

H2234 ST KILDA CRICKET GROUND

Queens Road and Fitzroy Street and Lakeside Drive St Kilda, City of Port Phillip

Permit Application P40484

Why is St Kilda Cricket Ground of cultural heritage significance?

St Kilda Cricket Ground is included in the Victorian Heritage Register under the provisions of the *Heritage Act 2017* for its historical, architectural and social significance to the State of Victoria.

The St Kilda Cricket Ground is historically significant as the home ground since 1856 of the St Kilda Cricket Club, and as the home from 1873 of the St Kilda Football Club. It has been associated with some of Victoria's most famous and popular sportsmen, such as Bill Ponsford and Shane Warne.

The Murray and Blackie Ironmonger Stands at the St Kilda Cricket Ground have architectural significance as fine examples of early twentieth century grandstands. The manual scoreboard is significant as a now unusual example of its kind at a major sports ground in Victoria.

The St Kilda Cricket Ground has social significance as the home of the St Kilda Cricket Club and for many years of the St Kilda and Fitzroy Football Clubs, all of which have always had a strong following in Victoria, and their supporters have maintained a strong attachment to the Ground.

What was the permit application for?

On 5 May 2025 Heritage Victoria received a permit application for works to install four light towers around the perimeter of St Kilda Cricket Ground. The permit application was advertised between 11 June 2025 and 24 June 2025.

Why has the permit been issued?

On 22 July 2025, a permit application was issued by Heritage Victoria for the installation of the light towers for the following reasons:

- While the light towers will have an impact on the setting of the place, introducing new vertical elements into a predominantly low-rise heritage setting, the overall design, materiality and number of towers has been rationalised to find the less impactful outcome to support the historic sporting use of the place.
- The light towers support the St Kilda Cricket Ground's reasonable and economic use as a premier cricket venue, which is central to its heritage significance.
- The upgrade does not involve demolition or alteration of significant heritage fabric. The grandstands, scoreboard, and oval layout will remain intact and functional.

Permit conditions include completion of outstanding repair works to the scoreboard. The timber scoreboard is operated manually by a series of pulleys, with player and team names displayed using metal sheets and the scores using cloth banners.

Next Steps?

There are no third-party rights of appeal under the *Heritage Act 2017*. In relation to this permit, only 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 approval of the application. The Heritage Council is an independent statutory authority established under the *Heritage Act 2017*.