
HO66 - Bridge over Toolern Creek



Bridge Road bridge over the Toolern Creek

Location

Bridge Road MELTON SOUTH, MELTON SHIRE

Municipality

MELTON CITY

Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO66

Heritage Listing

Melton City

Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

The Bridge Road Bridge is an early (1913) and relatively intact example of a concrete girder bridge built by Sir John Monash for the Shire of Melton. It was built to provide railway station access to the new farming areas being opened by the break-up of the pastoral estates, in particular the Closer Settlement Board's Exford Estate. Its setting in a deep gully enhances its aesthetic significance.

The Bridge Road Bridge is aesthetically and technically significant at a LOCAL level (AHC F1). It is an early, moderately intact example of a reinforced concrete girder bridge in Victoria. It is a fine intact example of (later Sir) John Monash's functionalist approach to bridge-building in reinforced concrete as the most economical way of providing a permanent structure on country roads. It dates to the formative period in concrete beam and slab construction, which became widespread in the 1910s and 20s.

The Bridge Road Bridge is historically significant at a LOCAL level (AHC A4, B2, H1). It was designed and built by prominent Australian John Monash, and the Reinforced Concrete & Monier Pipe Construction Company. The bridge is also significant as the major expression in Melton of the public works associated with the new farming era associated with the break-up of the Shire's vast pastoral estates, and in particular with the extensive work of the Closer Settlement Board. More generally the bridge is an excellent example, in period engineering style, of the early twentieth century policy of building bridges to connect farms with railway stations, and in particular the demand for such roads and bridges by the farmers on newly subdivided pastoral estates.

Overall, the Bridge Road Bridge is significant at a LOCAL level.

Heritage Study/Consultant	Melton - Shire of Melton Heritage Study phase 2, David Maloney, David Rowe, Pamela Jellie, Sera Jane Peters, 2007;
Construction dates	1913,
Other Names	Carrying Bridge Road over Toolern Creek, Melton South,
Hermes Number	30073
Property Number	

Physical Description 1

Physical Description -

The bridge is a high, two span reinforced concrete girder bridge, carrying Bridge Road across a deep gully in Toolern Creek.

It has two slender, high piles, linked by a transom about half way up, and which sit on a strip footing. Its spans are each 9.14 metres long, and used three girders to make an overall width of 3.66 metres.[1]

The bridge slopes up from a northern approach with a long embankment to a high southern bank of the stream, which constitutes the abutment of the bridge.

In 1995 major repairs were carried out to the bridge, including the placement of a reinforced concrete overlay 80 millimetres thick on the deck, extensive patching of cracks, and the replacement of the old timber handrail with steel guardrails.[2]

[1] Alves *et al*, *op cit*, p. 116

[2] *ibid*, p.117

Historical Australian Themes

Shire of Melton Historical Themes: Transport; Farming

Integrity

Integrity - Moderately intact

Although the bridge's integrity has been reduced by strengthening of its deck and replacement of its timber handrails with steel guardrails, its essential essential form and detailing are preserved.

Physical Conditions

Physical Condition - Good

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/>