





H1058 plan b

## Location

COAL PIT ROAD AND SOUTH GIPPSLAND HIGHWAY HEDLEY, WELLINGTON SHIRE

## Municipality

WELLINGTON SHIRE

## Level of significance

Registered

## Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

H1058

## Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO81

## VHR Registration

November 24, 1994

## Heritage Listing

## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - May 5, 1999

The Gelliondale Brown Coal and Oil Co. commenced operations in 1930 and under the direction and ownership of James T Knox started manufacturing briquettes in 1934. The company ceased the production of briquettes in 1944 and was wound up in 1950. The concrete engine footings and machinery remains of the briquette plant today form part of an industrial complex comprised of a factory and conveyor belt system, a water filled open-cut mine, a large mullock heap and the remnants of a tramway system.

The remains of the Gelliondale Briquette plant have an important association with the endeavours of James Knox and the Gelliondale Brown Coal and Oil Co. to retain the rights of individuals and of private enterprise on the face of active opposition from the State Government. The social associations of the site are an illustration of the lack of power granted to the private sector when a conflict of interests arises in relation to the utilization of natural resources, culminating in this instance in the passing of legislation, the 1950 Gelliondale Land (Mineral Lease) Act, which granted the Crown authority for the resumption of both mineral leases and land.

The Gelliondale Briquette plant oils a demonstration of technical accomplishment in the history of briquette production and of the construction and layout of a brown-coal mining operation. Of Victoria's three original briquette production facilities the Gelliondale briquette plant is the only one which is represented by physical remains. Due to extended open-cut mining both of the Yallourn sites have been completely removed. It is also the only remaining site that is representative of non-government operated briquette production facility.

The site of Gelliondale Briquette Plant is a rare example of a briquette plant. It is the oldest remaining example of briquette production processes in Victoria and is the only site which remains as a record of the history of briquette manufacturing in the State. The processes and machinery used in the production of briquettes at Gelliondale pre-date and differ to some extent from those used at the later, currently operational Morwell plant. The Gelliondale Briquette plant is much smaller in scale than the Morwell plant and therefore is representative of a different approach to the utilization of resources.

The Gelliondale Briquette plant demonstrates an association with an important figure as it was owned and operated by James T. Knox (1889-1967), a civil engineer who is noted for promoting the use of concrete in the Australian construction industry. He is purportedly the designer of the original 1937 concrete southern stand at the Melbourne Cricket Ground. Knox's innovative projects extended beyond building design and included attempts to introduce advanced farming technology and his operation of the Gelliondale Brown Coal and Oil Co.

## Permit Exemptions

### General Exemptions:

General exemptions apply to all places and objects included in the Victorian Heritage Register (VHR). General exemptions have been designed to allow everyday activities, maintenance and changes to your property, which don't harm its cultural heritage significance, to proceed without the need to obtain approvals under the Heritage Act 2017.

Places of worship: In some circumstances, you can alter a place of worship to accommodate religious practices without a permit, but you must **notify** the Executive Director of Heritage Victoria before you start the works or activities at least 20 business days before the works or activities are to commence.

Subdivision/consolidation: Permit exemptions exist for some subdivisions and consolidations. If the subdivision or consolidation is in accordance with a planning permit granted under Part 4 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* and the application for the planning permit was referred to the Executive Director of Heritage Victoria as a

determining referral authority, a permit is not required.

Specific exemptions may also apply to your registered place or object. If applicable, these are listed below. Specific exemptions are tailored to the conservation and management needs of an individual registered place or object and set out works and activities that are exempt from the requirements of a permit. Specific exemptions prevail if they conflict with general exemptions.

Find out more about heritage permit exemptions [here](#).

Construction dates            1929,  
Heritage Act Categories    Registered place,  
Hermes Number                1738  
Property Number

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## Extent of Registration

### AMENDMENT OF REGISTER OF HISTORIC BUILDINGS

Historic Building No. 1058:

Gelliondale Briquette Plant, corner of Coal Pit Road, South Gippsland Highway, Gelliondale.

(1. All the objects, structures and works known as the Gelliondale Briquette Plant and marked on Plan No. 600803A including the dam/open-cut mine (B1), the mullock heap (B2), the trolley line (B3), the trolley line (B4), the boiler mountings (B5) the 6 x 6 m depression (B6), the drying system structure (B7), the concrete drying floor (B8), the steam engine mountings (B9), the concrete machinery mount (B10), the 4 m diameter circular depression (B11), the coal bunker (B12), the coal bunker (B13), the belt-drive roller and mounts (B14), the briquette press (B15), the concrete post collars (B16), and the concrete footing (B17).

2. The portion of land contained in Crown Allotment 60 within a rectangle bounded on the north by the South Gippsland Highway for a distance of 180 metres, and on the west by the government road reserve for a distance of 265 metres, and marked L1 on Plan 600803B, signed by the Chairperson of the Historic Buildings Council and held by the Director, Historic Buildings Council.)

[Victoria Government Gazette No. G47 24 November 1994 p.3124]

*This place/object may be included in the Victorian Heritage Register pursuant to the Heritage Act 2017. Check the Victorian Heritage Database, selecting 'Heritage Victoria' as the place source.*

*For further details about Heritage Overlay places, contact the relevant local council or go to Planning Schemes Online <http://planningschemes.dpcd.vic.gov.au/>*