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# Moorabool River Rail Bridge

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## Location

Midland Highway BATESFORD, GOLDEN PLAINS SHIRE

## Municipality

GOLDEN PLAINS SHIRE

## Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

## Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO28

## Heritage Listing

Golden Plains Shire

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

National Estate Register:

The original Moorabool Viaduct was opened in April 1862, as part of the historic Ballarat to Geelong Railway. As originally built it carried two 1.6m gauge rail tracks, with deck-type Warren trusses spanning 10m x 39.6m. The maximum height was 35.1m; the piers were of stone.

This original bridge, designed by I K Brunel, was the largest of early Australian metal bridges, until the first Hawkesbury Bridge in 1889. In 1885 and 1893 strengthening of the bridge was recommended and in 1919 the trusses were replaced by metal girders and steel trestles were placed at each mid-span, changing the spans from 19.6m to 16.0m, 7.6m and 16.0m.

The bridge still has considerable length for a 1919 metal girder bridge. However, the most significant parts of the bridge are the massive stone piers and abutments which remain as an important part of the original bridge.

Hermes Number 23665

Property Number

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## Physical Description 1

National Estate Register:

In its present form, the Bridge carries only a single 1.6m gauge railway. The concrete deck is supported on two deck-type plate girders, which span from the piers and abutments to the tops of steel trestles. The original high stone piers (to 35m) and abutments remain.

## Integrity

Condition and Integrity:

The Bridge is in use and is believed to be in good condition. The present structure incorporates the original 1862 stone piers and abutments and also metal trestles and girders which date from 1919. The timber deck was replaced with a concrete deck c 1987.

*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/>*