

# WERRIBEE SATELLITE AERODROME



1 werrabee satellite aerodrome mar00 pm1



2023 - Hangar 1 2



H01884 werrabee satellite aerodrome feb2003



H01884 werrabee satellite aerodrome2 feb2003



H01884 werrabee satellite aerodrome3 feb2003



H01884 werrabee satellite aerodrome4 feb2003



H01884 werrabee satellite aerodrome site1



H01884 werrabee satellite aerodrome site2



H01884 werrabee satellite aerodrome site3



werrabee satellite aerodrome hangar SOHE 2008



2023 - Hangar 1



DIAGRAM 1884

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### **Location**

PRINCES HIGHWAY (GEELONG ROAD) WERRIBEE, WYNDHAM CITY

### **Municipality**

WYNDHAM CITY

### **Level of significance**

Registered

### **Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number**

H1884

### **Heritage Overlay Numbers**

HO7

### **VHR Registration**

November 9, 2000

### **Amendment to Registration**

June 8, 2023

## Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Register

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### Statement of Significance

Last updated on - December 8, 2022

#### What is significant?

The Werribee Satellite Aerodrome was constructed in 1942 on land leased from the Melbourne Metropolitan Board of Works in 1940. It served throughout the Second World War as a satellite to the nearby Point Cook and Laverton RAAF airfields. The aerodrome consisted of five timber trussed hangars, a workshop building and an area of accommodation and administration buildings. The airfield was grass with no formed runways. In 1952 the land, including the buildings was returned to the MMBW. Only the hangars and workshop building remain. The hangars are unique in Victoria being the only examples of a type of timber truss design originating in the United States and using steel sheer connectors to produce clear spans of 130 feet (39.6m) and 96 feet (29.3m). The design, produced by the Allied Works Council and adapted to use unseasoned Australian hardwoods, was first employed at the much larger United States Army Air Force base at Tocumwal NSW. At Werribee only one of the five hangars was of the larger 130' span. Timber was used for these buildings because of the shortage of other building materials and because the type was well understood by American engineers on the Allied Works Council. After 1942 this method of construction of aircraft hangars was abandoned in Victoria in favour of the prefabricated steel Bellman type hangars of which scores remain throughout the State. The Werribee buildings, are clad in corrugated iron and asbestos cement, have concrete floors and aprons, and full height sliding doors. They have been used since the 1950s as storage by Melbourne Water and are in reasonable condition considering their age and method of construction.

#### How is it significant?

The Werribee Satellite Aerodrome is historically and architecturally significant to the State of Victoria.

#### Why is it significant?

The Werribee Satellite Aerodrome is of historical significance as an example of the many temporary airfields that were constructed across Australia in the early years of the Second World War, particularly after the entry of the Japanese into the war.

The aircraft hangars at the Werribee Satellite Aerodrome are architecturally significant as unique examples of their type in Victoria. The trusses which provide the large clear span required for aircraft are unusual for being fabricated from relatively short lengths of (initially) unseasoned Australian hardwood joined by patented TECO steel sheer connector plates. This technology of expediency, especially in the case of Hangar 1, produced the largest clear span timber trussed building seen in Victoria. Later hangars such as at Tottenham RAAF Stores Depot utilised nailed arches to achieve a similar span.

## 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](#).

### **Specific Exemptions:**

General Conditions:

1. All alterations are to be planned and carried out in a manner which prevents damage to the fabric of the registered place or object.
2. Should it become apparent during further inspection or the carrying out of alterations that original or previously hidden or inaccessible details of the place or object are revealed which relate to the significance of the place or object, then the exemption covering such alteration shall cease and the Executive Director shall be notified as soon as possible.
3. If there is a conservation policy and plan approved by the Executive Director, all works shall be in accordance with it.
4. Nothing in this declaration prevents the Executive Director from amending or rescinding all or any of the permit exemptions.
5. Nothing in this declaration exempts owners or their agents from the responsibility to seek relevant planning or building permits from the responsible authority where applicable.

\* Routine repairs and maintenance which replace like with like.

\* Replacement of corrugated asbestos sheeting with corrugated metal sheeting.

Construction dates	1942,
Heritage Act Categories	Registered place,
Other Names	RIVERWALK ESTATE, HANGARS 1 AND 2 AND WORKSHOP,
Hermes Number	5558
Property Number	

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### **Extent of Registration**

#### NOTICE OF REGISTRATION

As Executive Director for the purpose of the Heritage Act 2017, I give notice under section 53 that the Victorian Heritage Register is amended by including a place in the Heritage Register:

Number: H1884

Category: Registered Place

Name: Werribee Satellite Aerodrome

Location: ?Princes Highway (Geelong Road), Werribee?

Municipality: Wyndham City

All of the place shown hatched on Diagram 1884 encompassing part of Lot P on Plan of Subdivision 9076890, part of RES 1 on Plan of Subdivision 907683 and part of R1 Plan of Subdivision 907683.

Dated 8 June 2023

STEVEN AVERY

Executive Director

*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/>*