

Heritage Impact Statement

Kalimna Park, Castlemaine

Prepared for: Lachlan Cullum, Djandak

Date: 1 October 2025

Revision: A

1. Project Overview

1.1 Introduction

This heritage impact statement has been prepared on behalf of Lachlan Cullum of Djandak and outlines the proposed works and the relevant exemptions. The application is based on information provided, consisting of the drawing set dated 16 October 2024 by Pollen Studio, reports by Treecology and Extent Heritage, and Materials and Finishes Schedule. The drawings provided include:

- LDD-000 Cover Page Plan
- LDD-100 Performance Notes
- LDD-101 Context Plan
- LDD-102 Western Site Plan
- LDD-200 Existing Conditions and Demolition
- LDD-201 Existing Conditions and Demolition
- LDD-300 Set Out
- LDD-301 Set Out
- LDD-400 Surfaces, Finishes, Furniture & Levels
- LDD-401 Surfaces, Finishes, Furniture & Levels
- LDD-500 Planting Plan
- LDD-501 Planting Plan
- LDD-503 Planting Schedule

Further documentation referenced includes:

- Four Post Amenity Block – with water Tank and Gutter set by DMC Drafting and Design, Revision E dated 17.11.22
- Proposed Standard Shelter set, Rev B, dated 17.11.22

1.2 Limitations

This report only addresses works proposed at the site adjoining Fletcher Street and does not consider impacts from a second site on Kalimna Tourist Road.

1.3 The Site

The site is within Kalimna Park, Castlemaine, a nature reserve covered with a mix of native and exotic tree species, with informal pathways through the site. The park marks the eastern edge of the formal grid of Castlemaine.

The site is a small part of the area bounded on the west side by Fletcher Street, to the north by Doveton Street, to the south by Lyttleton Street and the east by Kalimna Road. Access is through a gate located near the intersection with Campbell Street, located within the much larger regional park surrounding the eastern edge of Castlemaine. The site itself is on the western edge of this area, accessed from Fletcher Street via a gate near the intersection with Campbell Street. More formal pathways and trails can be found elsewhere in the park, particularly in leading to and from the rotunda and direction stone to the east of the subject site (refer map below).



Figure 1: Aerial image of the site (marked with red box) within the wider context. The rotunda and direction stone are marked with a yellow star.
Source: Google Maps, edited by Kylie Howe

Description

The site is lightly treed, falling away from Fletcher Street on the western side, before rising again slightly on the eastern side. The vegetation is a mix of native and exotic species, with little understorey, providing dappled shade. The tree growth is typically younger trees, although there are some more established examples. Part of the site forms a natural bowl.

Informal pathways meander through the site following no clear pattern. Several trees are dead or in poor health, with dead branches easily discerned. A sign and gateway mark the entrances to the site from Fletcher Street, and there is no marked boundary on the north, east or south sides.

The western edge of the site adjoins an area of residential development with many periods of construction evident. There are no existing structures within the works area.

Existing Conditions Images



Figure 2 Entry to the site, with existing signage.



Figure 3 Informal pathways allow access through the site.



Figure 4 The area is lightly treed, with a mix of native and exotic species present.



Figure 5 The site forms a natural bowl with minimal understory.



Figure 6 The surrounding area includes several large pine species, as well as native trees in varying states of health.



Figure 7 Numerous dead or fallen trees can be found both within the proposed works area, and in the immediate vicinity.

2. Heritage Considerations

2.1 Victorian Heritage Register

The site is included in the Victorian Heritage Register as part of the Castlemaine Diggings National Heritage Park (VHR H2047). The Statement of Significance is reproduced below:

What is significant?

The Castlemaine Diggings National Heritage Park envelopes a goldfield which was the catalyst for the Victorian gold rush of the early 1850s. In that tumultuous decade Victorian gold transformed the demographic, social, political and economic complexion of Australia. The gold won from Mount Alexander (later renamed Castlemaine) and other early rushes such as Ballarat and Bendigo mainly found its way to England as bullion where it helped bankroll a spectacular period of world trade, industrial and commercial expansion.

Following the flush of discovery in July 1851, Mount Alexander all but depopulated other Australian goldfields; by mid-1852 it was renowned as a world significant goldfield. The Mount Alexander rush drew large numbers of gold seekers from Britain, Europe and America and was the first Victoria goldfield on which Chinese miners converged in large numbers, in 1854. The Mount Alexander rush helped established a pattern of international and local migration for future Australian and international gold rushes.

Of the major 1850s goldfields, Mount Alexander alone remained a primarily surface field, and for this reason has uniquely preserved the early alluvial landscape. Ballarat and Bendigo were transformed into great cities by even richer underground mines which obliterated their gold rush workings.

At the core of the Castlemaine Diggings National Heritage Park is an area of land, approximately 50 km by 10 km, containing auriferous quartz reefs, gullies, flats and hills which encompasses the goldfield known historically as the Mount Alexander Diggings. Inextricably linked to the historic gold locations is an abundance of mining relics relating to the early 1850s Mount Alexander gold rush. They form subtle landscapes comprising shallow alluvial diggings, tracks, burial grounds, huts and fireplaces, puddling machines, sluices and tail races, quartz roasting kilns and early quartz mining & battery sites. Interlacing the gold rush features is physical evidence of successive periods of mining which lead up to the present day.

Despite the transformation of the natural environment evidence of Aboriginal occupation such as rock wells and stone tools is also present. This outstanding archaeological palimpsest is now part of a regenerating Box-Ironbark forest which is in its own right an artefact of gold mining and later forestry. The place names of the park's gold mining locations are significant markers of ethnicity, experiences and events of the Mount Alexander rush. Adjoining the park are the townships born of the gold rush, Barkers Creek, Castlemaine, Chewton, Fryerstown, Vaughan, Campbells Creek and Guildford.

How is it significant?

The Castlemaine Diggings National Heritage Park is of historical, scientific, archaeological and aesthetic (landscape) significance to the State of Victoria.

Why is it significant?

The Castlemaine Diggings National Heritage Park is historically significant as an authentic and intact early 1850s goldfield. It was the catalyst for the Victorian gold rush of the 1850s, which was a profoundly significant event in the shaping of Australia. In that tumultuous decade Victorian gold transformed the demographic, social, political and economic complexion of Australia.

The Castlemaine Diggings National Heritage Park is scientifically significant because it envelopes an extraordinary mass of geological, geomorphologic and cultural features relating to initial and subsequent periods of gold mining from 1851 to the present day. Its uniqueness lies in the authentic nature of the gold rush material evidence as compared to other contemporary goldfields, its association with the momentous Mount Alexander rush, and the intactness and diversity of the preserved mining sequence over a period of 150 years. The integrity of the 1850s gold-rush landscape in the section south of Vaughan is particularly exceptional. The park also has some of the earliest remaining gold reef mining sites in Australia. Many of the alluvial and reef mining sites are associated with remnants of housing, which are significant both as evidence of historical occupation of the goldfield and as archaeological resources likely to contain evidence which will cast greater light on ethnicity, mining and domestic life. The land and its regenerating Box-Ironbark forest is important scientific evidence in its own right in demonstrating a spectacular event of transformation of the pre-gold rush environment.

The Castlemaine Diggings National Heritage Park is a mysterious and picturesque landscape of environmental transformation and regeneration and is culturally significant as the embodiment of the Mount Alexander rush, the commencement of the Victorian gold rush proper. The overall quality and range of surviving sources of information (archaeological, environmental and historical) when combined speaks eloquently of the history of the Mount Alexander rush of Victoria's first great concentration and mixing of ethnic and regional groups. Mount Alexander and its central Victorian contemporaries, Bendigo and Ballarat, were responsible for energising society in the early 1850s with results that transformed Australia.

2.2 Victorian Heritage Inventory

The site is not included in the Victorian Heritage Inventory.

2.3 Mount Alexander Shire Planning Scheme

The site is located within HO998 Castlemaine Diggings National Heritage Park. No additional controls apply to the precinct and prohibited uses are permitted.



Figure 8. Excerpt from the Mount Alexander Planning Scheme Heritage Overlay Map (Maps 21, top, and 23, bottom) showing the subject site (marked in red).

No citation or statement of significance has been identified for the local heritage overlay.

The site is zoned as Public Conservation and Resource Zone (PCRZ) and is also subject to Bushfire Management Overlay (BMO) and Significant Landscape Overlay – Schedule 2 (SLO).

Clause 15.03 Heritage Policy in the Mount Alexander Planning Scheme applies to the site. The stated policy objective is to ensure the conservation of places of heritage significance. Several strategies are laid out in clause 15.03 Heritage Conservation; these are reproduced below:

Identify, assess and document places of natural and cultural heritage significance as a basis for their inclusion in the planning scheme.

Provide for the protection of natural heritage sites and man-made resources.

Provide for the conservation and enhancement of those places that are of aesthetic, archaeological, architectural, cultural, scientific or social significance.

Encourage appropriate development that respects places with identified heritage values.

Retain those elements that contribute to the importance of the heritage place.

Encourage the conservation and restoration of contributory elements of a heritage place.

Ensure an appropriate setting and context for heritage places is maintained or enhanced.

Support adaptive reuse of heritage buildings where their use has become redundant.

Consider whether it is appropriate to require the restoration or reconstruction of a heritage building in a Heritage Overlay that has been unlawfully or unintentionally demolished in order to retain or interpret the cultural heritage significance of the building, streetscape or area.

Clause 15.03-1L *Heritage General* includes strategies for the management of significant trees:

Encourage the retention of significant trees in a heritage place unless either:

- *The trees are to be removed as part of a maintenance program to manage loss of trees due to deterioration caused by old age or disease.*
- *The trees are causing structural damage to an existing structure and remedial measures (such as root barriers and pruning) cannot be implemented.*

Support additions and new works that respect culturally significant trees (and where possible, significant garden layouts) by siting proposed new development at a distance that ensures the ongoing health of the tree.

Encourage replacement trees of the same species when significant trees are removed.

Protect exotic vegetation if it is of heritage, cultural or economic value, or contributes to the character of an area.

There are also strategies for approaching signage within heritage sites:

Conserve early examples of painted or other types of signage.

Encourage new signs that respect the period and style of the building to which they relate by using appropriate materials, fonts and paint colours.

Encourage signs that are of a size that does not dominate the historic place or precinct.

Discourage signs that dominate a building or obscure its architectural form or features,

Encourage signs to be placed in locations on the building that would have traditionally been used as advertising areas.

Ensure that new signs are capable of being removed without causing damage to the historic fabric of the place.

Avoid signs painted in fluorescent or iridescent paint.

2.4 Non-Statutory Listing

The site is not included in any non-statutory listings, such as the National Trust Register.

3. Site History

Before European settlement, the Castlemaine area was home to the Dja Dja Wurrung people who continue to be present on the land today. The land was a rich hunting ground and provided high quality weapons and tools made from the local stone, allowing for good trading relationships with neighbouring people.

European settlers began to arrive in the Castlemaine district in the wake of Major Thomas Livingstone Mitchell's third expedition through the region in 1836. Mitchell described the region as an area of fertile plains, with lush pasture and good water sources, and endorsed European settlement in the region, in spite of records of resistance from the Dja Dja Wurrung to his expedition. Squatters occupied vast areas of land from 1837 to run cattle and sheep. The Forest Creek area, which was also known as the Mount Alexander run, was claimed by Captain William Wright, without consent or treaty with the original inhabitants.

Gold was discovered in Barkers' Creek at Specimen Valley on the Mount Alexander run by a shepherd in 1851, kickstarting the Victorian Gold Rush which would prove to be both devastating to the environment and foundational for many central Victorian towns and cities. It was one of the most lucrative rushes of the 19th century and lured people from all over the globe to Victoria. The first village established on the Mount Alexander diggings was Chewton, closely followed by Forrest Creek, where the first official post office opened in 1852. William Wright became the first Goldfields Commissioner and named the resulting settlement Castlemaine, in honour of his uncle, Viscount Castlemaine.

The Castlemaine goldfields were primarily alluvial diggings, without the deep excavations seen in other major Victorian fields like Ballarat or Bendigo. The nearby Pennyweight Flat area, to the east of the subject site, is a good example of mining activity in the area. Pennyweight saw several rushes, each driven by a different mining technique. After initial 'surfacing', miners began 'sinking' for gold as surface finds were rapidly exhausted. By 1881, when sluicing began, the area was unrecognisable, and the Castlemaine goldfield was all but played out. No visible evidence suggests that the subject area was the focus of intensive mining activity like other areas of the park, although mapping suggests an unnamed line of reef runs through the area.¹



Figure 9. Zealous gold diggers, Castlemaine, 1852 S. T. Gill. Source: State Library of Victoria

Early maps show that the subject site is outside of the initial surveyed area of the township in the 1850s. By 1863, the western edge of Kalimna Park was surveyed and designated as section 60. Maps indicate that it was reserved as a public park by this point. The temporary reservation was confirmed in 1868.

The Castlemaine community, in particular the Progress Association, began to "improve" the park as early as 1903. These efforts continued through the first half of the twentieth century; a mix of European and native trees were planted, benches installed and other points of interest or amenities for visitors were added to various locations around the park.

¹ Plan of the Chewton-Castlemaine gold field showing anticlinal axial lines &c, Mines Department, Victoria, Sept 1902.

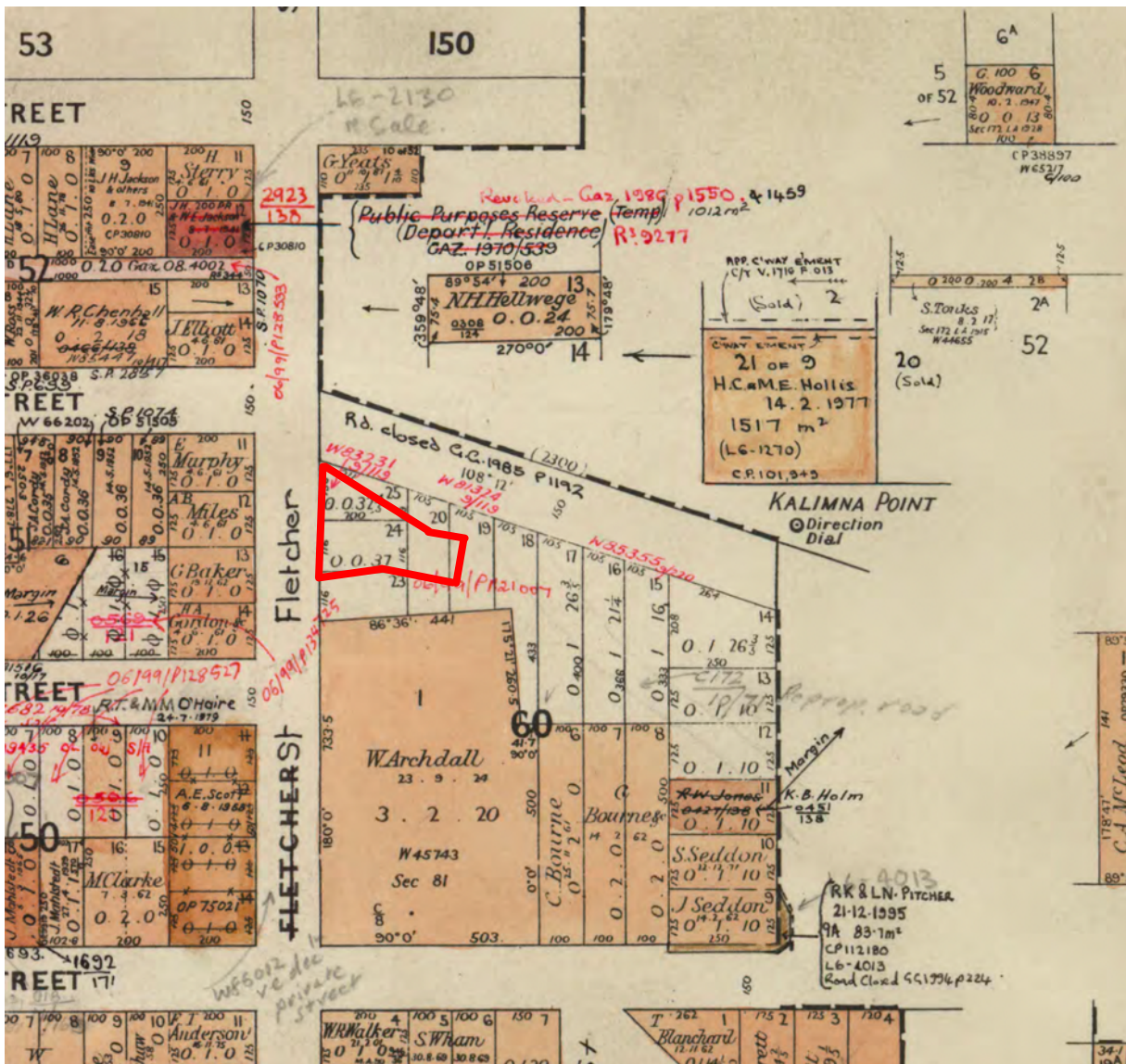


Figure 10 Excerpt from Castlemaine Township 2 Parish Map showing the subject site divided into crown allotments. The site area is bounded to the north by the former road reserve of Campbell Street, which was closed in 1985. Fletcher Street was not continued through from Templeton Street to Lyttleton Street, and Templeton Street itself was realigned and does not intersect Fletcher Street. The approximate location of the site is indicated in red. Source: Public Record Office of Victoria.

The Progress Association were closely involved in the redevelopment of Kalimna Park. In 1914, they invited the curator of the Melbourne Botanical Gardens to give advice on “the further planting of Kalimna Park.” Mr Cronin, the curator, was impressed with the site and advised that plants should be planted in groups instead of avenues, to give a more natural appearance and to preserve some existing landscape features. He recommended that they “go on planting conifers and gums and interplant with wattles. Mr Cronin was interested in an enclosure that was reserved for native shrubs and plants, asking the Progress Association to “gather and send to the Melbourne Botanical Gardens similar native plants, in return he would have forwarded plants suitable for the local park.” (Mount Alexander Mail 18 June 1914:2)

In February 1915, the Minister for Lands granted the Progress Association £20 for improvements to the park, conditional upon the association spending a similar amount. The media at the time described the park as a “beauty spot” which had already been “nicely laid out with avenues of various kinds of trees” that was “gradually assuming good proportions.” (*Bendigoian*, 2 February 1915: 11)

Kalimna Point is an important landmark for traditional owners. It is on a direct path between Leanganook (Mount Alexander) and Lalgambook (Mount Franklin), both of which are significant sites to the Dja Dja Wurrung people. Given the varied terrain on this pathway, Kalimna Point was an important viewing point to gain a sense of direction, as a lookout point, and to signal neighbouring clans. (“A Walk on the Kalimna Circuit Track”) This quality as a viewpoint was also recognised by other citizens of Castlemaine, and a rotunda and direction stone were erected at Kalimna Point in 1926.

The park was also declared a native game sanctuary in 1926. The Castlemaine Bird Club later erected a bird fountain in the park. It was named for Hugh Leech, the first secretary of the club, in recognition of the work he had done to stimulate an interest in bird life in Castlemaine. The club handed the fountain over to the citizens of Castlemaine as part of the celebrations of Bird Day in 1930.

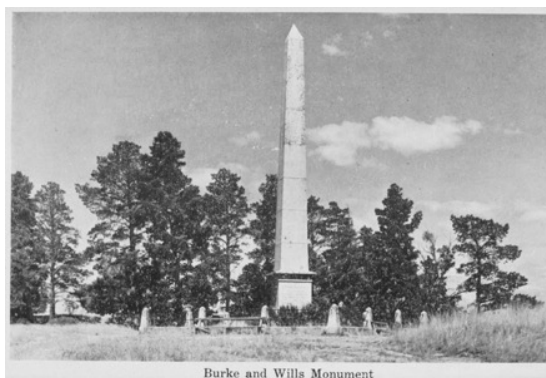


Figure 11. Burke and Wills monument to the southeast of the subject site. Source State Library of Victoria



Figure 12. Rotunda and direction stone at Kalimna Point to the northeast of the site. Source Friends of Kalimna Park

In spite of Kalimna Park’s public reserve and native game sanctuary status, a 1931 application to the borough by two gold prospectors for permission to mine within the park was granted, subject to “certain conditions relating to damage of reserve.” (*The Age*, 22 August 1931:9) There was a belief that there was a good quantity of gold in Kalimna Park but, after sinking a shaft in the vicinity of some old works, they found that the mine wasn’t viable after the initial find and the shaft was filled in 1932. An ironbark was planted on top of the shaft, and other ornamental trees planted nearby. The precise location

of this shaft has not been identified, but there is no indication that it was within the works area.

Kalimna Park was used for military training exercises in the Second World War and areas away from the subject site still show signs of the military excavations from this time. This activity follows on from less formal associations with defence; from 1901, the new Federal government encouraged civilian rifle clubs to cover the gap left by the departure of the British military following Federation. The northern part of the park served a rifle range, likely from about 1929 (*Mount Alexander Shire Thematic Heritage Study, Thematic History (vol 2) 2016:152*)

By the 1970s, the proposed works area had taken on something close to its current appearance from Fletcher Street. Traces of earlier landscape interventions remain in the pathways and trees, but any traces of either mining activity or the ordered planting of the first half of the 20th century has been lost. Vegetation in the area was dramatically affected by the Millenium Drought, which saw much of the understory die away; this has still not returned and has left the park more open in spite of successful regeneration efforts, for example in the wetter years 2010-2011 ("A Walk on the Kalimna Park Circuit").





Figure 13. View from the intersection of Fletcher and Campbell Streets (top row), From the end of Fletcher Street (middle row) and into the park from approximately 45 Fletcher Street (bottom row). The left side shows the images from the Committee for Urban Action survey of Castlemaine (1970-1976, held by the State Library of Australia) and the right shows the most recent StreetView (Google StreetView 2010). The mix of planting remains the same across the years.

Today, Kalimna Park is host to the Kalimna Park Circuit walking trail and is described as having “rich plant and animal life, including wildflowers and rare butterflies” (Castlemaine Diggings National Heritage Park Visitor Guide), and is a popular recreation area for locals.

4. Proposed Works

The proposed works are set out in the drawings prepared by DMC Drafting & Design and Pollen Studio. The full proposal encompasses two sites, however only one is assessed in this report. The other, located on Kalimna Road, is to be carried out at a later date.

The proposed works will formalise the path network to access the western side of Kalimna Park and will create a gathering space for the public equipped with a shelter and toilet facilities.

4.1 Pathways and access

- Paths and circulation spaces

The existing informal pathway will be upgraded with compacted local toppings, and a new all-weather accessible concrete path will be provided to allow improved access to the path. A second access is to be upgraded from Fletcher Street at the north end of the site. The existing pathways are to be widened to allow for accessibility. The local toppings draw on the geology of the area rather than bringing new features into the site. The concrete pathway is proposed to be exposed aggregate that is also referencing local stone types to minimise the visual intrusion of the works.

Circulation areas surrounding the seating and new structures will also be covered with compacted local toppings creating a defined area for gatherings.

- Stairs

Level changes will be managed with paths where possible, but some stairs are required for the second access from the northern edge of the works area. Stairs are to be constructed in local stone like Castlemaine Sandstone or Harcourt Granite, to match the associated retaining walls.

The proposed upgrades will have minimal impact on the significance of the place. The use of new materials to upgrade the existing network of paths throughout the site provides similar infrastructure to what is already in place, without disturbing the heritage values of the place given that it will follow existing path alignments and uses locally sources materials.

4.2 Landscape works

- Tree removal

It is proposed to remove several trees within the area which have been identified by arborists as dead, unstable, or as environmental weeds. Where possible, dead trees are to be retained on site as habitat for wildlife, however in cases where the tree is deemed unsafe, they are to be removed.

Tree No.	Species	Action	Reason
9	Dead Gum	Remove and stockpile	Dead tree
10	Dead Wattle	Remove and stockpile	Dead tree
11	Eucalyptus Cladocalyx (Sugar Gum)	Remove	Environmental weed – will fail
12	Eucalyptus Cladocalyx (Sugar Gum)	Remove	Environmental weed – self-sown young tree
14	Eucalyptus Cladocalyx (Sugar Gum)	Retain	Environmental weed – self-sown young tree
21	Dead Ironbark	Retain	Dead tree
27	Eucalyptus Microcarpa (Grey Box)	Remove and stockpile	High risk of ground level failure
28	Eucalyptus leucoxyton (Yellow Gum)	Remove	Arborist recommended retention as deadwood nesting tree, but noted works will conflict with TPZ. Remove for safety.

30	Dead Sugar Gum	Remove	Trunk fractured. Remove at ground level.
31	Eucalyptus Cladocalyx (Sugar Gum)	Remove and stockpile	High risk of failure. Remove for safety and stockpile for use as seating.
32	Eucalyptus Cladocalyx (Sugar Gum)	Remove and stockpile	High risk of failure. Remove for safety and stockpile for use as seating
33	Eucalyptus Cladocalyx (Sugar Gum)	Remove and stockpile	Tree in decline. High risk of failure. Remove for safety and stockpile for use as seating
36	Dead Gum	Retain	Prune to reduce risk of failure but retain for habitat
37	Dead Gum	Remove	Dead tree, branch failure risk
40	Pinus Radiata (Monterey Pine)	Retain	Trunk lean and canopy bias. Environmental weed.
41	Eucalyptus Cladocalyx (Sugar Gum)	Remove and stockpile	High risk of ground level failure. Remove for safety and stockpile for use as seating
44	Eucalyptus Cladocalyx (Sugar Gum)	Remove	Trunk damaged. High risk of failure. Remove for safety.
54	Ironbark stump re-growth	Remove	Remove regrowth and grind stump. Regrowth will have pose safety risk
55	Eucalyptus Cladocalyx (Sugar Gum)	Remove	Limited useful life. Risk of failure. Environmental weed. Remove.
57	Eucalyptus Cladocalyx (Sugar Gum)	Remove	Extreme truck lean, dying tree. Remove for safety.

The Heritage Act allows for landscape maintenance works to be exempt from permit processes in certain circumstances. Removal of re-growth and the stump of tree 54, for instance, is in keeping with General Exemption 9.1.a, which allows for this type of removal provided herbicides are not used. Trees that are assessed by an arborist as being dead, dangerous or beyond curative repair prior to tree removal activities are exempt from permit

requirements under General Exemption 9.6, and removal of identified environmental weeds is exempt under General Exemption 9.3, provided they have not been identified as having historical value to the registered place. The sugar gums and Monterey pine proposed for removal, for instance, are identified as environmental weeds and their presence has no historical associations with the site. There is no significance attached to these trees and their removal will not detract from the heritage significance of Kalimna Park or the wider Castlemaine Diggings.

- Planting

The proposed landscape plan shows both infill regeneration planting and food and fibre planting. All plants selected are native to the region and enhance the interpretation of the original landscape. The proposed planting areas are minor works and will not adversely impact the significance of the heritage place.

- Retaining walls and earthworks

Rock retaining walls are to be provided as necessary along path edges. These walls are to be constructed using local stone to minimise the impact of the works. Current General Exemptions allow for the maintenance, repair and upgrade of existing retaining walls but not new locations, however the proposed retaining walls are small scale and will not have an adverse impact on the heritage values of the registered place.

- Seating

Log seating is to be provided at various points throughout the works area. The majority of these logs will come from trees within the works area that are dead or considered to be unstable. A picnic table and stone bench are to be provided near the proposed shelter, and a ring of stones around the northern and western edges of the shelter provides informal seating for gatherings. All stones used are to be in keeping with local geology, such as Harcourt Granite or Castlemaine sandstone, minimising the visual disturbance to the site. The proposed seating arrangement allows for gatherings to appreciate the park area, without adversely affecting the heritage significance of the place.

4.3 New structures

- Toilet block

It is proposed to provide a toilet block with an ambulant unisex stall and an accessible unisex stall. Both stalls will be provided with non-slip concrete flooring, in accordance with relevant building code requirements, and will sit above a 10,000L concrete waste tank. Water will be provided by a 7,500L aquaplate or zincalume tank on a stand to the rear of the block. The structure is a simple four post construction using a mix of steel and timber members with

a curved Colorbond roof. Wall cladding is a mix of corrugated Mini-Orb sheet Coolspan double Corropanel, all in either a galvanised or Woodland Grey finish, or Decoclad aluminium cladding. The visual impact of the structure is minimised by the colour selections, while the materials are durable enough to withstand the outdoor setting. There is the potential for lasting impact from the in-ground waste tank, however this is the most appropriate waste management system in the circumstances. Installation of new infrastructure such as car parks, protective fences, and toilet blocks has traditionally been exempt under the Heritage Act, and are still indicated as applicable under the specific exemptions listed on the Victorian Heritage Database entry for the site. The impact of the proposed works, already low, has been mitigated where possible and given the lack of identified significance in the works area will not detract from the significance of the heritage place.

- Picnic Shelter

The proposed Djandak picnic setting and small shelter will have minimal on-ground impact and can be removed without leaving a lasting trace, if needed. The shelter consists of steel columns with concrete pad footings supporting a simple curved Colorbond roof with steel frame. The proposed shelter, similar to the toilet block, provides infrastructure for users of the park in a manner that is both reversible and in an area that has no identified significant features. The installation of this type of infrastructure is exempt under the specific exemptions listed on the Victorian Heritage Database entry for the place.

4.4 Signage

Signage is proposed at the Fletcher Street entrances to the park. The signs fall within the general exemption for signage. Signage and site interpretation are exempt from permit provided they do not involve the removal or destruction of any significant above-ground structures or sub-surface archaeology; are located and sized to note damage significant fabric; are able to be removed without causing damage to the place, and do not obstruct or adversely effect significant fabric, including landscape or archaeological features. The proposed signage is in keeping with the existing signage and is fully reversible. The impact on heritage significance is considered to be negligible.

5. Conclusion

The proposed works will improve access and facilities to the western side of Kalimna Park and will provide a gathering space within the park. The works area has no identified significant features or potential for archaeology. The more substantial works proposed are reversible in nature, and where they are not reversible, such as retaining walls or levelled areas, they allow for public access to the park without damaging the heritage values of the registered place. On the whole, the works will have minimal impact on the significance of the wider Castlemaine Goldfields Diggings area.