
PORT MELBOURNE LEAD LIGHTS AND ACCESS JETTY



Port Melbourne Lead Lights
And Access Jetty Port
Melbourne July 2003 001



Port Melbourne Lead Lights
And Access Jetty Port
Melbourne July 2003 002



Port Melbourne Lead Lights
And Access Jetty Port
Melbourne July 2003 003



Port Melbourne Lead Lights
And Access Jetty Port
Melbourne July 2003 004

Location

BEACON VISTA ROAD PORT MELBOURNE, PORT PHILLIP CITY

Municipality

PORT PHILLIP CITY

Level of significance

Heritage Inventory Site

Heritage Inventory (HI) Number

H7822-0475

Heritage Listing

Lead lights have been present in this general area for over 150 years. The current extant lighthouses have formed a significant part of maritime navigational landscape of Port Melbourne for over 80 years, and represent the only extant lead lighthouse in the Melbourne area.

Interpretation
of Site

Situated between Princes and Station Piers, the two new leads were constructed in association with the Port Melbourne Harbour Channel & Railway Pier reconstruction in 1923. One tower was built over the water, and the other was built about 450m behind on the land. The sight access easement between the two leads prevented further development of area from that time on. The seaward lead tower had an attached walkway access installed in 1924, and the candle power of the lights was increased in 1936. Two sector navigation lights were added to the landward tower by 1969. Two bays of the timber jetty platform was removed to the seaward beacon in 1976, with the remaining jetty sections removed in 1978. The lights are currently non functional, except for a land based directional beam. The easement is still important and has been maintained within the street structure of the Beacon Cove housing development. Anecdotal evidence exists for a large archaeological deposit at base of the seaward beacon. This might include batteries from the light itself, along with other discarded material from official and recreational use of the facility. The site of the original leads has been greatly disturbed by the installation of the Beacon Cove Development and Princes Pier

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Hermes
Number 13822

Property
Number

History

The original channel markers for defining the route into Port Melbourne were painted boards erected on the beach in 1849. In 1866, the markers changed to a green flashing light on end Railway Pier with beacon on beach west of the pier. Lights were constructed (on the Port Melbourne foreshore and end Railway Pier) and the channel was dredged in 1891 (Cox). Marker buoys defining the channel were also located on either side of Railway Pier. In 1906, the landward marker was located in the Torpedo Depot. The channel was dredged to 34ft in 1923, and was called the "Mailboat Channel". The demolition of Railway Pier, along with changing vessel size and speed necessitated redefined channel leads in 1923. Situated between Princes and Station Piers, the two new leads were constructed in association with the Port Melbourne Harbour Channel & Railway Pier reconstruction in 1923. One tower was built over the water, and the other was built about 450m behind on the land. The sight access easement between the two leads prevented further development of area from that time on.

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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/>