

Port Welshpool Jetty



B1379 Port Welshpool Long Jetty



B1379 Port Welshpool Long Jetty



B1379 Port Welshpool Long Jetty



B1379 Port Welshpool Long Jetty



B1379 Port Welshpool Long Jetty



B1379 Port Welshpool Long Jetty



B1379 Port Welshpool Long Jetty

Location

Foreshore at end of Port Welshpool Road, PORT WELSHPOOL VIC 3965 - Property No B1379

Municipality

SOUTH GIPPSLAND SHIRE

Level of significance

State

Heritage Listing

Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

The Port Welshpool Long Jetty was constructed at a site chosen by a Royal Commission on Outer Ports (1927). The jetty and its facilities were identified as key to developing the eastern Bass Strait fisheries and of linking to Tasmania to supply fish to the mainland. Construction began in 1936 and finished in 1938. The jetty was built using yellow stringybark sourced from near Woodside, east of Yarram.

As constructed the jetty was 850m long, with varying widths along its length, the maximum being originally 7.2m, later 9.1m. The jetty was lengthened to 908m in 1982 for the supply of the Bass Strait oil and gas industry. Originally designed to take locomotives, it was built with longitudinal decking supported on bearers with longitudinal beams supported by stringers. It was engineered to take substantial loads, sufficient for steam locomotives on a 5 foot 3 inch gauge rail line. The jetty broadened as it turned in a unique and substantial curve to the Lewis Channel. The raked pile construction provided for a robust structure in contrast to piers and jetties in sheltered bays.

The jetty was purpose-built for coastal traders, but has had a variety of uses, including as a base for mine sweepers during and immediately after WW2; as the home base for the fledgling offshore oil and gas industries in Bass Strait and as a recreational fishing platform. Its isolation from residential areas facilitated its use as a dangerous goods jetty for King Island and Tasmanian mines.

The link to Tasmania was briefly restored from 1990-93 with the operation of the Seacat ferry from Port Welshpool.

How is it significant?

The Port Welshpool Long Jetty is of technological and historical significance to the State of Victoria at the State Level, and of social significance at the Regional level.

Why is it significant?

The Port Welshpool Long Jetty is technologically significant as the only known curved wooden jetty in Victoria and among the longest remaining wooden jetties in Australia. It is unusual for its raked pile construction.

The Port Welshpool Long Jetty is historically significant as a trading link between Victoria, the Bass Strait Islands and Tasmania for more than 60 years. It provided key infrastructure for the development of the Bass Strait fishing industry. Combined with the coastal shipping trade that it generated, the Long Jetty has played a key role in the historical development of South Gippsland, the Bass Strait Islands and northern Tasmania. It is historically significant as a base for minesweepers during WW2, and as a base for the fledgling oil and gas industry in Bass Strait.

The Port Welshpool Long Jetty is socially significant to the region as a key infrastructure link between the communities of Bass Strait, Tasmania and the mainland.

Classified: 05/05/2012

Other Names Port Welshpool Shipping Pier, Port Welshpool Long Jetty,

Hermes Number 149914

Property Number

Extent of Registration

The Long Jetty, the associated foreshore and the Crown Land former ports works yard required for its future maintenance.

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/>