



Dear [REDACTED]

Re: Permit P40776, Macedon Cross (H1027) – Response to RFI

Further to the Request for Further Information received on 03 March 2025, please see the below responses.

1. *Clarification on the scope of works. The HIS (p.13) outlines the works as comprising of lighting upgrade works and safety barrier upgrade works. However, the drawings prepared by Conservation Studio and included in the application show extensive works including demolition of the existing asphalt path, laying a new asphalt path, removal and reinstatement of bench seating and new signage.*

Response:

The proposed works are limited to those specified in the permit application and the HIS, being lighting upgrade works and safety barrier upgrade works. Resurfacing of the existing asphalt path and removal and reinstatement of bench seating are permit exempt under the General Permit Exemptions (August 2024), as discussed in the table below. While the drainage and signage works will be applied for under a one-off permit exemption application as directed by Heritage Victoria (see Attachment 1).

Proposed works	General Permit Exemption
<p>Pathway resurfacing – these works involve the resurfacing of the current asphalt pathway, which is dilapidated. To achieve a successful resurfacing that will endure, the existing asphalt must be removed and new asphalt laid. The pathway will match the existing, and will not alter in the alignment, width or grade.</p> <p>These works are consistent with General Permit Exemption 9.11.</p>	<p>9.11 Maintenance, repair and resurfacing, of existing hard landscaping, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • carparks and driveways • paving, paths and access routes • waste and materials storage • steps, kerbs, channels and edgings. <p>a. Must match existing materials, form, design and method of fixing, and must not exceed existing in scale and footprint.</p> <p>b. Must not alter alignment, width or grade.</p> <p>c. Any subsurface works or activities must comply with the requirements and conditions of Category 6. Services (exemption 6.3) and not be in an area that contains historical archaeological remains.</p> <p>d. Resurfacing works or activities must be limited to existing concrete, gravel or asphalt surfaces only.</p> <p>e. Resurfacing works or activities must use matching materials (for example an asphalt path may only be resurfaced with asphalt). Brick, bluestone, tiled, terrazzo or similar hard landscaping must not be resurfaced with concrete, asphalt, gravel or any other newly introduced materials.</p>



Proposed works	General Permit Exemption
<p>Removal and reinstatement of existing bench seating – these works involve the removal of non-significant existing bench seating during path resurfacing works and their reinstatement upon completion of resurfacing works.</p> <p>These works are consistent with General Permit Exemption 9.12. The works comply with requirements and conditions of Category 1,2 and 3.</p>	<p>9.12 Maintenance and repair of existing landscape elements, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • fountains • drinking taps • gates, fences and turnstiles • outdoor furniture and seating • monuments and memorials. <p>Must comply with the requirements and conditions of Category 1. Maintenance and cleaning, Category 2. Minor repairs and Category 3. Painting and wallpapering.</p>

2. *Drawing number 22060.05 showing works around Major Mitchell's Lookout (and referenced on drawing number 22060.03) has not been included in the drawing package. Clarification is sought as to whether any works are proposed in this area.*

Response:

Drawing number 22060.05 is exclusively showing works associated with the footpath and drainage works. This drawing is to be included in associated with the permit exemption application.

3. *Details on the paint finish to the proposed new balustrade. Drawing number 22060.00 refers to a paint specification, however these details are unable to be located on either the drawings or in the Heritage Impact Statement.*

Response:

Please find attached the details of the paint specification.

The paint colour is to be a grey to matches the colour of the gum tree trunks, similar to the existing balustrade, in order to visually blend into the background of the forest. The colour will be Dulux Shale Grey or similar. The exact shade is to be determined on site to achieve the lowest visual impact.



Existing balustrade colour



Dulux Shale Grey

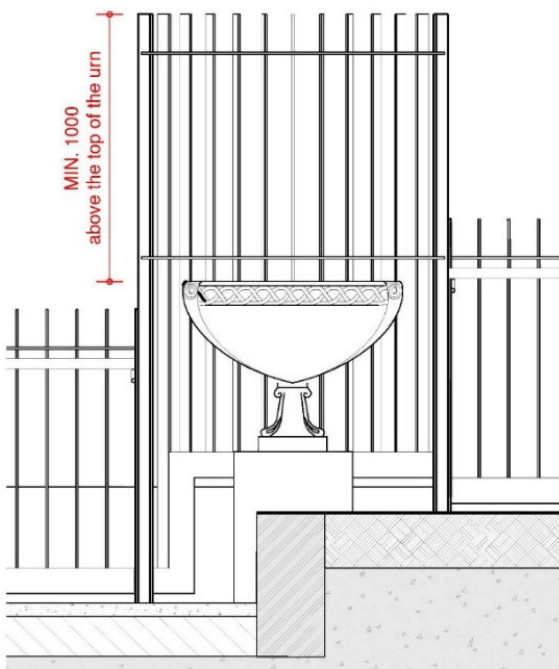


4. In order to assess the potential visual impacts, it would be beneficial to have an understanding of what the proposed height the balustrade would have to be if it were to be placed around the outside of the urns (as is currently the case), compared to the proposal to have it on the inside of the urns.

Response:

As discussed in Section 3.3.2 of the HIS, if the balustrade was placed around the outside of the urns, it would need to extend above the urns to a height of approximately 1m. Please see the below mock-up showing additional balustrade height required if the fence was to go on the outside of the urns.

This approach was not selected due to the substantial visual impact of the additional height, which both detracts from the overall visual consistency of the podium configuration and creates a “cage-like” appearance due to the additional height. The external view of the podium also features a strong relationship between the urns and the Cross, particularly as they appear closer in scale from the exterior viewpoint. The extended fence height would also create an inconsistent and distracting feature from the exterior viewpoint.



Mock up showing 1 meter height of balustrade above the urns.



Figure 23
Exterior view of podium and Cross.

Exterior view of the Cross from the surrounding

These visual impacts effect both the internal and external views and settings of the podium and thus would result in changed views to the Cross from the walking paths below and would alter the view from the podium to the landscape beyond. These views are identified in the current Conservation Management Plan as key views, with policies that support maintaining the view and minimising visual interference in the vicinity of the Cross (the podium). The current Conservation Management Plan includes the following policy related to maintaining and retaining important views.



4.2.1 Views and setting – Policy G2

In order to retain and protect the significant views and settings, we propose that a buffer zone combined with sensitive planting be considered. The views of the Cross approaching from the Calder Freeway and the view from the Cross podium to Melbourne and surrounding areas is an important aspect of the intended design and is specifically identified in the various Statements of Significance.

Views to the Melbourne city skyline, to and from the valley to the west and south-west through which the Calder Freeway passes, and to the Cross from Mount Macedon Road, specifically from Cameron Lodge, are of cultural heritage significance.

Views to and from the Memorial Cross have been an important element of the memorial since its construction, with commentary on the views frequently included in reportage on various events associated with the memorial.

The following general policy statement has been formulated to guide management of the views and setting of the site.

Views and settings: The setting of the Cross upon the western summit of Mount Macedon is an important aspect that affords the Cross vista and views from afar and outward looking from the podium at the base of the Cross. These views are critical and must be maintained.

Establish a buffer zone around the base of the Cross podium to prevent the encroachment of the surrounding canopy on the views and vistas.

The naturally occurring Snow Gum and Alpine Ash vegetation within the Reserve is of heritage significance as regenerated vegetation representing the original indigenous vegetation of the landform and should be maintained as an important part of the overall setting; however, they should not obstruct views and vistas or diminish the setting of the Cross.

Further, the structural design of the balustrade is based on loading capacity of maximum 1100mm in height, such that the additional increased height of the balustrade would not be effective as a cantilever from a structural loading capacity. On this basis additional structure would need to be integrated to support the over 2m height section of balustrade. This would require have greater impacts on the rock escarpments that form the base of the podium and require far more invasive inground works within the podium structure. Whilst it is noted that the podium was largely backfilled with concrete in the 1995 works for structural stability, the CMP recognises the rock escarpment wall as remaining original fabric and therefore significant. Such works would have an impact on this fragment of remaining original fabric, recognising that all other elements on site date from the 1995 reconstruction of the Cross and urns following the Ash Wednesday Bushfires.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any queries or wish to discuss this proposal further. Feel free to give me a call on [REDACTED] or send me an email at [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely,

Conservation Studio Australia Pty Ltd

[REDACTED]



Attachment 1 – Correspondence with Heritage Victoria

From: [Redacted]
Sent: Friday, January 31, 2025 12:58 PM
To: [Redacted]
Subject: RE: [SEC=OFFICIAL] Macedon Cross

Hi Dan,

Following on from Nicola’s email, I will withdraw the permit exemption application.

You can either request a preapplication or go straight to the permit application. You may wish to apply for some of the works through a new one-off permit exemption and the lighting and balustrade through a permit.

In the permit application we would seek to better understand why the new balustrade was required to go around the inside of the urns and not the outside.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Kind regards,

Katrina

Heritage Victoria currently has reduced capacity. This may mean we will take longer than usual to respond to your enquiry. Thank you for your patience.

For administrative reasons Heritage Victoria no longer accepts pre-application requests via email. To make a pre-application request, please use the form on [Heritage Desk](#).

[Redacted]

Heritage Officer (Permits)
Planning and Land Services
Heritage Victoria

2 Lonsdale Street
Melbourne VIC 3000

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

www.heritage.vic.gov.au

My typical flexible working arrangements are:

M	T	W	T	F
Office	Office	Office	WFH	WFH



We/ I acknowledge the Traditional Aboriginal Owners of Country throughout Victoria and pay my respect to Elders past, present and emerging and to the ongoing living culture of Aboriginal people.