
NO 21 DREDGER



104661 IMG 9295



104661 IMG 9300 1



104661 IMG 9330 1



104661 IMG 9324 1

Location

RIDGE ROAD MORWELL, LATROBE CITY

Municipality

LATROBE CITY

Level of significance

Registered

Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

H2130

VHR Registration

August 12, 2010

Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Register

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - December 19, 2023

What is significant?

No.21 Dredger was ordered by the State Electricity Commission of Victoria (SECV) in 1950 and commenced operation in the Morwell open cut in October 1955. The opening of the Morwell open cut in 1949 marked the beginning of the significant expansion of the activities of the SEC during the post-war growth and industrial expansion of Victoria.

No.21 Dredger was the third of four bucket wheel excavators with crowd on the bucket wheel boom purchased by the SECV. The crowd function, which was a feature of bucket wheel excavators developed in the interwar period, necessitated a number of special adaptations including a travelling counterweight, a thrust drive and an intermediate conveyer between the boom conveyor and the discharge conveyor. Progression in the technology of continuous extraction of brown coal from open cut mines was marked first by bucket chain excavators, then by bucket wheel excavators with crowd and later by much larger bucket wheel excavators with fixed length bucket wheel booms. All bucket wheel excavators ordered by the SECV after 1960 had fixed length bucket wheel booms.

No.21 Dredger was built by Lubecker Maschinebau Gesellschaft (LMG), of Lubeck, West Germany. It is mounted on crawlers and fitted with a slewable superstructure. It has a service weight of 725 tons. It was used for excavating overburden and brown coal from the Morwell open cut mine until August 1992 when it was retired. It was placed on display at the Powerworks Visitor Centre from 1995.

How is it significant?

No.21 Dredger is of historical and scientific (technological) significance to the State of Victoria

Why is it significant?

No.21 Dredger is of historical significance as the first bucket wheel excavator to be used in the Morwell open cut mine.

No.21 Dredger is historically significant for its rarity as the oldest surviving bucket wheel excavator of those purchased by the SECV in the post-war period. It is also significant for its rarity as the only surviving bucket wheel excavator from the first generation with crowd mechanism.

As the only surviving bucket wheel dredge with crowd (thrust) in Victoria, No.21 Dredger is of scientific (technological) significance for its potential to yield information about the design of the first generation of bucket wheel excavators.

No.21 Dredger is of scientific (technological) significance for its capacity to represent the successful adaptation to the Victorian brown coal fields of continuous extraction technologies developed for German open cut brown coal mines.

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 exempted alterations are to be planned and carried out in a manner which prevents damage to the fabric of the registered place or object. General Conditions: 2. Should it become apparent during further inspection or the carrying out of works 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 works shall cease and Heritage Victoria shall be notified as soon as possible. Note: All archaeological places have the potential to contain significant sub-surface artefacts and other remains. In most cases it will be necessary to obtain approval from the Executive Director, Heritage Victoria before the undertaking any works that have a significant sub-surface component. General Conditions: 3. If there is a conservation policy and plan endorsed by the Executive Director, all works shall be in accordance with it. Note: The existence of a Conservation Management Plan or a Heritage Action Plan endorsed by the Executive Director, Heritage Victoria provides guidance for the management of the heritage values associated with the site. It may not be necessary to obtain a heritage permit for certain works specified in the management plan. General Conditions: 4. Nothing in this determination prevents the Executive Director from amending or rescinding all or any of the permit exemptions. General Conditions: 5. Nothing in this determination exempts owners or their agents from the responsibility to seek relevant planning or building permits from the responsible authorities where applicable.

Public Safety and Security : The following public safety and security activities are permit exempt under section 66 of the Heritage Act 1995, a) public safety and security activities provided the works do not involve the removal or destruction of any significant above-ground structures or sub-surface archaeological artefacts or deposits; b) the erection of temporary security fencing, scaffolding, hoardings or surveillance systems to prevent unauthorised access or secure public safety which will not adversely affect significant fabric of the place including archaeological features; c) development including emergency stabilisation necessary to secure safety where a site feature has been irreparably damaged or destabilised and represents a safety risk to its users or the public. Note: Urgent or emergency site works are to be undertaken by an appropriately qualified specialist such as a structural engineer, or other heritage professional.

Signage and Site Interpretation : The following Signage and Site Interpretation activities are permit exempt under section 66 of the Heritage Act 1995, a) signage and site interpretation activities provided the works do not involve the removal or destruction of any significant above-ground structures or sub-surface archaeological artefacts or deposits; b) the erection of non-illuminated signage for the purpose of ensuring public safety or to assist in the interpretation of the heritage significance of the place or object and which will not adversely affect significant fabric including landscape or archaeological features of the place or obstruct significant views of and from heritage values or items; c) signage and site interpretation products must be located and be of a suitable size so as not to obscure or damage significant fabric of the place; d) signage and site interpretation products must be able to be later removed without causing damage to the significant fabric of the place; Note: The development of signage and site interpretation products must be consistent in the use of format, text, logos, themes and other display materials. Note: Where possible, the signage and interpretation material should be consistent with other schemes developed on similar or associated sites. It may be necessary to consult with land managers and other stakeholders concerning existing schemes and strategies for signage and site interpretation.

Minor Works : Note: Any Minor Works that in the opinion of the Executive Director will not adversely affect the heritage significance of the place may be exempt from the permit requirements of the Heritage Act. A person proposing to undertake minor works may submit a proposal to the Executive Director. If the Executive Director is satisfied that the proposed works will not adversely affect the heritage values of the site, the applicant may be exempted from the requirement to obtain a heritage permit. If an applicant is uncertain whether a heritage permit is required, it is recommended that the permits co-ordinator be contacted.

| | |
|-------------------------|--------------------|
| Construction dates | 1949, |
| Heritage Act Categories | Registered object, |
| Other Names | BUCKET DREDGER, |
| Hermes Number | 104661 |
| Property Number | |

Plaque Citation

This crawler mounted bucket wheel excavator was purchased from Germany by the SECV and allowed continuous extraction from the open cut brown coal mines in the Latrobe Valley from 1955 to 1992. It is the oldest bucket wheel excavator in Victoria and the only one of its type surviving.

Extent of Registration

The Object being the No.21 Dredger and associated hopper and length of conveyor located at the Power Works Visitor Centre site, Ridge Road Morwell.

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/>