

Glenrowan Heritage Precinct, Glenrowan (VHR H2000)

Q&As

Why is Glenrowan Heritage Precinct of cultural heritage significance?

Glenrowan Heritage Precinct is located in central Glenrowan and is associated with the notorious siege of June 1880, the events of which resulted in the capture of Ned Kelly and the deaths of his other gang members. The precinct is divided by the railway line which played a pivotal role in the events. The northern part of the precinct includes the site of the railway station, Jones' Glenrowan Inn where the bushrangers held out, and the location where Ned was finally captured. The southern part of the precinct includes the site of former McDonnell's Hotel where Kelly sympathisers gathered, and a large railway paddock now known as Lions Park. Lions Park was historically used as a temporary holding space for livestock, material stockpiles, goods for shipment, and railway equipment.

The precinct is included in the National Heritage List and the Victorian Heritage Register for its historical and archaeological values.

What has happened?

Heritage Victoria has issued a permit (P33382) which allows for the demolition of the existing toilet block and associated infrastructure at Lions Park, the construction of a new interpretation centre, and landscaping works.

The interpretation centre will be a two storey circular building, clad in charred timber with wire webnet. The building will accommodate toilet and visitor facilities at ground level and provides for views across the precinct from the upper level. The visitor centre will include an interpretation of the siege story.

Why has the permit been approved?

The *Heritage Act 2017* requires the Executive Director of Heritage Victoria to consider various matters in determining a permit application, including the impact of the proposal on the heritage significance of the place, the impact of refusal on the reasonable or economic use of the place, and any submissions received in response to public notice of the application.

While the interpretation centre will partially obscure some views across the precinct from Gladstone Street, the compact, circular design and selection of materials will help to mitigate the visual impact to the precinct. It is acknowledged that the works have low potential to impact on significant archaeology, and this can be managed through archaeological requirements. Further, the centre represents an economically sustainable use of the site as it will facilitate further conservation and maintenance improvements within the precinct.

Is this related to the Inland Rail project?

No. The Inland Rail project is a separate proposal by Australian Rail Track Corporation. It will be subject to a separate permit application. That application will be publicly advertised.

The current permit will be delivered by the Rural City of Wangaratta.