to power generation. It was unexpectedly discovered that coal from the Morwell open cut with its high alkali and sulphur content was not suitable for briquetting. The briquettes deteriorated quickly and fouled the boilers. Yallourn coal had to be transported to supply the Morwell briquette factories on the interconnecting railway, which was an additional cost. At this time, a decline in demand for briquettes was becoming evident, due to competition from oil, electricity for domestic heating, and several years later, the discovery of natural gas in Bass Strait.

From the 1960s onwards Morwell’s primary output was electricity, and it – not Yallourn – had become the nerve centre of the new industrial valley. After Hazelwood Power Station went into operation the proportion of Victoria’s electricity supply sourced from brown coal in the Latrobe Valley reached almost 90%. From the late 1970s more brown coal fired power stations were built in the Latrobe Valley: Loy Yang A, B, C, D, (1977 - 1988). Jeeralang A and B opened 1979-80 but is gas-fired.

In 1993, Energy Brix Australia was created as the first new Victorian Government Business Enterprise established under the State Owned Enterprises Act. A fire significantly damaged the plant on Boxing Day 2003, destroying the coal cross-over conveyor that fed B, C & D briquette plants. Following the fire, only A plant continued in operation. The concrete bunker roof in A & B factory was also badly damaged and had temporary repairs carried out to strengthen its supports. Coal supply to the plant was disrupted by the Hazelwood Mine fire in February 2014. These factors and low profits and ageing plant lead to the decision by Energy Brix Australia to cease operations and close the plant in July 2014.

**CONSTRUCTION DETAILS**

- **Architect name:** Unknown
- **Architectural style name:** Industrial
- **Construction started date:** 1949
- **Construction ended date:** 1958/9

**VICTORIAN HISTORICAL THEMES**

5.0 Building Victoria’s industries and workforce
   5.1 Processing raw materials
   5.2 Developing a manufacturing capacity

7.0 Governing Victorians
   7.5 The role of Government in developing industry

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION**

The Morwell Power Station and Briquette Factories is a large industrial complex located approximately two kilometres south east from the Morwell Railway Station. It is bounded by the Princes Freeway to the north and Monash Way to the east, and by Morwell open cut to the south and west. The Hazelwood Power Station (now closed) and Jeeralang A and B Power Station are located to the south. The Morwell Power Station and Briquette Factories includes the power station, two briquette factories, coal transportation systems, storage areas and ancillary buildings.

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**Recommendation 1:** Morwell Power Station and Briquette Factories  
**Recommendation 2:** Ancillary land surrounding Morwell Power Station and Briquette Factories
The layout of the Morwell Power Station and Briquette Factories is informed by the processes of power generation and the manufacture of briquettes. The place can be divided as follows:

- The delivery and movement of coal
- The Power Station complex
- The Briquette Factories complex
- Ancillary buildings

(Map source: Energy Brix Australia)

Recommendation 1: Morwell Power Station and Briquette Factories
Recommendation 2: Ancillary land surrounding Morwell Power Station and Briquette Factories
The following description describes the structures in terms of process, beginning with coal entering the place on the western side, and finishing with output on the eastern side. Each element has a number, which correlates with the numbers on the plan above.

**The delivery and movement of coal**
Coal for use in the Power Station and Briquette Factories entered on the western boundary and flowed through the site west to east. Surface transport entered the site from the north by road and by rail in separate corridors.

**Delivery Conveyors (1)**
Coal conveyors are located on the western boundary. They delivered coal from Morwell open cut and Yallourn open cut, to the upper level of the Raw Coal Bunker. The coal from Yallourn was transported to the site via the interconnecting railway.

**Raw Coal Bunker (2)**
The Raw Coal Bunker is a multi-storied building on a level platform. The coal entered at the upper level and was discharged to a conveyor at the base. The Raw Coal Bunker has two slot bunkers, one for power coal (from Morwell) and one for briquette coal (from Yallourn).

**Conveyor to the Wet Section Building (3)**
This conveyor took the coal to upper levels of the Wet Section Building.

**Wet Section Building (4)**
The Wet Section building is a multi-storied building with large window panels and a low gabled roof. The function of this building was to prepare the coal by crushing and screening. The flow of coal was organised so coal for the boilers exited via a conveyor to the south while that for the Briquette factory exited via a conveyor to the north.

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**Recommendation 1**: Morwell Power Station and Briquette Factories

**Recommendation 2**: Ancillary land surrounding Morwell Power Station and Briquette Factories
Collecting and Feeding Conveyors (5)
The Collecting and Feeding Conveyors are located to the north of the No. 1 and No. 2 Briquette Factories. They ran on an east-west axis and moved briquettes east to the briquette loading station, or to the conveyor which took briquettes off the site for industrial use. Alternatively, the briquettes were transferred to conveyors taking them north to the Briquette Storage Areas where they were stored in heaps, or in the Briquette Storage Shed. The collecting and feeding conveyors are located in a steel framed building with brick cladding.

Off-site Conveyor (6)
Immediately to the east of the Morwell Power Station and Briquette Factories were several industries that used briquettes supplied from the factory. The Off-site Conveyor took briquettes from the Collecting and Feeding Conveyors across the railway tracks to the industrial sites.

The Power Station complex
The power station complex comprises the station itself with a boiler and turbine house, mechanical workshops, the control room and the transformer yard. The No. 1 and No. 2 cooling towers have been demolished.

The Power Station (7)
The coal for use in the Power Station was conveyed from the Wet Section to the South Corner Station where the coal was transferred to a conveyor running east to the top of the Power Station. The Power Station is multi-storied building with a flat roof. It is clad in corrugated asbestos cement sheeting laid horizontally. The fenestration is of typical industrial form with iron framed windows running along the building’s elevations. The Power Station comprises two functional areas, the boiler house and the turbine house. The boiler house contains eight water tube boilers fed by dried crushed coal, and the turbine house contains four high pressure turbines and a larger lower pressure turbine. The boiler gas is vented by four iron chimneys which are located on the north and south sides of the building, while the ash and dust is extracted by Lurgi dust extractors. A mechanical workshop with a wooden floor is attached to the Power Station.

Recommendation 1: Morwell Power Station and Briquette Factories
Recommendation 2: Ancillary land surrounding Morwell Power Station and Briquette Factories
Control Room (8)
The Control Room is located to the east of the Power Station. Its function was to manage the power generated by the turbines and distribute it to the grid as required. The main control room is dominated by a large semi-circular control panel and control desks, with multiple gauges, switches and indicators.

The Transformer Yard (9)
The Transformer Yard is located to the east of the Control Room and is where the power was transformed for distribution to the grid.

Recommendation 1: Morwell Power Station and Briquette Factories
Recommendation 2: Ancillary land surrounding Morwell Power Station and Briquette Factories
No 1 Cooling Tower (10) (within the recommended extent but demolished)
Both cooling towers used to cool the steam from the turbines have been demolished. The No.1 Cooling Tower was located to the north of the Briquette Factories and this site lies within the recommended extent. No.2 Cooling Tower was to the south of the Power Station and is located outside the recommended extent.

The Briquette Factories complex
The Briquette Factory complex comprises four production lines for briquettes and associated brown coal handling and preparation equipment, as well as conveyors and storage for briquettes, plus road and rail (broad gauge) loading facilities.

No. 1 and No. 2 Briquette Factories (11)
The coal for use in the Briquette Factories was conveyed from the Wet Section to the North Corner Station where the coal was transferred to a conveyor running east to the factories. No. 1 and No. 2 Briquette Factories are multi-storied buildings with flat roofs. The buildings are steel framed and brick clad but with prominent fenestration in typical industrial form with iron framed windows. The factories are arranged in a U-shape and the briquette production process in each factory mirrors each other. Within each factory, there are two production lines for briquettes. They are called ‘B/F A’ to ‘B/F D’. Each production line contains five briquette presses (plus associated plant to transform the brown coal). Each production line is complete and the overall briquette production line at Morwell is more or less intact.

Briquette Factories

Briquette Storage Shed (12)
The Briquette Storage Shed is a steel framed shed with a corrugated asbestos cement roof and openings filled with cement bricks on their sides.
Briquette Storage Area (13)
The Briquette Storage Areas are large open areas where simply organised heaps of briquettes were stored temporarily.

Briquette Loading Station (14)
The Briquette Loading Station is a steel framed shed with an upper storey that formerly contained conveyors and hoppers to allow discharge to railway trucks below. There are six broad gauge railway tracks for loading.

Recommendation 1: Morwell Power Station and Briquette Factories
Recommendation 2: Ancillary land surrounding Morwell Power Station and Briquette Factories
Ancillary buildings
Located throughout the place, are many buildings and sheds with functions associated with the process of power generation and briquette making. They include laboratories, workshops and amenities blocks and are constructed using a variety of methods and materials.

OBJECTS AND INTERIORS
The plant and machinery within the Morwell Power Station and Briquette Factories is of significance (in particular the briquetting machines, boilers, turbines). The interiors of the operational buildings is also of significance (in particular the Power Station, Boiler House, Turbine House, Control Room, Briquetting floor).

LANDSCAPES, TREES & GARDENS
There are no landscape elements that contribute to the significance of the Morwell Power Station and Briquette Factories.

ARCHAEOLOGY
There is no identified archaeology of state level significance at this place.

INTEGRITY/INTACTNESS
Recognising that the place has been in continuous operation since its establishment (1949), some upgrades and improvements have occurred at the site to maintain the functionality of the site and incorporate some technological upgrades. The cooling towers have been demolished. Despite this, the key buildings and operations of the site are clearly evident in the fabric of the place and key elements of significance have been retained and are broadly intact. [April 2017]

CONDITION
Since the plant’s closure in 2014, minimal amounts of maintenance have been undertaken, however, the power station and briquetting factories are generally in good condition, for well-used industrial structures. [April 2017]

Recommendation 1: Morwell Power Station and Briquette Factories
Recommendation 2: Ancillary land surrounding Morwell Power Station and Briquette Factories
COMPARISONS

Coal fired power stations in the VHR

Yallourn Power Station (VHR H1054) (gazetted in 1994; demolished between 1995 and 1999; removed from the VHR in 2001, apart from the Former Yallourn Power Station Administrative Building VHR H1054, see below).

The State Electricity Commission was formed in 1918 in response to increased demands for electricity and the dependence on erratic New South Wales coal supplies. It was planned to exploit the large deposits of brown coal in the Latrobe Valley. The planning, construction and operation of Yallourn was carried out under the direction of Australia’s most famous soldier and engineer, Sir John Monash and the first Yallourn Power Station opened in 1924. Located alongside and operating in conjunction with an extensive open-cut brown coal deposit, the station quickly established brown coal as a viable fuel source and expansion followed with four more stations completed by 1962. From its inception in 1924 until the 1950s, the Yallourn power station was the base-load power station for the Victorian electricity grid. However due to advancing technology, by the late 1980s, it was a relatively insignificant contributor to the grid, ceasing generation altogether in 1989. Throughout its sixty-five years of operation, it was a central element in the state electricity network and pioneered the technological development of large scale brown coal use for energy production in Victoria. Yallourn Power Station was included in the Victorian Heritage Register in 1994. A, B, C D and E Power Stations were demolished between 1995 and 1999, but Yallourn W (built in the 1970s) remains operational.

Recommendation 1: Morwell Power Station and Briquette Factories
Recommendation 2: Ancillary land surrounding Morwell Power Station and Briquette Factories
Former Yallourn Power Station Administrative Building (VHR H1054) (The only building in the VHR relating to the Former Yallourn Power Station).

The only remnant of the earliest period of power generation at Yallourn is the Administrative Building designed in the SEC architectural department under the direction of chief architect AR La Gersch. The two storey brick building in Inter-war Academic Classical style features a portico with giant order Ionic columns. The building was the administrative headquarters of the power station from its construction in 1922-23 until its redundancy in the mid-1980s. It was sold in 1996 and has operated since then mainly as an entertainment venue. The building is in relatively good condition and exhibits a high degree of external integrity.

Recommendation 1: Morwell Power Station and Briquette Factories
Recommendation 2: Ancillary land surrounding Morwell Power Station and Briquette Factories
Coal fired power stations not in the VHR

Newport Power Station (not in VHR)
A: 1918/B: 1923/C: 1947 - all now demolished.
D: 1977 - gas fuelled and still operational.

Newport A was established by the Victorian Railways in 1918 for the specific purpose of supplying energy for the electrification of the suburban rail system. Newport B was opened by the SECV in 1923 as a stopgap to supply electricity to Melbourne until the Yallourn power station entered service. Newport C station opened in 1947 by the SECV after wartime delays. The power station boilers were originally fuelled by imported New South Wales black coal, but were converted to burn brown coal briquettes in the 1950s. Use of the plants declined with the opening of newer power stations in the Latrobe Valley, being used only for peak loads in later years. Newport D (gas fuelled) opened in 1977 after much opposition, and with smaller capacity. As a consequence the gas powered Jeeralang Power Station was opened in the Latrobe Valley.

Newport Power Station D (gas fuelled). The earlier stations, A, B and C were coal fired and have been demolished. (Not in the VHR)

Hazelwood Power Station (1964-1971) (not in VHR)

The Hazelwood Power Station is located in the Latrobe Valley and was built between 1964 and 1971. Development of the brown coal reserves at Morwell was started by the State Electricity Commission of Victoria (SECV) in 1949 as the Morwell Project, which included the Morwell open cut mine, and the Morwell briquette works. Hazelwood Power Station was approved in 1959, commenced operations in 1964 and additional capacity was provided when two additional generating units at Hazelwood were commissioned in 1970 and 1971. Hazelwood relied on brown coal deposits from the nearby Morwell open cut mine. The Hazelwood Power Station supplied up to 25% of Victoria's base load electricity and more than 5% of Australia's total electricity demand. Hazelwood Power Station was privatised in 1996 and was only meant to be operational until 2005, however its license was renewed, allowing it to continue operating until 2030. In

Recommendation 1: Morwell Power Station and Briquette Factories
Recommendation 2: Ancillary land surrounding Morwell Power Station and Briquette Factories
2005 a report by WWF Australia listed it as one of the most polluting power stations in the world. In 2016, owners ENGIE decided to close Hazelwood Power Station and the final section closed at the end on March 2017.

Hazelwood Power Station (decommissioned, not in the VHR)

**Loy Yang Power Station (1980s) (not in VHR)**

The Loy Yang Power Station is a brown coal-fired thermal power station located on the outskirts of the city of Traralgon. It was constructed during the 1980s by International Combustion Australia Ltd, who was contracted by the government owned State Electricity Commission of Victoria (SECV). Loy Yang consists of two sections, known as Loy Yang A and Loy Yang B, both of which are supplied by the Loy Yang brown coal mine. Loy Yang B is Victoria's newest and most efficient brown coal-fired power station. Loy Yang is a base load supply station, and produces about one third of Victoria's electricity requirements. It was originally planned that the complex would consist of eight generating units, however privatisation of the SECV resulted in only six generating units being completed, four in Loy Yang A and two in Loy Yang B.

Loy Yang A and B (not in the VHR)

**Recommendation 1**: Morwell Power Station and Briquette Factories

**Recommendation 2**: Ancillary land surrounding Morwell Power Station and Briquette Factories
**Other coal-fired power stations in Victoria (not in the VHR)**

In addition to the large-scale power stations listed above, several smaller suburban and town-based coal-fired power stations in Victoria were established. These were mostly established to supply power for a specific and focussed use, or for suburban or regional areas. These included the station at Ballarat which was established primarily to provide electricity for the tram network, but it also supplied electricity to the town. Spencer Street Power Station, one of the earliest coal-fired power stations in Victoria, was constructed in 1894 to supply power to Melbourne city. Most of these power stations have been demolished or are being re-used for other purposes.

**Briquette factories in the VHR**

**Gelliondale Briquette plant (1934-1950) VHR H1058 [Heritage Place, Archaeological Place]**

The Gelliondale Brown Coal and Oil Co. commenced operations in 1930 as a non-government private enterprise under the direction and ownership of James T Knox. It started manufacturing briquettes in 1934. The company ceased the production of briquettes in 1944 and was wound up in 1950. The concrete engine footings and machinery remains of the briquette plant form part of an incomplete industrial ruin. The remains of the Gelliondale Briquette plant have an important association with the endeavours of James Knox and the Gelliondale Brown Coal and Oil Co. James Knox attempted to retain the rights of individuals and of private enterprise in the face of active opposition from the State Government. He was also a civil engineer who is noted for promoting the use of concrete in the Australian construction industry. The Gelliondale Briquette plant is also the only remaining site that is representative of non-government operated briquette production facility. The processes and machinery used in the production of briquettes at Gelliondale pre-date and differ to some extent from those used at the later Morwell plant. The Gelliondale Briquette plant is much smaller in scale than the Morwell plant and therefore it is representative of a different approach to the utilisation of resources.

![Gelliondale Briquette plant (1934-1950) VHR H1058](image)

**Recommendation 1**: Morwell Power Station and Briquette Factories

**Recommendation 2**: Ancillary land surrounding Morwell Power Station and Briquette Factories
Comparison summary
Of all the comparable places, both included and not included in the VHR, the Morwell Power Station and Briquette Factories is the only place which continues to demonstrate both the end to end processes of coal fired power generation, and of briquette manufacturing. It contains the only remaining, intact assemblage of mid-twentieth century briquetting machinery in Victoria. The Morwell Power Station and Briquette Factories was the centrepiece of the Victorian Government’s post-WWII strategy to revitalise Victoria’s economic growth through the development of the Latrobe Valley into the state’s principal power and energy producing region. It provided electricity to a rapidly growing population, alleviated power shortages, produced briquettes for industrial and domestic use, and reduced the state’s reliance on black coal from New South Wales. The Morwell Power Station and Briquette Factories was a key piece of state infrastructure that underpinned Victoria’s postwar industrialisation.

Recommendation 1: Morwell Power Station and Briquette Factories
Recommendation 2: Ancillary land surrounding Morwell Power Station and Briquette Factories
REFERENCES


Royal Commission on Coal (1890). Second progress report of the Royal Commission appointed to inquire as to the best means of developing and promoting the coal industry of Victoria. Melbourne, Robt. S. Brain, Government Printer.

Royal Commission on Coal (1891). Final report of the Royal Commission appointed to inquire as to the best means of developing and promoting the coal industry of Victoria. Melbourne, Robt. S. Brain, Government Printer.


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Recommendation 1: Morwell Power Station and Briquette Factories
Recommendation 2: Ancillary land surrounding Morwell Power Station and Briquette Factories
View southwest from the top of No.1 Briquette Factory looking at Wet Section No.1 building (foreground) with the raw coal bunker visible (background).

View east from the top of No.1 Briquette Factory looking at the conveyors and North West Corner Station.

**Recommendation 1:** Morwell Power Station and Briquette Factories

**Recommendation 2:** Ancillary land surrounding Morwell Power Station and Briquette Factories
View of the conveyor from North West Corner Station to No.1 Briquette Factory.

View northeast from the top of No.1 Briquette Factory looking at side of the Briquette Factory (right) and the collecting and feeding conveyors (left)

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View of briquette machinery in No.1 Briquette Factory, looking east.

View of conveyors leading from briquette machines to external conveyor, looking east.
View looking west between Briquette Factories (right) and Power Station with chimneys 3 and 4 (left).

View south from the top of No.1 Briquette Factory looking at power station.

**Recommendation 1:** Morwell Power Station and Briquette Factories

**Recommendation 2:** Ancillary land surrounding Morwell Power Station and Briquette Factories
Brown coal fired boiler inside the Power Station.

View inside the Turbine House, looking northeast.

Recommendation 1: Morwell Power Station and Briquette Factories
Recommendation 2: Ancillary land surrounding Morwell Power Station and Briquette Factories
View inside the Power Station Control Room.

View inside the Mechanical Workshops, looking east.

Recommendation 1: Morwell Power Station and Briquette Factories
Recommendation 2: Ancillary land surrounding Morwell Power Station and Briquette Factories
View southwest to Briquette Storage Shed.

View east towards the briquette storage area, with the location of the former No.1 cooling tower in the middle, and the briquette storage shed in the background.

Recommendation 1: Morwell Power Station and Briquette Factories
Recommendation 2: Ancillary land surrounding Morwell Power Station and Briquette Factories
View south to briquette loading station.

View from under the briquette loading station.

Recommendation 1: Morwell Power Station and Briquette Factories
Recommendation 2: Ancillary land surrounding Morwell Power Station and Briquette Factories
ANCILLARY LAND SURROUNDING MORWELL POWER STATION AND BRIQUETTE FACTORIES (NOT RECOMMENDED FOR INCLUSION IN THE VICTORIAN HERITAGE REGISTER)

Recommendation 1: Morwell Power Station and Briquette Factories
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Commercial Road railway overbridge, looking northwest.

View north along Commercial Road overbridge to the north.
Rail siding connecting to Briquette Loading Station, looking southeast.

View southwest of Former No.3 Ash Pond looking towards the Power Station (note the chimneys visible in the background).

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View west of Former No.3 Ash Pond looking towards the interface with Commercial Road.
HISTORICAL IMAGES

Construction of the Briquette Factories, undated.

Morwell Briquette Works under construction, 1959.
(Source: Morwell: Power and Fuel Development, SECV)

Recommendation 1: Morwell Power Station and Briquette Factories
Recommendation 2: Ancillary land surrounding Morwell Power Station and Briquette Factories
Loading briquettes for despatch, 1959.  
(Source: Morwell: Power and Fuel Development, SECV)

Briquetting machine at Morwell imported from Germany (2017).

Bernie Briquette was an advertising character created by the SECV.  
These signs were once familiar throughout Victoria where briquettes were sold for domestic use.  
(Source: Chris Keating, Flickr, https://www.flickr.com/photos/doctor_keats/20861477915)