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## HO65 - Rocklands Dam



Rocklands Dam



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### Location

131-199 Townsings Rd DIGGERS REST, Melton Shire

### Municipality

MELTON CITY

### Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

### Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO65

### Heritage Listing

Melton City

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### Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

The former *Rocklands* dam at 131-199 Townsings Rd, Diggers Rest is significant as an example of a type of dams that was constructed in nineteenth century Melton by small pastoralists and established farmers in an attempt to counteract the extremely dry local climate. Its dry-stone construction with roughly worked bluestone is also aesthetically pleasing, and an excellent example of one type of dam structure in the area.

The former *Rocklands* dam at 131-199 Townsings Rd, Diggers Rest is aesthetically and structurally significant at the LOCAL level (AHC D2). It is a neatly constructed and highly intact dry-stone structure which uses partly

shaped local bluestone and fieldstone. It is a fully functional and moderately sized dam of the area.

The former *Rocklands* dam at 131-199 Townsings Rd, Diggers Rest is historically significant at the LOCAL level (AHC B2). It is a more moderately sized example of at least four other similar, very well built, dam structures in the Shire, three of which were built on the Clarke *Rockbank* pastoral estate. These dams express the importance of water in the extremely dry local climate. They may also have been related to the difficulty of excavating large 'tanks' (paddock dams) in the area, much of which has high bluestone bedrock. It is believed to have been built by William Beaty, of the pioneering Diggers Rest family that has been prominent in local affairs.

Overall, the *Rocklands* dam is of LOCAL significance.

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|---------------------------|--|
| Heritage Study/Consultant | Melton - Shire of Melton Heritage Study phase 2, David Maloney, David Rowe, Pamela Jellie, Sera Jane Peters, 2007; |
| Other Names               | 131-199 Townsings Rd, Diggers Rest (Lot 2 PS 510632),  |
| Hermes Number             | 30071  |
| Property Number           |  |

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## Historical Australian Themes

*Melton Historical Themes: 'Water', 'Pastoralism'*

## Integrity

Integrity - Substantially Intact

## Physical Conditions

Physical Condition - Good

## Physical Description 1

Physical Description -

The dam wall is approximately 50 metres long. It holds water so, it is difficult to estimate its depth, but it is probably a maximum of around two metres. Its drystone wall is of roughly squared bluestone, crudely coursed, with large capping stones similar to nearby Clarke dams. Its earth embankment wall has been extended in more recent years.

Its context is a rural residential property. To the south the landscape remains largely undeveloped pastoral property.

*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/>