

**conservation
studio**

Heritage Impact Statement

Mount Macedon Memorial Cross (H1027)

405 Cameron Drive, Mount Macedon

Prepared for

Mount Macedon Memorial Cross
Committee or Management

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Contents

1. Project overview	1
1.1 Introduction	1
1.2 Subject and site description	3
2. Heritage Considerations	7
2.1 Overview	7
2.2 Statutory controls	7
2.3 Non-statutory listings	8
2.4 Statements of Significance	9
2.5 Permit exemptions	11
2.6 Conservation Management Plan	11
3. Assessments of impacts	13
3.1 Proposed works	13
3.2 Reason for the works	13
3.3 Impact assessment	15
4. Conclusion	25

1. Project overview

1.1 Introduction

This Heritage Impact Statement (HIS) has been prepared on behalf of the Mount Macedon Memorial Cross Committee of Management in support of an application for a heritage permit for priority safety upgrade works at Mount Macedon Memorial Cross.

The works were identified as priority safety works in the Conservation Management Plan (CMP) prepared by Conservation Studio in 2023 and comprise upgrades to existing lighting and non-compliant safety barriers.

Mount Macedon Memorial Cross is of state and local significance. It is included on the Victorian Heritage Register as Macedon Cross (H1027) and the Macedon Ranges Planning Scheme Heritage Overlay at Macedon Cross (HO37).

Various naming conventions for the subject site occur across the different heritage listings. For clarity, this report will refer to the subject site as Mount Macedon Memorial Cross.

1.1.1 Background

Conservation Studio prepared a Conservation Management Plan (CMP) for the site in 2023 and have since assisted the Mount Macedon Memorial Cross Reserve Committee to complete urgent works to the site involving investigations into the condition of the cross to assess its degradation and life span, and the installation of lightning protection to the cross.

Conservation Studio has now been engaged by Mount Macedon Memorial Cross Reserve Committee to implement actions identified as priority in the CMP action plan. The priority works discussed in this HIS have been informed by the CMP.

A permit exemption application was submitted for the proposed works and subsequently withdrawn on the advice of Heritage Victoria. This HIS and associated permit application is limited to those works identified by Heritage Victoria as potentially impacting the heritage significance of the place.

1.1.2 Documents for approval

The following documents are included for review and endorsement:

- Mount Macedon Memorial Cross Urgent Works Drawing Register by Conservation Studio, dated 13/02/2025, detailing proposed safety barrier works.
- Mount Macedon Memorial Cross Pathway Upgrade, 405 Cameron Drive, Mount Macedon, VIC 3441, Electrical Services by JBA, dated 24.10.2024, detailing the proposed lighting upgrades.



Figure 1
Approach to Mount Macedon Memorial Cross | Source: Conservation Studio, May 2024.

1.2 Subject and site description

Located approximately 65km north-west of Melbourne on the western most summit of the Macedon Ranges, the subject site, known as the Reserve, is the Mount Macedon Memorial Cross and Mount Macedon Memorial Reserve.

Comprising approximately 2 hectares and elevated at 1001m above sea level, the Reserve is located within the broader Mount Macedon Regional Park, an area occupying 8 hectares and managed by Parks Victoria.

The Reserve is defined by the Extent of Registration included in the Citation for the Victorian Heritage Register. The precinct can be defined by three specific precincts linked together by a series of pathways.

The site has undergone many changes since it was established in 1929. Initially the site was cleared of all vegetation to establish the podium and associated viewscape, which provided extensive views towards Melbourne and surrounding towns. The cross was also visible from the Mount Macedon township and beyond. Formal plantings around the Cross and along the approach path we also added. Overtime, the native forest regenerated part of the site until the 1983 Ash Wednesday

bushfires extensively damaged the cross and gardens. The area lay in disrepair into the mid 1990s when the cross was replaced with the current concrete cross, the gardens relandscaped and new urns installed.

Significant tree growth has occurred over the past 30 years, obscuring views to and from the cross, so much so that in 2023 Parks Victoria partially reinstated the viewscape. The re-instated viewscape is considerably reduced from prior times but has achieved sightlines to Melbourne and the Mount Macedon township.

The Reserve comprises the following precincts:

- **Mount Macedon Memorial Cross** includes the Memorial Cross, its podium as well as the terrace steps.
- **Mount Macedon Memorial Garden** refers to the entrance of the site which occupies the gateway, as well as the circular area dedicated to those that served in military activities and peacekeeping missions.
- **Major Mitchell's Lookout** refers to the lookout that faces westward over Kyneton.
- **Mount Macedon Memorial Cross Walk** refers to the paths that links these three nodes together.

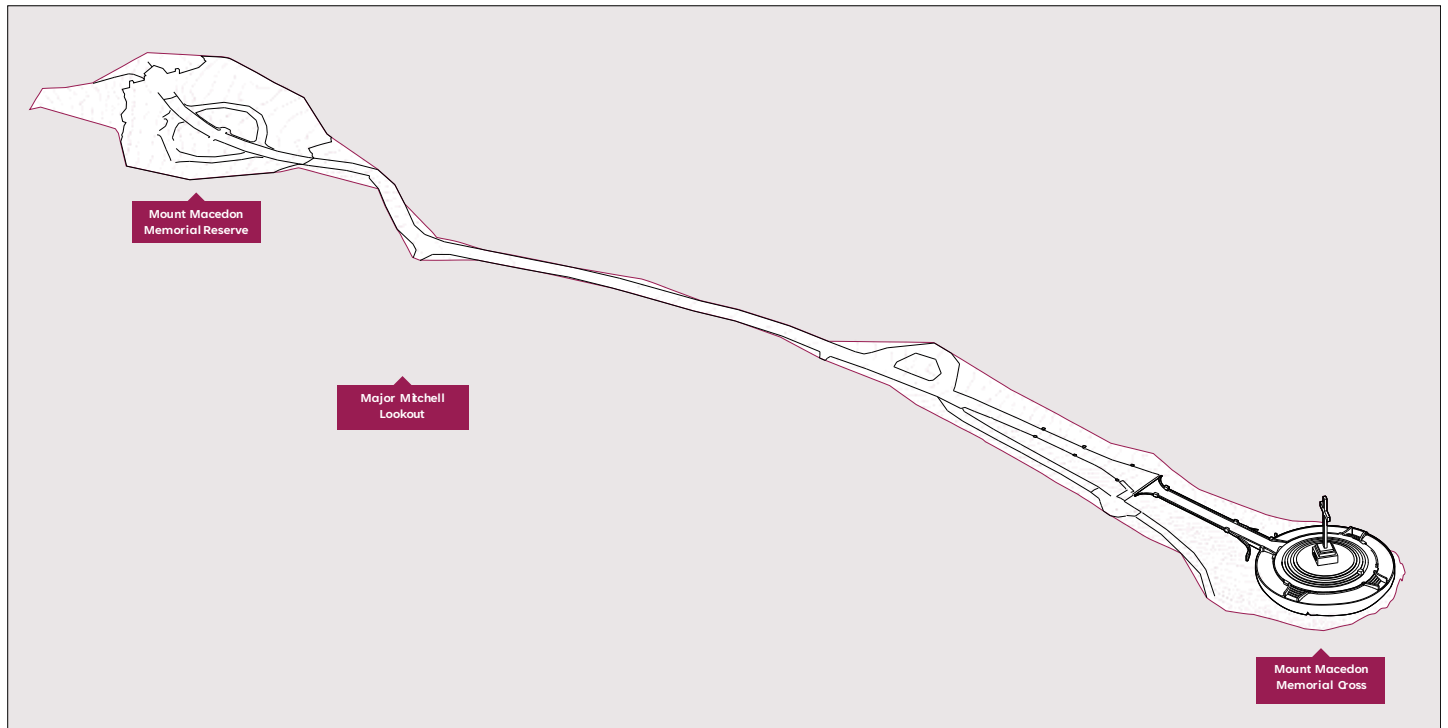


Figure 2

Axonometric view of the Mount Macedon Memorial Cross Reserve indicating the location of the various precincts | Source: Conservation Studio, 2023.

1.2.1 Mount Macedon Memorial Cross

The current Cross and base date from 1995 and is a pre-cast concrete reconstruction donated by the Grollo Family, after the deterioration of the original Cameron Cross. Originally constructed of glazed terracotta faience, the reconstructed cross attempts to emulate the appearance of being constructed of individual blocks, despite being constructed of large pre-cast concrete sections, which appear to be coloured with an oxide and gives the exterior the appearance of a yellow stone or faience.

The original faience blocks were cut down into small sections and sold as souvenirs. It is understood that some of the original steel lattice frame that supported the cross is in storage with Parks Victoria.

The Cross is adorned by a large sword, which appears to be bronze and is likely to be original from the Cameron Cross. It is mounted on the south face of the cross looking out to Melbourne.

The base is a square-shaped pedestal design characterised by three distinctive parts. The three-tiered design has varying margins and heights. The base of the Cross contains two brass plaques, one dating post-1965 commemorating the sacrifice of those who lost their lives in the First World War, which was removed from the 1929 Cameron Cross and reinstated on the current Cross. The other is commemorating the reconstruction of the Cross in 1995. The two plaques are inscribed with the following:

MOUNT MACEDON
MEMORIAL CROSS RESERVE
THIS PLAQUE WAS UNVEILED BY
HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR OF VICTORIA
THE HONOURABLE
RICHARD E. MCGARVIE AC
ON
THE 19TH OF NOVEMBER 1995
AND COMMEMORATES THE BUILDING OF THE CROSS
AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE MEMORIAL RESERVE

TO THE GLORY OF GOD
AND IN
MEMORY OF AUSTRALIA'S SONS
1914-1918
"DEATH CANNOT ROB THEM OF
THEIR GLORY, NOR TIME EFFACE
THE MEMORY OF THEIR GALLANT DEEDS"

An earlier plaque commemorating the Second World War was vandalised in 1965 and removed altogether. It contained the following inscription:

THE SERVED UNTO DEATH / THEIR GOD, THEIR KING / AND
THEIR COUNTRY / 1935 – 1945 WAR / "LEST WE FORGET".

A number of other plaques exist within the approach to the podium. They are all bronze and typically inlaid into a stone plinth. They detail the philanthropy of the Grollo Family (1995 cross) and David Cameron (1929-35 cross) and explain the purpose of the Cross.

The podium terrace is constructed in a radial form comprising a tiered terrace descending from the Cross to a walkway at the edge of the formal garden. The terrace is also constructed of concrete and appears to be original to the time of the Cameron Cross. The walkway at the base of the terrace has several sets of steps leading down to the rock escarpment wall of the podium base. The steps are terminated by steel balustrades painted black, which appear to date from the 1995 works and provide protection from fall risks at the live edge of the escarpment.

The escarpment walls and garden edgings are constructed of irregular basalt (bluestone), likely to be local to the area. Interviews with former labourers who worked on the Cross in 1929-1935 are credited as stating that the caps of all the walls were constructed of Granite shale taken from the east face of the nearby Camel's Hump.

The escarpment wall is topped with cast concrete urns, the majority of which are replacement facsimiles of the originals. These denote the corners of the steps, walkways, and sections of garden within the radial arrangement of the terrace and the walkway leading to the site of the Cross from the Memorial Cross Walk. The urns are planted with topiarized box hedge.

The walkway around the podium contains a cast bronze dial identifying the direction and distance of many key places within Australia. The dial was erected in January 1978 and is positioned upon a mudstone pier on the podium walkway.

The immediate environs to the Cross are planted in a mix of introduced species including rows of topiarized conifers and English box. The report by John Patrick Landscape Architects identifies the early plantings at the time of the construction of the cross to be similar, containing New Zealand Flax, Pencil Pines and Conifers, heavily manicured into formal conical shapes resembling the plantings of European cemeteries and memorials.



Figure 3
Memorial Cross at Mount Macedon, 1935. Source: Mount Macedon ANZAC Day Dawn Service.



Figure 4
Mount Macedon Memorial Cross today.



Figure 5
Memorial Cross, by Jack Walton, Mt Macedon, Victoria, circa 1935. Source: Museums Victoria Collections.

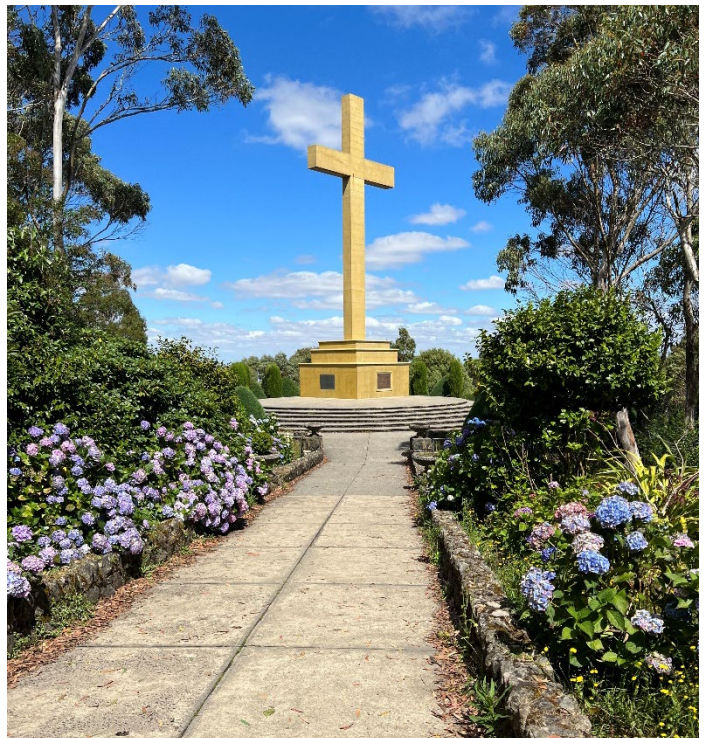


Figure 6
Mount Macedon Memorial Cross today.



Figure 7
Mount Macedon Memorial Cross Walk after 1983 Ash Wednesday Bushfires. Source: Sydney Oats, flickr.

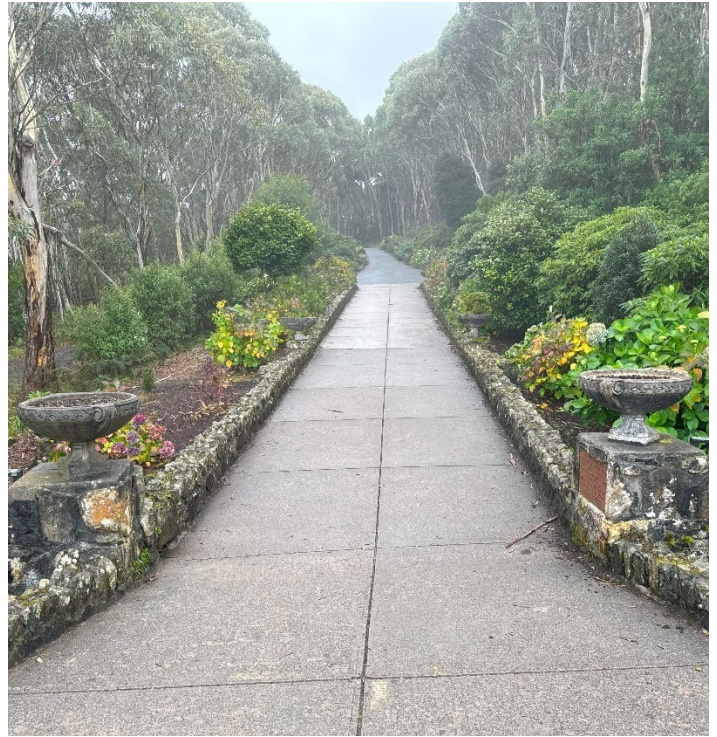


Figure 8
Mount Macedon Memorial Cross Walk today.



Figure 9
Mount Macedon two years after Ash Wednesday by David Wadelton. Source: Wadelton online.



Figure 10
The site 1995 during major works in comparison to 2018. Source: Mount Macedon ANZAC Day Dawn Service.

2. Heritage Considerations

2.1 Overview

The heritage considerations relevant to the subject site are summarised in the table below.

Name	Authority	Identifier	Statutory Controls
Statutory Controls Apply			
Macedon Cross, 405 Cameron Drive Mt Macedon, Macedon Ranges Shire	Victorian Heritage Register	H1027	Yes
Macedon Cross, 405 Cameron Drive, Mount Macedon	Macedon Ranges Planning Scheme	HO37	Yes
Non-statutory listings			
Mount Macedon Gardens Area, Mount Macedon Vic 3441	National Trust of Australia (Victoria)	G13129	No
Mount Macedon War Memorial Reserve, Cameron Drive Mount Macedon, Macedon Ranges Shire	Victorian War Heritage Inventory	70221	No
Mount Macedon War Memorial Cross (Cameron Memorial Cross), 405 Cameron Drive Mt Macedon, Macedon Ranges Shire	Victorian War Heritage Inventory	125247	No

2.2 Statutory controls

The following Statutory controls apply to the subject site.

2.2.1 Victorian Heritage Register

The subject site is included on the Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) as H1027, Macedon Cross. The VHR Citation includes the following description of the extent of registration:

Under section 14 of the Historic Buildings Act 1981 the Governor in Council amends the Register by adding Historic Building No. 1027.

*Cameron Memorial Cross
Cameron Drive, Mount Macedon.*

(To the extent of:

- All of the structures and works known as the Cameron Memorial Cross, including the cross, base, surrounds, pathways and retaining walls marked B-1 on Plan 605749, signed by the Chairperson, Historic Buildings Council, and held by the Director, Historic Buildings Council.*
- All of the land marked L-1 on Plan 605749, signed by the Chairperson Historic Buildings*

Council, and held by the Director, Historic Buildings Council, being all of the land contained in Crown Allotment 33A in the Parish of Macedon, County of Bourke.)

*Dated 30 August 1994
Responsible Minister:
ROBERT MACLELLAN
Minister for Planning*

*KATHY WILSON
Acting Clerk of the Executive Council*

[Victorian Government Gazette G35 1 September 1994 2373]

This registration is subject to the provisions of the *Heritage Act 2017*, and a permit is required to undertake works on the site and all of the land that forms the extent of registration for the place.

There are no permit exemptions specific to the place included as part of this registration.

2.2.2 Macedon Ranges Planning Scheme

The subject site is included in the Schedule to the Heritage Overlay of Macedon Ranges Planning Scheme as HO37, Macedon Cross. The listing mirrors that of the VHR extent of registration.

The provisions of Clause 43.01 – Heritage Overlay in the Macedon Ranges Planning Scheme are superseded by the inclusion of the Heritage Place on the Victorian Heritage Register under the *Heritage Act 2017* in accordance with Clause 43.01-2 of the Planning Scheme. The Executive Director, Heritage Victoria may refer the application to the responsible municipality.

2.3 Non-statutory listings

The following non-statutory listings apply to the subject site. The non-statutory listings recognise the heritage value of the subject site but provide no statutory protection or controls.

2.3.1 National Trust of Australia (Victoria)

Mount Macedon Memorial Cross is classified by the National Trust of Australia (Victoria) as part of the broader Mount Macedon Gardens Area containing a number of properties across the upper Mount Macedon area – Property No G13129.

This is a non-statutory listing.

2.3.2 Victorian War Heritage Inventory

The subject site is included on the Victorian War Heritage Inventory under two registrations:

1. Mount Macedon War Memorial Reserve.
2. Mount Macedon War Memorial Cross (Cameron Memorial Cross)

Listings by the Victorian War Heritage Inventory are non-statutory.

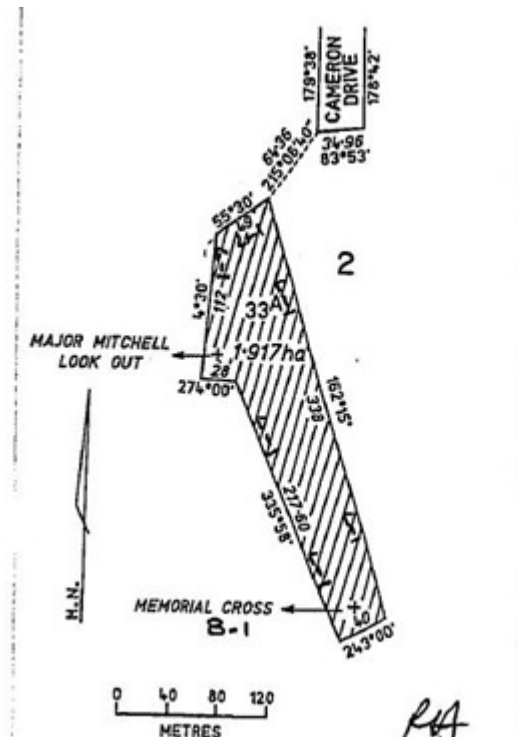


Figure 11
VHR extent of registration for H1027 | Source: Victorian Heritage Database.

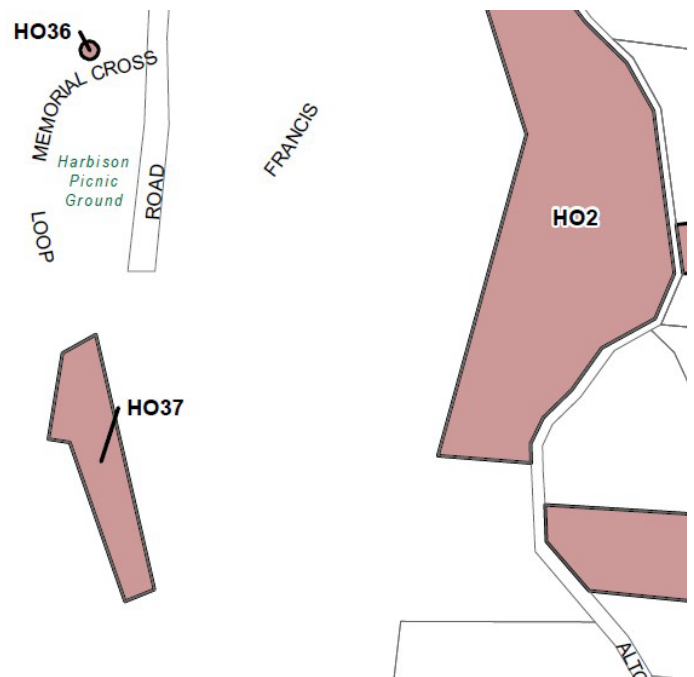


Figure 12
Macedon Ranges Planning Scheme Heritage Overlay extent of registration for HO37 | Source: Department of Transport and Planning

2.4 Statements of Significance

The Mount Macedon Memorial Cross Reserve has three Statements of Significance referenced below, which vary considerably in their assessment of the cultural heritage values and the identification of Significance. The Statement included on the Victoriana Heritage Register is focused specifically on the Cross and is inaccurate in its description of the built form, identifying the Cross to be constructed of faience. This Statement does not identify that the cross was reconstructed in 1995 and does not identify significance in the other elements across the site.

The VHR Citation identifies the Cross as having historical, social, and aesthetic values. The social values relate to the symbolism of the Cross as a representation of the sacrifice of life in the First World War and soon after Second World War, and as a symbol of resilience after the Ash Wednesday bushfires of 1983. Historical values relate to the association with Cameron who gifted the cross.

The Statements of Significance for the inclusion of the Cross in the Victorian War Heritage Inventory is a direct copy of the Statement of Significance used in the VHR Citation. It also includes a Veterans Description for the public which is outlined below as a statement informing the public of the place.

Macedon Ranges Cultural Heritage and Landscape Study Vol 4, June 1994, contains a Statement of Significance that identifies the Cross as significant for Cameron's contributions and the development of a major project during the depression creating works for many people in the region. It also recognises the symbolic value and acknowledges the original construction in Wunderlich terracotta tiles.

The Statement of Significance related to the National Trust classification provides less insight into the cultural heritage values of the place. This classification and statement assesses a larger precinct across upper Mount Macedon, however specifically identifies the Cross as a significant object.

Elements such as the War Memorial Reserve, Memorial entrance gates, and Major Mitchell's Lookout are not identified in the Statements of Significance.

2.4.1 Victorian Heritage Register

The following Statement of Significance for H1027, Macedon Cross, is taken from the VHR Citation.

What is significant?

The Cameron Memorial Cross, Mount Macedon, donated by William Cameron, was dedicated in 1935 to the Australian service people who have been killed in the First World War. Constructed of Wunderlich terra cotta tiles on a steel base, it has withstood lightning strikes and bushfires.

How is it significant?

The Cameron Memorial Cross is significant to the State of Victoria for historic, social and aesthetic reasons.

Why is it significant?

The Cameron Memorial Cross is important for spiritual, symbolic, cultural, and social reasons as a memorial for those who lost their lives in the First World War, and became for many a symbol of courage and survival after the 1983 Ash Wednesday bushfires. The custom or function of commemorating the war dead is observed at a dawn service held at the base of the cross annually. The size, simplicity of the design of the Cameron Memorial Cross, along with its siting on Mount Macedon, is a rare example of a memorial commemorating those who died in the First World War. It is able to demonstrate an association with important events in Victoria's history, the First World War, and it demonstrates the use of particular material in the form of Wunderlich tiles which, because of their reflective nature, are able to enhance the simplicity and symbolism of the cross, and enable it to be viewed from considerable distances.

2.4.2 Macedon Ranges Planning Scheme

The following Statement of Significance for HO37, Macedon Cross, is taken from Macedon Ranges Cultural Heritage and Landscape Study Vol 4 (June 1994).

Because of its size, prominence and setting the cross is one of the state's best known and most visually powerful reminders of the First War. It is also a reflection of the memorial's creator, William Cameron, whose notable house and garden Cameron Lodge, survive nearby on Mount Macedon

in a contrived visual communication with this monument. Apart from its associations with World War One, the cross is a symbol of Cameron's concern for the unemployed during the Great Depression, being a major project among others which he financed for unemployment relief work. Because of its prominence and unique location the cross has attracted long-term national and international tourism and with that a popular value as one of the state's best known landmarks. World War, and it demonstrates the use of particular material in the form of Wunderlich tiles which, because of their reflective nature, are able to enhance the simplicity and symbolism of the cross, and enable it to be viewed from considerable distances.

2.4.3 National Trust of Australia (Victoria)

The following Statement of Significance for G13129, Mount Macedon Gardens Area, is taken from the Citation.

The Mount Macedon gardens area is of National significance:

- as the most representative area of hill station gardens in Victoria, and with Mount Wilson and the Adelaide Hills, amongst the best in Australia; key characteristics include a steep and elevated terrain with an outlook over valleys or plains, extensive use of terracing to provide access and to facilitate the pursuit of horticulture;

- as an area containing several gardens and properties of outstanding significance (including Alton, Ard Choille, Braemar House, Duneira, Durrul and Hascombe); many gardens of high significance (including Ard Rudah, Brookdale, Cameron Lodge, Cheniston, Curramundi, Drusilla, Dreamthorpe, Forest Glade, Glen Rannoch, Huntly Burn, Karori, Matlock, Marnanie, Penola, Penrith, Sefton, Tanah Merah and Timsbury); an outstanding garden - Bolobek - falls outside the boundaries but has a strong relationship to the area;

- as a collection of gardens which contain a wide range of rare and unusual trees and plants, probably the best concentration of such vegetation in Victoria outside the Royal Botanic Gardens;

- as a focus of debate in the nineteenth century amongst Victoria's 'gentlemen scientists' over such issues as land selection, forest policy, meteorology/climate, garden design and plant acclimatisation, all demonstrated by physical attributes within the area;

- for surviving examples of work of some of Victoria's most important garden designers including William Sangster and Edna Walling;

- for the survival of an unusual concentration of properties owned by leaders of commerce, especially those involved in the formation of BHP;

- for the retention of several memorial sites, including the Macedon Honour Avenue (badly burnt but replanted), the Macedon Cemetery and the Memorial Cross;

- for the retention of key elements of an early twentieth century tourist destination: these elements include guest houses, scenic lookouts and tourist roads.

There is a need for the National Trust landscape committee to assess the surrounding landscape and this may augment the statement of significance and the extent of classification.

See also Garden file: G13101 Cameron Lodge

2.4.4 Victorian War Heritage Inventory

The following Veterans Description for Mount Macedon War Memorial Cross (Cameron Memorial Cross) is taken from the Citation as it complements the Statement of Significance presented above from the VHR.

The Mount Macedon War Memorial Cross, located at 405 Cameron Drive, was donated by William Cameron of Cameron Lodge, along with the roadway and gates, to the people of Gisborne Shire as a memorial to the soldiers of the First World War. It was announced in the Argus in 1932, that the cross would be set at an elevation of 3324 feet and floodlit at night, so that it would be visible from Melbourne. The cross was designed by Edward Campbell & Sons of Melbourne, with the actual erection on site taking 25 hours. It was completed by 1935, with dedication services held on March 16th, when the cross was to be unveiled by His

Excellency Lord Huntingfield KCMG. The unveiling of the Cross has generally been attributed to the State Governor, Lord Huntingfield, however, in the end the unveiling was performed by the premier, Sir Stanley Argyle.

The Cross was described at its opening as, 'Seventy feet in height with a plinth 14 feet in width, the Cross rests on a circular base 38 feet in diameter. The pale yellow stone, in relief against the sombre colours of the dense bush which clothes the Mount, is conspicuous for miles across the plains 2000 feet below.'

On two sides of the cross in relief, two bronze crusader swords, each 25 feet long point to the ground. About the circular base are trim lawns, trees and shrubs. The Cross, floodlit at night, bears the inscription, 'To the Glory of God and in memory of Australia's sons 1914-18'. Death cannot rob them of their Glory. Nor Time Efface the Memory of Their Gallant Deeds'.

Apart from its associations with the First World War, the cross is a symbol of Cameron's concern for the unemployed during the Great Depression, being a major project among others which he financed for unemployment relief work. Initially the Cross was not a favourable concept with anyone but those to whom it gave employment. People also thought the road should have been made before the Cross was erected rather than the reverse. Nonetheless, the cross has attracted long-term national and international tourism, due to its prominence and unique location, and has become one of the state's best known landmarks.

Cameron paid for the surrounding gardens and water storage, as well as the three mile road which linked the Cross with the Mount Macedon Road. In 1941, the road opened at a total cost of £30,000. Cameron also inspired the formation in 1944 of a committee of management, consisting of representatives from the Gisborne Shire, Forest Commission, the RSL and the Cameron estate. In 1953, after years of neglect local residents commenced fund raising for repair of the Cross and its surrounds. The residents paid £5000 to renew the elevation of the flood lights, erect a kiosk and caretaker's residence, clear the surrounding bush and restore the gardens. Constructed of Wunderlich

terra cotta tiles on a steel base, the Cross has withstood lightning strikes and the 1983 Ash Wednesday bushfires.

2.5 Permit exemptions

The VHR Citation does not include specific permit exemptions for the site.

2.6 Conservation Management Plan

Conservation Studio prepared a Conservation Management Plan (CMP) for the site in 2023. The following policies relate to, and are in support of, the proposed works outlined in this HIS:

Use – Policy G3

The memorial's continued public use forms part of its Statement of Significance at the State Level. The holding of ANZAC and Remembrance Day ceremonies are integrated to the purpose and use of the place and should continue. Any development of the site should support the ongoing use and ensure that public access is maintained. A change in the use that does not continue to support public use would diminish this value.

The following general policy statement has been formulated to guide management of the ongoing use of the site.

Use: *The Mount Macedon Memorial Cross should remain publicly accessible and continue to hold commemorative ceremonies associated with the establishment of the site. ANZAC and Remembrance Day ceremonies are critical events to be held at the site of the Cross and are directly related to the cultural heritage value of the site. These ceremonies are the embodiment of and purpose for which the Cross was constructed.*

Alternative or new uses should not remove or alter of significant fabric such that it would diminish the cultural heritage values of the place. Events and community based uses that increase visitor numbers should be supported so long as they do not result in physical impacts on the heritage fabric or diminish the cultural heritage values of the place. Events should be sensitive and appropriate to the place as a monument to sacrifice.

Changes to the place that facilitate and support continued uses, specifically ceremonial uses are acceptable as long as they do not result in detrimental impacts to the heritage fabric of diminish the cultural heritage values of the place.

Conservation and maintenance – Policy G4

Conservation and preventative maintenance are essential to the management of any place and ensure retention of fabric that embodies the values of the place. These values can be enhanced by appropriate restoration where opportunity may present to restore or accurately reinstate elements of the place that have since disappeared.

It is essential that maintenance and other works are planned in a manner that does not harm or diminish the values of the place. Considered and planned works that utilise specialist consultants, specialist trades and others will result in a positive conservation outcome for the place.

Where opportunities for accurate restoration or reinstatement exist, these will be required to undergo a process of investigation and be informed by original details, drawings, photos, and physical evidence to avoid conjecture. Realising where restoration is not appropriate is also fundamental to the conservation of the place. Such opportunities may include the restoration of the Cross in faience when the pre-cast cross has reached the end of its material life.

To ensure conservation and the retention of fabric that embodies the values of the place, the following general policy statements have been formulated to guide changes and works at the place.

Walls and fences – Policy S8

The site contains a number of walls constructed at various times. They are generally constructed of stone rubble or irregular pitched stone and contribute to the simplistic and austere aesthetic of the Memorial.

The podium walls and garden edging within the vicinity of the Cross are original to Cameron's design intent. This aesthetic has been carefully replicated across the site in the 1995 retaining wall at Major Mitchell's Lookout and at bases of random furniture items across the site.

The Second World War Memorial Cross gates were rededicated and relocated in 1997 incorporating additional walls to house the lychgate and interpretation information panels to form a new entrance marking the boundary of the Cross Reserve at the southern end of the carpark.

The metal gates and fence panels appear to date from the original construction of the gates and were reused in the relocation work.

The 1995 works include the introduction of fencing to the Cross podium to eliminate the fall risk at the live edge. The fence is steel and painted black. It is not significant fabric

and any future replacement should be carefully considered to ensure that replacement fencing does not impact on the rock escarpment walls of the podium. This may be challenging to establish new fencing, as current crowd loadings have increased and the need to comply with such building codes could trigger significant strengthening works.

The following policy statement has been formulated to guide management of the various walls located throughout the site.

Walls: *Stone walls adjacent to the Cross which form the podium and garden beds are significant and should be retained and conserved.*

Stone walls at Major Mitchell's Lookout date from 1995 and are of no heritage significance and may be replaced or altered.

The World War 2 memorial gates, relocated, are not an original feature but are of contributory significance due to the ongoing association of the RSL and the community in the Cross memorial.

The significant and contributory walls should be retained and conserved. The introduction of new walls and fencing should be carefully considered and where possible include like materials to reinforce the simplicity and austere aesthetic of the Memorial. Structural loading impacts will need to be carefully considered.

3. Assessments of impacts

3.1 Proposed works

The proposed works comprise priority safety upgrades to existing lighting and non-compliant safety barriers, as identified by the CMP (Conservation Studio, 2023).

3.1.1 Lighting upgrade works

Lighting upgrade works include removal and replacement of existing lighting. Existing light poles will be demolished and new 4m tall light poles in black powder coated steel will be installed along the length of the main pathway at intervals around 24m apart to achieve the required horizontal lux levels for safe travel along the pathway. The light poles will be placed around 500mm from the edge of the pathway and have a concrete pad footing. Conduits for the new lights will be located underneath the pathway at a depth of 600mm beneath the finished surface as required by the construction codes and Australian Standards.

3.1.2 Safety barrier upgrade works

Safety barrier upgrade works include the removal and replacement of the existing steel safety balustrading around the edge of the podium on which the Mount Macedon Memorial Cross stands. The new railing will be manufactured from galvanized steel and paint finished. The railing will be fixed to the concrete base of the podium. This will require excavation of an approximate 400mm wide by 200mm deep trench along the internal face of the stone wall, which will be made good upon completion of the works.

3.2 Reason for the works

The works described above were identified in the CMP as priority works needed to improve the safety and security of the site, to ensure the site is safe, accessible and inviting to visitors. A safe and enjoyable visitor experience will ensure the cultural heritage values of the site are maintained.

3.2.1 Lighting upgrade works

Lighting upgrades are required as the existing pathways are poorly lit. This poses a safety hazard for tripping, wayfinding and passive security to visitors attending the site at sunrise, sunset or after dark. After Melbourne's Shrine of Remembrance, Mount Macedon Memorial Cross is considered the most significant war memorial in Victoria. Its annual ANZAC Day dawn service draws thousands of people, and it is an increasingly popular tourist attraction with visitor numbers exceeding 266,500 in 2019.

The current lighting is insufficient to create a public realm that is safe and inviting for visitors during poor light conditions. The new lighting design meets current lighting standards to ensure safe travel and way finding along the pedestrian paths during poor light conditions. It will also provide passive security after dark, improving overall visitor safety and experience.

3.2.2 Safety barrier upgrade works

The existing safety barrier around the podium was installed after the cross was replaced in 1995 and does not meet current safety standards. Where there is a fall risk, a barrier to prevent falls must not be climbable. The current arrangement of the barrier, with the railing running around the outside of the urns, does not prevent climbing. Visitors are able to climb on top of the urns or climb the barrier itself. Therefore, a replacement safety barrier is required to meet current safety standards and ensure safe visitor use of the site. For the new barrier to be insurmountable and align with safety requirements, it must be placed either in front of the urns or extend to a sufficient height above the top of the urns if placed behind the urns around the perimeter of the podium. The barrier must also be of a design that prevents climbing as well as meeting performance requirements for loading forces.



Figure 13
Existing Mount Macedon Memorial Cross Walk lighting on approach to the Cross.



Figure 14
Existing Mount Macedon Memorial Cross Walk pathway lighting.



Figure 15
Existing safety railing from podium interior, showing existing alignment around urns.



Figure 16
Existing safety railing detail from podium exterior.

3.3 Impact assessment

It is important to reiterate that the Statement of Significance included on the VHR is focused specifically on the Cross, its size and original Wunderlich tile fabric, and does not identify significance in the other elements across the site. The VHR Citation identifies the Cross as having historical, social, and aesthetic values. The social values relate to the symbolism of the Cross as a representation of the sacrifice of life in the First World War and soon after Second World War, and as a symbol of resilience after the Ash Wednesday bushfires of 1983. Historical values relate to the association with Cameron who gifted the cross. Views and setting identified in the VHR Citation relate to the Cross' siting on Mount Macedon and the ability for it to be viewed from considerable distances. However, as previously discussed, the rehabilitation of the natural bushland around the cross, and the growth of the plantings, obscures these significant views. The immediate environs of the Cross are not identified as a significant setting in the VHR Citation.

3.3.1 Impacts on cultural heritage significance

This Section assesses the proposed works against Section 101(2)(a) of the Heritage Act 2017 – the extent to which the application affects the cultural heritage significance of the place or object.

Lighting upgrade works

The lighting upgrade works will have a negligible impact on the cultural heritage significance of the place as the new lighting installation will be limited to non-significant areas and will not impact significant views to the Cross.

The new lighting will extend along the pathway of the Mount Macedon Memorial Cross Walk, which leads from the entrance gate at the beginning of the Reserve to the beginning of the formal entry path to the Cross. The Mount Macedon Memorial Cross Walk does not provide identified significant views to the Cross and is not identified as a significant landscape within the Statement of Significance.

However, to reduce any urban visual impact, the new light poles will be placed on the southern side of the pathway on the outside curvature 500mm from the path edge; they will be black to blend into the vegetation; and they will be similar style and form to the existing lighting. Additionally, the existing light on the opposite side of the path on the approach to the Cross will be removed, creating a clearer urban view to the Cross.

The new lighting will create minimal light spill as the lighting will be contained to Mount Macedon Memorial Cross Walk. No additional lighting is proposed along the formal entrance path to the Cross or the podium, therefore, the current accent lighting of the Cross will not be affected from inadvertent light spill and the visitor experience at the Cross will remain the same.

Further, to minimise impacting the surrounding non-significant vegetation communities, the light pole footings will be hydro excavated, reducing the need to cutting or remove tree roots. Electrical conduits will be hidden beneath the adjacent pathway.

The works align with the CMP Policy G3 – Use, as these works will support the ongoing use of the place and ensure that public access is maintained.

In summary, the removal of existing lighting and replacement with additional lighting will have a negligible impact on the place as it will not impact significant fabric, settings or views. Existing site conditions and photomontages of new lighting, demonstrating this negligible impact, are shown in Figures 17 to 20 below.



Figure 17
Existing condition of Mount Macedon Memorial Cross Walk.



Figure 18
Photomontage showing proposed lighting along Mount Macedon Memorial Cross Walk.



Figure 19
Existing condition of Mount Macedon Memorial Cross Walk on approach to the Cross, showing existing light to be removed.



Figure 20
Photomontage showing proposed lighting along Mount Macedon Memorial Cross Walk on approach to the Cross.

Safety barrier upgrade works

Safety barrier upgrade works will have a negligible impact on the cultural significance of the place. While there will be a minor impact to elements of the podium, these items are not identified as being of cultural significance in the Statement of Significance. Further, identified significant views to and from the place will not be impacted. The barrier replaces an existing barrier on the podium and does not obscure significant distant views of the place or views from the podium.

Removing the existing balustrade and affixing new balustrading will require minor bolt fixings into the interior of the plinth, adjacent the rock escarpment wall. A trench of approximately 200mm wide and 200mm deep will be temporarily excavated in the garden beds around the base of the wall to facilitate this process. Upon completion of the balustrading works, the garden beds will be reinstated accordingly. Historical imagery (see Section 1.2.1) demonstrates the vast changes to the place that have occurred over the past decades, in particular the landscaping of the podium which has been obliterated and reinstated.

The balustrading will be similar in form, however it will need to be placed on the podium side of the urns for safety reasons, creating a minor urban visual impact by slightly obscuring the urns from view from the podium. Both the urns and their plantings will still be discernible though the balustrading, retaining the current setting of the place. It should be here noted that the urns have a minimal relationship to the Cross within the podium space. They have almost no presence in the space. Partly because of the plantings and scale of the urns, but mostly because the monument was designed to be viewed from afar from the exterior perspective with the Cross as the focal point. Placing the railing on the podium side of the urns does not alter this relationship. The urns will still be visible and readable as part of the space, despite them not being recognised as of cultural significance in the Statement of Significance. This is demonstrated in Figures 21 to 24 below which show the minimal relationship between the Cross and urns within the podium setting.

Additionally, the urns in question are all concrete replicas of the original urns adorning the podium that appear to have been reinstated at the site after the Cross was replaced in 1995.

The works align with the following CMP policies:

- Policy G3 – Use, as these works will support the ongoing use of the place and ensure that public access and safety is maintained.
- Policy G4 – Conservation and Maintenance, as works will not diminish the values of the place.
- Policy S8 – Walls and fences, as the replacement fencing is like for like and will have minimal impact on the rock escarpment walls of the podium.

In summary, the replacement of the existing safety railing with a complaint safety barrier will have a negligible impact on the place as it will not impact identified significant fabric, settings or views.



Figure 21
Interior podium view.



Figure 22
Interior podium view.



Figure 23
Exterior view of podium and Cross.



Figure 24
Exterior view of podium and Cross.

3.3.2 Alternative proposals

This Section assesses the proposed works against Section 101(2)(a),(b),(d) and (f) and Section 101(3) of the Heritage Act 2017 – alternative proposals that were considered and reasons why these were dismissed.

Lighting upgrade works

The alternative proposal considered with regard to lighting was to do nothing and leave the site as is. Given the high visitor numbers that the site receives, this option was dismissed as the current lighting is insufficient to create a public realm that is safe and inviting for visitors. The new lighting design meets current lighting standards to ensure safe travel and way finding along the pedestrian paths, which is imperative for the ANZAC Day dawn service. It will also provide passive security, improving overall visitor safety and experience.

Safety barrier upgrade works

The alternative proposal considered for compliant safety railing was to place the safety railing around the exterior of the urns. This option was dismissed as it would then impact on significant views associated with the place. If the railing was placed around the exterior of the urns, to meet current safety standards it would need to extend above the height of the urns by approximately 1m to reduce the fall risk if someone climbed atop an urn. Not only would raising the railing to such a height look visually unappealing it would impact on significant views both to and from the Cross. The proposed railing does not impact significant views associated with the place.

3.3.3 Management of detrimental impacts

This section assesses the proposed works against Section 101(2)(f) of the Heritage Act 2017 – measures proposed to avoid, limit, or manage the detrimental impacts.

Lighting upgrade works

No detrimental impacts have been identified with regard to the proposed works. Proposed works result in a negligible impact to the cultural heritage significance of the place. Urban visual impact has been limited through design and placement of light poles.

Safety barrier upgrade works

No detrimental impacts have been identified with regard to the proposed works. Proposed works result in a negligible impact to the cultural heritage significance of the place. The proposed works are not visually intrusive and do not impact significant views. Also, the current podium setting will be largely retained, noting this setting has been heavily altered and reinstated with replica urns and Cross, and new garden beds.

3.3.4 Australia ICOMOS Burra Charter

Since 2010 the Executive Director, Heritage Victoria and the Heritage Council Victoria have recognised *The Australia ICOMOS Charter for Places of Cultural Significance* (the Burra Charter) as the document guiding best practice heritage management in Victoria. The following articles are relevant to the works proposed in this HIS and are discussed accordingly.

Article	Comments
<p><i>Article 2 - Conservation and management</i></p> <p><i>2.1 Places of cultural significance should be conserved.</i></p> <p><i>2.2 The aim of conservation is to retain the cultural significance of a place.</i></p> <p><i>2.3 Conservation is an integral part of good management of places of cultural significance.</i></p> <p><i>2.4 Places of cultural significance should be safeguarded and not put at risk or left in a vulnerable state.</i></p>	<p>The proposed works retain the cultural significance of the place, while enabling continued, safe use of the place.</p>
<p><i>Article 3 - Cautious approach</i></p> <p><i>3.1 Conservation is based on a respect for the existing fabric, use, associations and meanings. It requires a cautious approach of changing as much as necessary but as little as possible.</i></p> <p><i>3.2 Changes to a place should not distort the physical or other evidence it provides, nor be based on conjecture.</i></p>	<p>The proposed works respect the fabric and identified significance of the place and are only altering elements that pose safety hazards. The proposed works do not distort the physical evidence of the place. They do not impact significant fabric or impact significant views to or from the place.</p>
<p><i>Article 5 - Values</i></p> <p><i>5.1 Conservation of a place should identify and take into consideration all aspects of cultural and natural significance without unwarranted emphasis on any one value at the expense of others.</i></p> <p><i>5.2 Relative degrees of cultural significance may lead to different conservation actions at a place.</i></p>	<p>The proposed works respect the identified historical, social and aesthetic values of the place by ensuring continued use of the place by providing safe visitor access. The works also respect the aesthetic values of the place by maintaining its current setting and not impact significant views to and from the place.</p>
<p><i>Article 8 – Setting</i></p> <p><i>Conservation requires the retention of an appropriate setting. This includes retention of the visual and sensory setting, as well as the retention of spiritual and other cultural relationships that contribute to the cultural significance of the place.</i></p> <p><i>New construction, demolition, intrusions or other changes which would adversely affect the setting or relationships are not appropriate.</i></p>	<p>The podium setting of the place has been heavily modified over the decades and currently comprises replica urns and a replica cross. The garden beds have also been redesigned and replanted. The proposed works retain the current setting, despite it no being original to the place.</p>

Article	Comments
<p><i>Article 9 – Location</i></p> <p><i>9.1 The physical location of a place is part of its cultural significance.</i></p> <p><i>A building, work or other element of a place should remain in its historical location. Relocation is generally unacceptable unless this is the sole practical means of ensuring its survival.</i></p> <p><i>9.2 Some buildings, works or other elements of places were designed to be readily removable or already have a history of relocation. Provided such buildings, works or other elements do not have significant links with their present location, removal may be appropriate.</i></p> <p><i>9.3 If any building, work or other element is moved, it should be moved to an appropriate location and given an appropriate use.</i></p> <p><i>Such action should not be to the detriment of any place of cultural significance.</i></p>	<p>The place is significant for its siting on Mount Macedon. The proposed works respect this and do not alter or interfere with the location of the place.</p>
<p><i>Article 15 – Change</i></p> <p><i>15.1 Change may be necessary to retain cultural significance, but is undesirable where it reduces cultural significance. The amount of change to a place and its use should be guided by the cultural significance of the place and its appropriate interpretation.</i></p> <p><i>15.2 Changes which reduce cultural significance should be reversible, and be reversed when circumstances permit.</i></p> <p><i>15.3 Demolition of significant fabric of a place is generally not acceptable. However, in some cases minor demolition may be appropriate as part of conservation. Removed significant fabric should be reinstated when circumstances permit.</i></p> <p><i>15.4 The contributions of all aspects of cultural significance of a place should be respected. If a place includes fabric, uses, associations or meanings of different periods, or different aspects of cultural significance, emphasising or interpreting one period or aspect at the expense of another can only be justified when what is left out, removed or diminished is of slight cultural significance and that which is emphasised or interpreted is of much greater cultural significance.</i></p>	<p>The proposed works do not change the place. Proposed works are limited to upgrades to existing lighting and safety barriers to meet safety requirements and ensure the site is safe for visitors.</p> <p>Proposed changes are reversible. The lighting can be removed if so desired in future as can the safety barriers.</p> <p>No demolition of significant fabric is proposed.</p> <p>The works are minor in nature and respect the cultural heritage significance of the place. They do not change or alter the place. The works will enable continued, safe use of the place.</p>

Article	Comments
<p><i>Article 22 – New work</i></p> <p><i>22.1 New work such as additions or other changes to the place may be acceptable where it respects and does not distort or obscure the cultural significance of the place, or detract from its interpretation and appreciation.</i></p> <p><i>22.2 New work should be readily identifiable as such, but must respect and have minimal impact on the cultural significance of the place.</i></p>	<p>The proposed works are upgrades to existing non-significant, modern, introduced lighting and safety barriers. These upgrades cannot be direct replacements, like for like. Additional lighting is required to provide sufficient lux levels to enable safe travel through the site. Additionally, compliance with current safety standards requires the new safety railing to be of a different design and placed in a different location to the existing. However, neither the lighting nor safety upgrades distort or obscure the cultural heritage significance of the place, and they do not detract from its interpretation or appreciation. Proposed works would have a negligible impact on significant fabric and significant views. The works will ensure safe visitor access and continued use and appreciation of the place.</p>
<p><i>Article 23 – Retaining or reintroducing use</i></p> <p><i>Retaining, modifying or reintroducing a significant use may be appropriate and preferred forms of conservation.</i></p>	<p>The proposed works will ensure continued use of the place by improving visitor access and safety through improved lighting conditions and compliant safety barriers.</p>
<p><i>Article 27 – Managing change</i></p> <p><i>27.1 The impact of proposed changes, including incremental changes, on the cultural significance of a place should be assessed with reference to the statement of significance and the policy for managing the place. It may be necessary to modify proposed changes to better retain cultural significance.</i></p> <p><i>27.2 Existing fabric, use, associations and meanings should be adequately recorded before and after any changes are made to the place.</i></p>	<p>The proposed works do not change or alter the cultural heritage significance of the place. The proposed works are upgrades to existing modern, introduced lighting and safety barriers and will result in a negligible impact to cultural heritage significance of the place.</p>

3.3.5 Principles for considering change to places on the Victorian Heritage Register

The Executive Director made and published a set of guiding principles under Section 19(1)(f) of the Heritage Act 2017 in December 2022 to inform statutory decision-making under Part 5 of the Act. The proposed works are consistent with these guidelines and discussed under each principle below.

Principle 1. Understand why the place is significant

As discussed in Section 2.4 of this HIS, the place is of historical, social and aesthetic significance.

The social values relate to the symbolism of the Cross as a representation of the sacrifice of life in the First World War and soon after Second World War, and as a symbol of resilience after the Ash Wednesday bushfires of 1983.

The historical values relate to the association with Cameron who gifted the Cross.

The aesthetic values relate to the Cross, its size and original Wunderlich tile fabric, its siting on Mount Macedon and the ability for it to be viewed from considerable distances.

The immediate environs of the Cross are not identified as a significant setting in the VHR Citation.

Principle 2. A cautious approach

The proposed works are guided by the CMP and respect the significant values of the place by following the conservation principles, processes and practices of the Burra Charter (refer to Section 3.3.4).

In accordance with the Burra Charter, the cautious approach of doing as much as necessary but as little as possible has been undertaken as the works only address alterations to introduced, modern elements that pose safety hazards. The proposed works do not distort the physical evidence of the place, they support the ongoing use of the place.

Principle 3. Protect significant settings and views

Significant views associated with the place relate to views of the Cross from considerable distances and views from the Cross' podium towards Melbourne and Mount Macedon. Significant settings of the place relate to its siting on Mount Macedon, not its immediate surrounds.

The proposed works do not impact significant settings or views. The lighting works are located on the Mount Macedon Memorial Cross Walk, which is the pathway that links the elements of the wider reserve together. This pathway does not form part of the identified significant views or setting and therefore does not impact significant settings or views associated with the place.

The proposed safety barrier replaces the existing safety barrier around the podium. While of different form and layout to the existing barrier, the proposed barrier will not impact identified significant views or settings associated with the place. Visitors will be able to look over the barrier, as is the current situation, to admire the viewscape offered from the podium. Likewise, the barrier will not obscure views of the Cross, as the Cross sits higher in the centre of the podium.

Principle 4. Respectful change and new built form

The proposed works are respectful to the significance of the place in so that:

- They are guided by, and consistent with, the conservation policies outlined in the CMP.
- They embody the articles of the Burra Charter.
- They enable safe, continued use of the place, especially during high volume visitor times (e.g. ANZAC Day dawn service), at dawn, dusk and after dark.
- They maintain the cultural heritage values of the place by having a negligible impact on the identified cultural heritage significance of the place, including retaining significant views.

Principle 5. Provide for upkeep

As discussed in Section 3.2, the works were identified in the CMP as priority works needed to improve the safety and security of the site, to ensure the site is safe, accessible and inviting to visitors. Therefore, the works are required to enable reasonable use of the place.

Lighting upgrade works: The existing pathways are poorly lit and are currently a safety hazard for visitors attending the site at sunrise, sunset or after dark. After Melbourne's Shrine of Remembrance, Mount Macedon Memorial Cross is considered the most significant war memorial in Victoria. Its annual ANZAC Day dawn service draws thousands of people, and it is an increasingly popular tourist attraction with visitor numbers exceeding 266,500 in 2019. The current lighting is insufficient to create a public realm that is safe and inviting for visitors in poor light conditions. The new lighting design meets current lighting standards to ensure safe travel and way finding along the pedestrian paths in poor light conditions. It will also provide passive security after dark improving overall visitor safety and experience.

Safety barrier upgrade works: The existing safety barrier around the podium does not meet current safety standards. The height of the podium creates a fall risk for visitors and where there is a fall risk, a barrier to prevent falls must not be climbable. The current arrangement of the barrier, with the railing running around the outside of the urns, does not prevent climbing. Visitors are able to climb on top of the urns or climb the barrier itself. Therefore, a replacement safety barrier is required to meet current safety standards and ensure safe visitor use of the site.

4. Conclusion

The proposed works comprise the upgrading of existing modern, introduced lighting and safety barriers. The works were identified in the CMP as priority safety works to improve visitor safety and continue reasonable use of the place.

The Mount Macedon Memorial Cross' cultural significance is centred on the Cross, its size, position and fabric, as well as its importance as a war memorial and a symbol of courage and survival after the 1983 Ash Wednesday bushfires. Identified significant views and settings relate to the Cross' siting on Mount Macedon and the ability for it to be viewed from considerable distances as well as the viewscape from the Cross' podium.

The proposed works will have an overall negligible impact on the cultural significance of the place. While there will be a minor urban visual impact to the surrounding bushland through installation of lights and the required podium safety barrier, the works do not impact identified significant views and settings associated with the place.

In summary, this HIS has demonstrated that the proposed works do not have a detrimental impact on the cultural heritage significance of the place. The works should be supported and allowed to proceed as the works will ensure the preservation of the place's cultural significance by improving visitor experience through increased safety.

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