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# TIMBER BOX CULVERTS

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## Location

2 MACARTNEY STREET RESERVOIR, DAREBIN CITY

## Municipality

DAREBIN CITY

## Level of significance

Heritage Inventory Site

## Heritage Inventory (HI) Number

H7922-0505

## Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Inventory

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - January 1, 1900

The timber box culverts are of historic significance due to their association with the construction of the Whittlesea line. The features are of local significance and moderate archaeological significance, primarily due to their association with the construction of the former Whittlesea railway line in the late 1880s.

### Interpretation of Site

The timber box culverts are cut directly into the underlying natural clay. It is not known if the unlined drains were constructed before the railway line. However, it is reasonably clear that the timber insets and cover, which form the built fabric of the drains, were constructed in 1889 along with the construction of the original Whittlesea railway line. The drains appear to have been deliberately filled with ballast, which was probably intended to act as a porous filter for water passing through the culverts.

The adjoining concrete drainpipe, which directly abuts the northern timber box culvert, appears to have been constructed at a later date, most likely when the track was duplicated in 1959.

Hermes  
Number 206149

Property  
Number

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## History

The timber box culverts and adjoining concrete drainpipe are situated to the north of Reservoir railway station in the former city of North Preston beneath the former Whittlesea railway line track (now Mernda railway line).

The Whittlesea railway line, between Preston - Reservoir station (now Reservoir station) and Whittlesea station was opened in 1889 (Victorian Railways 1889). The line consisted of a single track which was set into a foundation of rail ballast. The track was later electrified in 1929, and then duplicated in 1959 (Dornan, 1979).

The timber box culverts were probably constructed in 1889 in conjunction with the laying of the original track for the purpose of managing the flow of water on either side of the railway line. The adjoining concrete drainpipe was probably constructed in 1959 at the time the track was duplicated.

*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/>*