

## ***Moorabool River Rail Bridge***

Moorabool

Lot No.

Plan No.

Municipal Rate No.

Architectural Style

Designer(s)

Contractor(s)

*National Estate Register, 2003.*

### **Legislative Registers**

Nominated

Registered

### **Other Registers**

Registered

Victorian Heritage Register No.

☐

National Estate RNE - Database

16046

Heritage Inventory No.

☐

RNE Legal Status

Registered

Precinct Heritage Overlay No.

☐

National Trust (Vic.) File

Precinct Heritage Overlay Nam

Nat. Trust Classification

☐

Individual Heritage Overlay No.

☐

HO28

## **Statement of Significance**

National Estate Register:

The original Moorabool Viaduct was opened in April 1862, as part of the historic Ballarat to Geelong Railway. As originally built it carried two 1.6m gauge rail tracks, with deck-type Warren trusses spanning 10m x 39.6m. The maximum height was 35.1m; the piers were of stone.

This original bridge, designed by I K Brunel, was the largest of early Australian metal bridges, until the first Hawkesbury Bridge in 1889. In 1885 and 1893 strengthening of the bridge was recommended and in 1919 the trusses were replaced by metal girders and steel trestles were placed at each mid-span, changing the spans from 19.6m to 16.0m, 7.6m and 16.0m.

The bridge still has considerable length for a 1919 metal girder bridge. However, the most significant parts of the bridge are the massive stone piers and abutments which remain as an important part of the original bridge.

## **Description**

National Estate Register:

In its present form, the Bridge carries only a single 1.6m gauge railway. The concrete deck is supported on two deck-type plate girders, which span from the piers and abutments to the tops of steel trestles. The original high stone piers (to 35m) and abutments remain.

Condition and Integrity:

The Bridge is in use and is believed to be in good condition. The present structure incorporates the original

# Golden Plains Shire Heritage Database DRAFT

---

1862 stone piers and abutments and also metal trestles and girders which date from 1919. The timber deck was replaced with a concrete deck c 1987.

## **History**

National Estate Register: Not Available.

## **Thematic Context**

## **Recommendations**

Local Government external paint controls apply.