

## H0902 BALLARAT RAILWAY COMPLEX

140 LYDIARD STREET NORTH BALLARAT CENTRAL AND 202 LYDIARD STREET NORTH AND NOLAN STREET SOLDIERS HILL AND SCOTT PARADE AND 60 CORBETT STREET BALLARAT EAST AND 75 HUMFFRAY STREET NORTH BAKERY HILL, BALLARAT CITY

Permit Application P39676

### **Why is Ballarat Railway Complex of cultural heritage significance?**

Ballarat Railway Complex is included in the Victorian Heritage Register under the provisions of the *Heritage Act 2017* for its historical, architectural, social and technological significance to the State of Victoria. The station complex is one of the few nineteenth century stations in Australia including a grand train hall and clock tower, symbolising Ballarat's wealth and importance as a provincial centre.

### **What was the permit application for?**

On 15 May 2024 Heritage Victoria received a permit application for works to construct a pedestrian railway overpass and associated stairs and lifts connecting the platforms and a new accessible ramp and stair to the north station building entrance. The works are required to meet accessibility compliance at the railway station. The application followed the settlement of a VCAT application in May 2018 to provide equitable access for all patrons using the train service at the station complex.

The permit application was advertised from 10-23 July 2024.

### **Why has the permit been issued?**

On 20 September 2024, a permit with conditions was issued by Heritage Victoria in recognition of the important need for all patrons of the station to have equitable access and achieve compliance under the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992*.

The permit includes a condition requiring revision to the design of the overpass, lift and stairs to respond more appropriately to the heritage values of the station and reduce physical and visual impacts. Better integration between engineering and architecture is required to ensure the new overpass provides a sympathetic contemporary addition to the station.

The permit allows for the construction of the overpass 15 metres east of the train hall. Ideally, the overpass would be better located further away from the train hall as this would likely mitigate some of the impacts on the station complex. However, increasing the distance of travel for those patrons with special accessibility needs was considered impractical.

A report on the existing condition of the north station building was submitted as part of the application. The report shows that the state of the building is of concern and subsequently the Executive Director has written to the owner in relation to their obligations under the *Heritage Act 2017*.

### **Can the applicant appeal the decision?**

The applicant or the owner may make a request to the Heritage Council to review the Executive Director's determination to impose a condition on the permit. A request for a review must be made to the Heritage Council of Victoria within 60 days of the refusal of the application. The Heritage Council is an independent statutory authority established under the *Heritage Act 2017*.