MORWELL POWER STATION AND BRIQUETTE FACTORY

Morwell Power Station and Briquette Factories

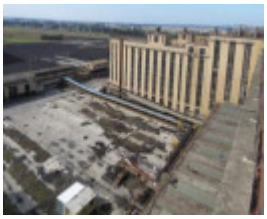
Raw Coal Bunker

Wet Section Building

Control Room

Briquette Factories

Site Map of Morwell Power Station Prepared 2017



Briquette Factories

Briquette Storage Shed

View south to the raw coal bunker and conveyor.

View southwest from the top of No.1 Briquette Factory looking at Wet Section No.1 building (foreground) with the raw coal bunker visible (background)

View east from the top of No.1 Briquette Factory looking at the conveyors and North West Corner Station.

View of the conveyor from North West Corner Station to No.1 Briquette Factory.

View northeast from the top of No.1 Briquette Factory looking at side of the Briquette Factory (right) and the collecting and feeding conveyors (left)

View of briquette machinery in No.1 Briquette Factory, looking east.

View of conveyors leading from briquette machines to external conveyor, looking east.

View looking west between Briquette Factories (right) and Power Station with chimneys 3 and 4 (left).

View south from the top of No.1 Briquette Factory looking at power station.

Brown coal fired boiler inside the Power Station.

View inside the Turbine House, looking northeast.

View inside the Power Station Control Room.

View inside the Mechanical Workshops, looking east.

View southwest to Briquette Storage Shed.

View east towards the briquette storage area, with the location of the former No.1 cooling tower in the middle, and the briquette storage shed in the background.

View south to briquette loading station.

View from under the briquette loading station.

Construction of the Briquette Factories, undated.

Morwell Briquette Works under construction, 1959.

Loading briquettes for despatch, 1959.

Briquetting machine at Morwell imported from Germany (2017).

Bernie Briquette was an advertising character created by the SECV. These signs were once familiar throughout Victoria where briquettes were sold for domestic use.

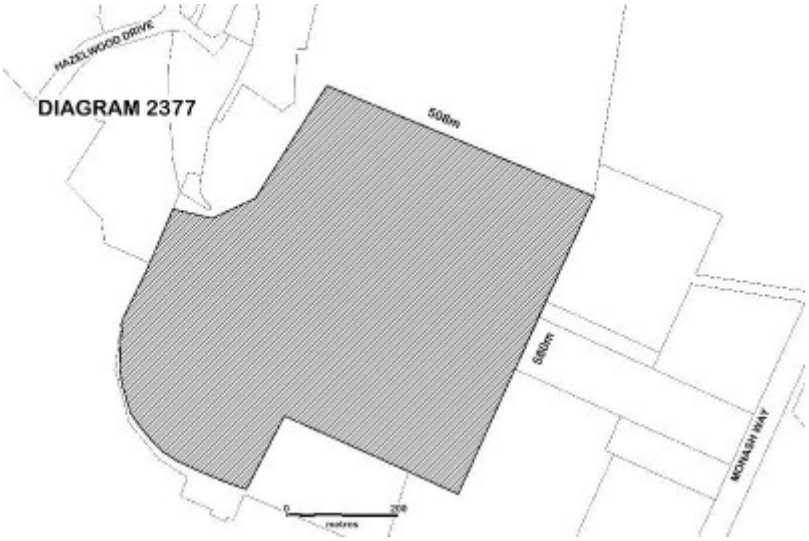


Diagram 2377JPG

Location

412 COMMERCIAL ROAD MORWELL, LATROBE CITY

Municipality

LATROBE CITY

Level of significance

Registered

Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

H2377

VHR Registration

March 1, 2018

Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Register

Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

What is significant?

The Morwell Power Station and Briquette Factories including the power station, two briquette factories, coal transportation systems, storage areas and ancillary buildings. The interiors of the buildings and all plant and equipment are also of significance.

History Summary

The Morwell Power Station and Briquette Factories was constructed between 1949 and 1959 by the State Electricity Commission of Victoria (SECV). It was the centrepiece of the Victorian Government's postwar strategy to revitalise Victoria's industrial and economic growth through the development of the Latrobe Valley into the state's principal power and energy producing region. The Yallourn Power Station had been established in 1921 and electricity started flowing to Melbourne in 1924. Morwell was the next project to capitalise on the region's brown coal resources. Its purpose was to provide electricity to a rapidly growing population, alleviate power shortages, produce briquettes for industrial and domestic use, and to reduce the reliance of Victoria on black coal from New South Wales. Building on knowledge from Yallourn, the SECV sourced briquetting equipment from Germany and boilers and turbines from Britain. Electricity production at Morwell Power Station commenced in December 1958. The first commercial briquette production commenced in December 1959. It was soon discovered that the brown coal from the Morwell open cut mine was unsuitable for briquetting, and Yallourn coal had to be transported to the Morwell factories. From the commencement of its operations the Morwell Power Station and Briquette Factories workforce consisted largely of post-war immigrants from Britain, Italy, the Netherlands, Germany and other European countries. Many of these migrants settled permanently in the Latrobe Valley and as the power industry grew, a multi-generational workforce developed within the region. By the early 1960s, Morwell, not Yallourn, had become the nerve centre of the new industrial valley. After Hazelwood Power Station went into operation the proportion of Victoria's electricity supply sourced from brown coal in the Latrobe Valley reached almost 90%. The briquette plant at Morwell was one of the first components of the SECV to be privatised in late 1993 with the creation of Energy Brix Australia. Following declining profits and the impact of fires in 2003 the plant closed in 2014.

Description Summary

The Morwell Power Station and Briquette Factories is a large industrial complex located approximately two kilometres south east from the Morwell Railway Station and includes a power station, two briquette factories, coal transportation systems, storage areas and ancillary buildings. Buildings are constructed using a variety of different methods and materials. The layout of the place is informed by the processes of power generation and the manufacture of briquettes, with coal conveyed into the place from the west, and distributed to either the Power Station or the Briquette Factories. Output in the form of electricity or briquettes occurs at the eastern side of the site.

Registered Aboriginal Party (RAP)

The Morwell Power Station and Briquette Factories is located on the traditional land of the Braiakaulung people of the Gunnaikurnai clan. The Registered Aboriginal Party (RAP) this place is the Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation. A Recognition and Settlement Agreement under the *Traditional Owner Settlement Act 2010* also covers this area.

How is it significant?

The Morwell Power Station and Briquette Factories is of historical significance to the State of Victoria. It satisfies the following criterion for inclusion in the Victorian Heritage Register:

Criterion A Importance to the course, or pattern, of Victoria's cultural history.

Criterion B Possession of uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of Victoria's cultural history.

Criterion D Importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of cultural places and objects.

Criterion H Special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in Victoria's history

Why is it significant?

The Morwell Power Station and Briquette Factories is significant at the State level for the following reasons:

The Morwell Power Station and Briquette Factories is historically significant as the centrepiece of the Victorian Government's post-WWII strategy to revitalise Victoria's economic growth through the development of the Latrobe Valley by the State Electricity Commission of Victoria (SECV) into the state's principal power and energy producing region. Built between 1949 and 1959, it was the second of Victoria's large-scale power stations (the first being the Yallourn Power Station which started powering Melbourne in 1924). With the demolition of Old Yallourn between 1995 and 1999, Morwell is now the earliest surviving large-scale power station designed to provide electricity to the state electricity network. The Morwell Power Station and Briquette Factories site has remained largely intact since the 1950s and demonstrates the processes of brown coal electricity generation and briquette production which underpinned Victoria's postwar industrialisation. [Criterion A]

The Morwell Power Station and Briquette Factories is rare for containing the only remaining, intact assemblage of briquetting machinery from the mid-twentieth century in Victoria. The boilers used in the production of electricity at the Morwell Power Station are rare examples of water tube boilers which have been specifically adapted for the burning of brown coal. [Criterion B]

The Morwell Power Station and Briquette Factories is a highly intact example of a mid-twentieth century power station and briquetting factory. It contains buildings and machinery which demonstrate the 'start to finish' production phases related to brown coal electricity generation and transmission, and briquette manufacture. Few substantial alterations have been made since the 1950s and the place demonstrates a high level of integrity, allowing a strong understanding of the industrial processes for which the place was built. [Criterion D]

The Morwell Power Station and Briquette Factories is historically significant for its association with the State Electricity Commission of Victoria (SECV). Built between 1949 and 1959, the Power Station and Briquette Factories was the centrepiece of the Victorian Government's post-WWII strategy to revitalise Victoria's economic growth through the development of the Latrobe Valley into the state's principal power and energy producing region. The SECV lead this development process which underpinned the industrialisation of Victoria during the second half of the twentieth century. [Criterion H]

Permit Exemptions

MORWELL POWER STATION AND BRIQUETTE FACTORIES PERMIT EXEMPTIONS (under section 42 of the Heritage Act 1995) It should be noted that Permit Exemptions can be granted at the time of registration (under s.42(4) of the Heritage Act 1995). Permit Exemptions can also be applied for and granted after registration (under s.66 of the Heritage Act 1995 and under s.92 of the Heritage Act 2017) General Condition 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 Condition 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. General Condition 3 All works should be informed by Conservation Management Plans prepared for the place. The Executive Director is not bound by any Conservation Management Plan, and permits still must be obtained for works suggested in any Conservation Management Plan. General Condition 4 Nothing in this determination prevents the Heritage Council from amending or rescinding all or any of the permit exemptions. General Condition 5 Nothing in this determination exempts owners or their agents from the responsibility to seek relevant planning or building permits from the relevant responsible authority, where applicable. Specific Permit Exemptions Buildings of primary and contributory

significance . Repair, maintenance and patching like with like. This includes the removal of broken glass, replacement of existing fabric to match original. . The temporary shuttering of windows and covering of holes as long as this work is reversible and does not impact on heritage fabric. . Removal of non-original items such as plumbing work, ducting, wiring, fixtures and fittings such as hot water services and taps (excluding plant and machinery associated with power generation and briquetting), and making good in a manner that does not have a detrimental impact on the heritage fabric of the place. . Painting of previously painted surfaces provided that preparation or painting does not remove original or early painted signage. . Removal or replacement of hooks, nails, noticeboards, carpets, flexible floor coverings non-original curtain tracks, rods and blinds. . Erecting, repairing and maintaining signage (safety and directional signage, road signs, and speed signs) where such signage does not have a detrimental effect on the heritage fabric of the place. . Installation, removal or replacement of electric clocks, public address systems, detectors, alarms, emergency lights, exit signs, luminaires and the like in a manner that does not have a detrimental impact on the heritage fabric of the place. . Removal, replacement or installation of fire hydrant services including sprinklers, fire doors and elements in a manner that does not have a detrimental impact on the heritage fabric of the place. . The erection of temporary security fencing, scaffolding, hoardings or surveillance systems to prevent unauthorised access or secure public safety which will not adversely affect any building or element. . 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 or supervised by an appropriately qualified heritage specialist such as a structural engineer, or other heritage professional. Buildings and features of little or no heritage significance (Former No.3 Ash Pond, settling ponds, gatehouse, steel sheds) . Demolition. A permit is required for any new structure. Landscape . Maintenance, removal and planting of vegetation. . All works to manage possums and vermin (such as rats) which do not have a detrimental impact on the heritage fabric of the place.

Theme

5. Building Victoria's industries and workforce 7. Governing Victorians

Construction dates	1949,
Heritage Act Categories	Registered place,
Other Names	MORWELL POWER STATION, ENERGY BRIX,
Hermes Number	200429
Property Number	

History

HISTORY Coal as a source of energy Coal is a combustible black or brownish-black sedimentary rock usually occurring in rock strata in layers or veins called coal beds or coal seams. It is formed from accumulated vegetable matter that has been altered by decay and by heat and pressure over millions of years. The different types of coal (including black and brown) reflect the stages in the transformation of vegetable material into coal - a fossil fuel - over geological time. The use of coal as a source of energy goes back thousands of years. It became important in the Industrial Revolution of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, when it was primarily used to power steam engines, heat buildings and generate electricity. Transformed into coke, coal was an essential fuel for blast and reverberatory furnaces needed by the iron and steel industry. By-products from the coking process can be used to make bitumen, chemicals and dyes, and form compounds used to produce high explosives. Coal can also be transformed to fuels such as gas and petrol and diesel fuel. Australian coal is either high-quality bituminous coal (black coal) or lower-quality lignite (brown coal). Black coal can be found in Queensland and New South Wales, whereas brown coal is found in Victoria. Brown coal is a lesser quality coal, usually with a very high moisture content. But this 'not very good' coal can be economical if mined in large quantities and fed into boilers adjacent to the mine site. Victoria lacks significant deposits of black coal, but there are large deposits of brown coal in the Latrobe Valley. These deposits are close to the surface and are able to be mined by open cut methods. Coal in Victoria 1900 to WWII At the turn of the twentieth

century, Victoria's main fuel and energy source was black coal imported from New South Wales. Electricity was generated by steam raised from black coal, trains were powered by black coal, and black coal was used in factory furnaces. Supply was always uncertain, interrupted by strikes on the NSW coal fields and in the transport industry. At the time, Victoria's electricity supply was also haphazard, provided by private companies or local councils. To help boost the state's fuel independence, the government began developing Victoria's limited black coal resources, by establishing a state coal mine at Wonthaggi in 1909. Victoria had another energy resource to exploit: massive deposits of brown coal lying along the Latrobe River in Gippsland. Brown coal was used extensively in Germany for power generation and briquetting. In 1917, a Brown Coal Mine Advisory Committee that had been formed to consider electricity production, acted swiftly to recommend building a power station on the south side of the Latrobe River. In 1918, legislation was passed that determined that electricity generation in Victoria would be provided by a public corporation, and not by private enterprise. This was the genesis of the State Electricity Commission of Victoria (SECV), which would have a mandate to electrify Victoria with a state-wide supply. The man chosen to head the SECV was Melbourne engineer Sir John Monash, one of the most talented of the Allied generals in World War One. The task ahead of him was immense: overseeing the development of an open cut mine, power station and briquette factory ten kilometres to the north of Morwell which became known as the Yallourn Power Station. Electricity began flowing to Melbourne from Yallourn in winter 1924 and supplied power throughout the 1930s although expenditure was curtailed by the onset of the Great Depression. During WWII the demands placed on the SECV were immense. It was supplying munitions factories and other industries involved in the war effort, connecting country areas to the grid to increase food production, and using its own workshops to assist with manufacturing and assembling vitally-needed war equipment. At Yallourn, generating capacity was greatly increased. In 1941-2, 67% of Victoria's electrical energy came from the Yallourn power station, while the briquette factory worked 24 hours a day. During the war years, the SECV was already formulating postwar plans for increasing Victoria's fuel and energy supplies. The state was still reliant on New South Wales coal for about half of its energy needs, in spite of the Yallourn works and the SECV's hydro-electric scheme. On top of this power rationing was introduced in Victoria in 1946 and 1947, and as a consequence a Royal Commission was held to inquire into the situation. The SECV had to prepare for a postwar society that would have dramatic increases in population, industry and energy demands. Postwar power and energy supply In its 1947 annual report the SECV revealed plans for massive developments. A new industrial region stretching from Moe in the west to Traralgon in the east, the Latrobe Valley, was to be developed. Coal mining, briquetting and power generation would no longer be restricted to Yallourn. A new open cut would be developed south of Morwell, supplying brown coal to two briquette factories and a power station. In this new region, Morwell, Moe and Traralgon would expand as urban centres with large increases in population. The Victorian Government considered that the state's future was based on the provision of brown coal in the form of briquettes as fuel for industrial and domestic use, and that this would effectively sever Victoria's reliance on black coal from NSW. Briquettes During the mid-twentieth century, briquettes were a key source of fuel for domestic heating and cooking and as an industrial energy source in Australia. A 'briquette' is a small compressed block of coal used for fuel. Victoria's initial briquette plant was established at Yallourn during the 1920s to take advantage of the extensive brown coal deposits in the area. The SECV encouraged the use of briquettes as a replacement for imported black coal in subsequent decades. After the introduction of natural gas to the state from the 1950s, briquette usage in Victoria decreased. The Morwell Energy Brix factory continued in operation until August 2014. The establishment of the Morwell Power Station and Briquette Factories Work began on the Morwell open cut and briquette factories in 1949 and the SECV's chief engineer, Ernest Bate travelled to Germany and ordered plant for the first two briquette factories as well as dredges and other machinery. In June 1950 Bate visited the United Kingdom and Germany to review progress of the contracts. On his return, he reported that the equipment should be ready for the first factory to be brought into operation in 1953, and the second in 1954. He also advised that further orders would be accepted for additional plant by the suppliers as set out in the overall plan for four briquetting plants. The SECV expected the first factory to start operating in 1953. But by 1952, the whole project had come to a halt. The recession of 1951 with its credit restrictions had resulted in dismissal of half of the workforce, while equipment for the first two factories lay in limbo at the site. Delivery of the further two factories had been deferred. Four years later, the project was recommenced. The Government's plan, however, was a very different one from that of the late 1940s. Although the SECV decided to persevere with the first two briquette factories, it cancelled the orders for the planned third and fourth. The Morwell project's priorities were now changed from briquetting to electrical power generation. In 1956, the SECV announced that a gigantic new power station, the Hazelwood power station, with a capacity for 1000 megawatts, would be built to the south of the open cut. The briquette factories at Morwell opened in December 1959 but their operation became secondary to power generation. It was unexpectedly discovered that coal from the Morwell open cut with its high alkali and sulphur content was not suitable for briquetting. The briquettes deteriorated quickly and fouled the boilers. Yallourn coal had to be transported to supply the Morwell briquette factories on the interconnecting railway,

which was an additional cost. At this time, a decline in demand for briquettes was becoming evident, due to competition from oil, electricity for domestic heating, and several years later, the discovery of natural gas in Bass Strait. From the 1960s onwards Morwell's primary output was electricity, and it - not Yallourn - had become the nerve centre of the new industrial valley. After Hazelwood Power Station went into operation the proportion of Victoria's electricity supply sourced from brown coal in the Latrobe Valley reached almost 90%. From the late 1970s more brown coal fired power stations were built in the Latrobe Valley: Loy Yang A, B, C, D, (1977 - 1988). Jeeralang A and B opened 1979-80 but is gas-fired. In 1993, Energy Brix Australia was created as the first newVictorianGovernment Business Enterprise established under the StateOwnedEnterprises Act. A fire significantly damaged the plant on BoxingDay2003, destroying the coal cross-over conveyor that fed B, C &Dbriquette plants. Following the fire, only A plant continuedinoperation. The concrete bunker roof in A & B factory was alsobadlydamaged and had temporary repairs carried out to strengthenitssupports. Coal supply to the plant was disrupted by the HazelwoodMinefire in February 2014. These factors and low profits and ageingplantlead to the decision by Energy Brix Australia to cease operationsandclose the plant in July 2014. References Electricity Commissioners (1920). Electricity Commissioners: report for the period 7th March, 1919, to 30th June, 1920 : together with statement of accounts. Melbourne, Albert J. Mullett, Government Printer. Elford, H. S. and M. R. McKeown (1947). Coal Mining in Australia. Melbourne, Tait Publishing Company Pty. Ltd. Fletcher, M. 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J. and J. H. Wells (1950). Coal, Coke and Coal Chemicals. New York, McGraw-Hill Book Company, Inc.</p>

Assessment Against Criteria

Criterion
The Morwell Power Station and Briquette Factories is of historical significance to the State of Victoria. It satisfies the following criterion for inclusion in the Victorian Heritage Register:

Criterion A Importance to the course, or pattern, of Victoria's cultural history. Criterion B Possession of uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of Victoria's cultural history. Criterion D Importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of cultural places and objects. Criterion H Special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in Victoria's historyWhy is it significant?
The Morwell Power Station and Briquette Factories is significant at the State level for the following reasons:

The Morwell Power Station and Briquette Factories is historically significant as the centrepiece of the Victorian Government's post-WWII strategy to revitalise Victoria's economic growth through the development of the Latrobe Valley by the State Electricity Commission of Victoria (SECV) into the state's principal power and energy producing region. Built between 1949 and 1959, it was the second of Victoria's large-scale power stations (the first being the Yallourn Power Station which started powering Melbourne in 1924). With the demolition of Old Yallourn between 1995 and 1999, Morwell is now the earliest surviving large-scale power station designed to provide electricity to the state electricity network. The Morwell Power Station and Briquette Factories site has remained largely intact since the 1950s and demonstrates the processes of brown coal electricity generation and briquette production which underpinned Victoria's postwar industrialisation. [

Criterion A]
The Morwell Power Station and Briquette Factories is rare for containing the only remaining, intact assemblage of briquetting machinery from the mid-twentieth century in Victoria. The boilers used in the production of electricity at the Morwell Power Station are rare examples of water tube boilers which have been specifically adapted for the burning of brown coal. [

Criterion B]
The Morwell Power Station and Briquette Factories is a highly intact example of a mid-twentieth century power station and briquetting factory. It contains buildings and machinery which demonstrate the 'start to finish' production phases related to brown coal electricity generation and transmission, and briquette manufacture. Few substantial alterations have been made since the 1950s and the place demonstrates a high level of integrity, allowing a strong understanding of the industrial processes for which the place was built. [

Criterion D]
The Morwell Power Station and Briquette Factories is historically significant for its association with the State Electricity Commission of Victoria (SECV). Built between 1949 and 1959, the Power Station and Briquette Factories was the centrepiece of the Victorian Government's post-WWII strategy to revitalise Victoria's economic growth through the development of the Latrobe Valley into the state's principal power and energy producing region. The SECV lead this development process which underpinned the industrialisation of Victoria during the second half of the twentieth century. [
Criterion H]

Extent of Registration

NOTICE OF REGISTRATION

As Executive Director for the purpose of the **Heritage Act 2017**, I give notice under section 46 that the Victorian Heritage Register is amended by including the following place in the Heritage Register:

Number: H2377
Category: Heritage Place
Place: Morwell Power Station and Briquette Factory
Location: 412 Commercial Road Morwell, Latrobe City

All of the place shown hatched on Diagram 2377 being part of the southern part of the land described on Certificate of Title 10924 Folio 783.

Dated 1 March 2018

STEVEN AVERY
Executive Director

[*Victoria Government Gazette* G 9 1 March 2018 p.392]

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/