

H1551 HM Pentridge Prison, 1 Champ Street COBURG

Permit Application P28470

Why is HM Pentridge Prison of heritage significance?

The former HM Pentridge Prison is included in the Victorian Heritage Register under the provisions of the *Heritage Act 2017* for its historical, architectural, archaeological, technological and aesthetic significance to the State of Victoria.

HM Pentridge Prison was built in several stages from the 1850s, commencing with the establishment of the Pentridge Stockade Complex built using prison labour; the construction of Inspector General William Champ's model prison complex in the late 1850s to early 1860s; the 'Industries' complex including a timber yard, woollen mill, and carpenters and blacksmiths workshops which was established following the Stawell Royal Commission in 1870; the women's prison; reformatory buildings; labour yards; and high security block.

HM Pentridge Prison is of architectural and historical significance as a nineteenth century complex of buildings that demonstrates a number of phases in the development of the penal reform system. It is of historical significance in the history of child welfare in Victoria as the location for boys' and girls' reformatories established following the findings of the Stawell Royal Commission of 1870. HM Pentridge Prison is of archaeological significance for its archaeological features, deposits and artefacts that relate to the construction and use of the site. It is of technological significance for its original ventilation systems and the original surviving elements of the water supply and thermo-ventilation system. HM Pentridge Prison is of aesthetic significance due to its grim and imposing bluestone walls and towers which are important landmark features.

What was the permit application for?

On 13 August 2018 Shayher Properties Pty Ltd applied for a permit under the *Heritage Act 2017* for the construction of a new pavilion building within the former Mustering Yard/Parade Ground adjacent to B Division. The former Mustering Yard/Parade Ground is one of the most intact precincts within HM Pentridge Prison and it is identified as being of primary heritage significance.

The proposed works to HM Pentridge Prison included in the permit application are as follows:

- Construction of a new pavilion building to house a café, multi-media room, presentation room, public toilets, concealed bin collection area and switchboards for the broader site.

Why has the permit been refused?

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

On 15 November 2018, the Executive Director refused the permit application as it was assessed that the construction of a new building of approximately 5.2 metres in height with a footprint of over 200 square metres and located as close as 8.3 metres from the face of B division was considered to have a substantial detrimental impact on both the setting and views of the former Mustering Yard/Parade Ground and B Division.

The application did not provide compelling evidence of the economic need for this building.

Can the applicant appeal the decision?

The applicant can choose to apply to the Heritage Council of Victoria for a review of the Executive Director's decision within 60 days of receiving the refusal notice. The Heritage Council is an independent statutory authority established under the *Heritage Act*.