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# PAKENHAM STATION ARCHAEOLOGICAL COMPLEX

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## Location

RAILWAY AVE & HENRY RD, PAKENHAM VIC 3810

## Municipality

CARDINIA SHIRE

## Level of significance

Heritage Inventory Site

## Heritage Inventory (HI) Number

H7921-0127

## Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Inventory

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - March 1, 2021

Archaeological features associated with the original structures built within and surrounding Pakenham Station are significant for their role in the early development of the Pakenham Station Precinct and, consequently, of the Pakenham township as a whole. These structures also possess economic significance, as the usage of the Pakenham rail line was key as a means of developing industry and expanding the population of the Pakenham township.

In addition to their historical significance for the role they played in the development of Pakenham, any remaining features / structural foundations would also be technically significant, as they would be representative of early 20th century rail infrastructure.

The site addresses the following categories in Victoria's Framework of Historical Themes:

- Theme 2: Peopling Victoria's places and landscapes
  - o Sub-theme 2.7 Promoting settlement
- Theme 3: Connecting Victorians by transport and communications

o Sub-theme 3.3 Linking Victorians by rail - Associated Objects

Interpretation of Site Areas where subsurface archaeological features are likely to have been retained have been mapped atop recently aerial imagery of the Pakenham Station precinct (Figure 1). The original structures that these features pertain to are visible in historical aerial imagery from 1947 but have all since been demolished. While the probability of the identified features surviving the subsequent development of Pakenham Station and its surroundings is low, these features are now almost certainly more than 75 years old, and should the remains of these features be identified during the course of works, they may be classified as archaeological sites under the Heritage Act 2017 (Vic), and therefore protected from harm.

Hermes Number 207032

Property Number

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## History

The Pakenham area originally formed part of the territory of the Bunurong tribe. The development of Pakenham as an area of European settlement began in the mid 19th century, based on its use as a resting point for those travelling between Melbourne and Gippsland. European settlement within the area expanded throughout this period, with a pastoral run established along Toomuc Creek in 1843 and a hotel constructed in 1850. Soon after its construction, the hotel became a coach staging post and a central point of settlement in the surrounding area. The section of the Eastern Railway Line (which consists of the railway reserve between the western end of Pakeham Station and the eastern end of Moe station) that connects Melbourne to Pakenham and towards Gipps began construction in the 1870s, with the first section of this line running between Melbourne and Pakenham opened in 1877. The construction of the railway line encouraged further development within the area, and by 1903 several municipal and commercial buildings within the Pakenham township were described, with the population of the town said to be 300 people. After World War 2, a second wave of settlement encouraged by soldiers returning from war occurred, with an expansion of residential, communal and industrial buildings constructed across the township. Many of these factories were constructed in close proximity to Pakenham Station, with the station continuing to play an important role in the development of Pakenham throughout the 20th century.

*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/>*