

Anzac Station proposal – South African Soldiers’ Memorial (VHR H1374), St Kilda Road (VHR H2359), Shine of Remembrance (VHR H0848)

Q&As

Background

The future Anzac Station is located at the ‘elbow’ of St Kilda Road, roughly between Park Street and Bowen Crescent. Since 2017 Heritage Victoria has issued a number of heritage permits which have allowed early works and the construction of underground components of the station and tunnels. In late 2021 Cross Yarra Partnership applied for heritage permits for the final stages of the station, including the above-ground entrances to the station, fire and life safety infrastructure, the interface with the tram network, and bike lanes. The permit applications also include landscaping, and the reinstatement of the South African Soldiers’ Memorial in the Albert Road Reserve.

The proposed works straddle three heritage places: the South African Soldiers’ Memorial (H1374), St Kilda Road (H2359) and the Shrine of Remembrance (H0848).

What has happened

Heritage Victoria has issued heritage permits (P35624, P35622, P35625) for the above ground components of Anzac Station. The heritage permit applications were advertised for three weeks from 22 September to 5 October 2021. Fifteen submissions were received, and all were considered in the decision making process. On 21 January 2022 the Executive Director of Heritage Victoria determined to issue the permits, as follows.

At the South African Soldiers’ Memorial the heritage permit broadly allows for the removal of four elms and one pittosporum, and planting of nine trees; the construction of a new station entrance with lift; landscaping including reconfigured roadways, paths, seating and wayfinding; and the reinstatement of the memorial in a central location at Albert Road Reserve, the John Cockbill drinking fountain, and bluestone edging to the reserve. The permit requires tree impacts to be carefully managed, and a bank guarantee to ensure trees are planted.

At St Kilda Road the heritage permit broadly allows for the removal of up to eight trees and planting of 93 trees; the removal of approximately 250 metres of bluestone kerb and channel and replacement in new configuration; the construction of the main Anzac Station entrance with canopy, retail and services pod and infrastructure; the construction of the new tram interchange; fire and life safety infrastructure including vents, exhausts and chiller units; and the reinstatement of inner grassed medians. The permit requires tree impacts to be carefully managed, a bank guarantee to ensure trees are planted, and the provision of design detailing for the bluestone reinstatement and design detailing and material finishes for vent and chiller units. The application also requested approval to install a bikeshare docking station within the heritage place. This has not been approved and Heritage Victoria will work with the applicant to resolve this matter.

At the Shrine of Remembrance, the permitted works are confined to the corner of St Kilda and Domain Roads, including the area which contains the Cobbers Memorial and the MacPherson Robertson Fountain. The Shrine itself will not be impacted by the works. The heritage permit broadly allows for the construction of a new station entrance with lift; hard landscaping including new stairs to the fountain, infrastructure including seating, wayfinding, lighting and bins; and the planting of 13 trees.