



Preserving our heritage

Fact Sheet: September 2010

While today the Port of Melbourne revolves around modern services and facilities, it also maintains links with the history of Melbourne itself and Victoria's fascinating maritime heritage.

PoMC is committed to responsibly managing heritage buildings, structures, places and items located within the port precinct.

Buildings and structures

PoMC manages several heritage buildings and structures in the port precinct which are identified as significant at a state level and included in the Victorian Heritage Register. These include:

- Station Pier at Port Melbourne
- Gellibrand and Breakwater piers at Williamstown
- Point Lonsdale Lighthouse
- the Rear Leading Light at Port Melbourne
- the West Channel Pile Light.

Port history

- The Wurundjeri-William clan inhabited the area where the current port is situated.
- In the 1800s, ships also dropped anchor at Hobsons Bay or Sandridge Pier, Port Melbourne.
- The Melbourne Harbor Trust was established in 1877 to improve access to shipping in Melbourne.
- The Coode Canal, cut to improve traffic flow in the Yarra River, was in use by 1886.

Port of Melbourne
Corporation



Sites and waters

PoMC also has regard for a number of archaeological sites listed on the Victorian Heritage Inventory and sites of potential indigenous cultural significance which are located within the Port of Melbourne precinct and port waters:

- Several registered shipwrecks in Port Phillip and Hobsons bays.
- Waters of indigenous cultural significance adjacent to Station Pier, Port Melbourne.
- Maritime and industrial structures along the banks of the Maribyrnong River, including the Footscray General Cargo Wharf South, Footscray.
- Black Lighthouse, Queenscliff (owned by the Commonwealth Government).
- Ann Street Pier, Williamstown.
- Stony Creek Backwash area, Newport (managed in part by Parks Victoria).
- Victoria Dock, South Wharf and Webb Dock.
- Dee Cottage, Yarraville.

Managing port heritage

PoMC has developed a Heritage Strategy to guide its stewardship of valued heritage items and places within the port precinct. All heritage sites and controls relevant to the port are mapped on PoMC's Heritage Register, a GIS-based updatable database resource.

In addition, a Heritage Procedures Manual provides a 'how-to' guide for PoMC project managers on;

- identifying heritage places, sites and items of value in the port precinct
- ensuring proposed port developments consider and conserve heritage values and places
- seeking qualified advice from heritage practitioners when planning works in the port
- consulting with Heritage Victoria, local councils or other appropriate authorities before works or redevelopment begin in an area of heritage value
- likely timelines for statutory approvals relating to works near heritage places and items
- resolving heritage conflicts if they occur.

Contact information

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