

MELTON CEMETERY INCORPORATED PLAN

1.0 Application

This incorporated plan applies to the Melton Cemetery.

2.0 Statement of Significance

The Melton Cemetery on the corner of O'Neills Road and Centenary Avenue is significant; as the only official cemetery to have existed in the Shire of Melton; for its historical and social significance to the district; for the architecture of its headstones and graves; for its relatively meagre beautification, which is to some extent expressive of the distinctive dry climate and rocky ground of the district, and as the place of interment of locally and nationally notable persons.

The architecture of many of its headstones, and the arrangement of many of its graves, portray changes in style and taste since the 1860s; a number display a skilful use of carved marble. The cemetery is a good example of funerary customs and tastes dating from the mid-nineteenth century in a predominantly rural district.

The Melton Cemetery is thought to contain the remains of numerous Aboriginals, and the remains of many of the district's early European settlers. Its headstones record much of the history of the area. Famous horticulturalist Baron von Mueller originally chose trees to beautify the cemetery. While it is unlikely that any specimens of his exotic species survive, the She-Oaks that predominate today were also a major species recommended by Von Mueller. Although far from traditional in terms of its plantings, the cemetery is a prominent example of the thwarted attempts by Europeans to establish traditional plantings in the dry and bushfire-prone climate, and on the rocky ground that characterises the Melton district.

3.0 Elements of particular significance

The following buildings, areas, structures and trees within the Melton Cemetery are of particular significance:

- She Oak trees
- Monterey Pines
- Sections of the cemetery containing headstones and monuments dating back to the 1860's.
- The south east corner of the cemetery, in the undergrowth of the acacia trees, where there are remains of aboriginal people found at the Greenhills Station.

4.0 No Planning Permit Required

Under Clause 43.01-2 of the Melton Planning Scheme, no planning permit is required for the following development within that portion of the Melton Cemetery subject to the Heritage Overlay:

- Emergency and safety works to prevent damage and injury to the property and public
- Monument works undertaken in accordance with Australian Standards AS4204 Headstones and Cemetery Monuments.
- Removal, destruction, pruning or lopping of trees except those specified in Section 3.0 (elements of particular significance)
- Demolition, alteration or removal of buildings and monuments except those identified in Section 3.0 (elements of particular significance)
- Conservation and repairs to roads and paths, fences and gates, drainage and irrigation systems

- Construction of a building provided that the building is less than 3.0 square metres in area and 2.0 metres in height
- Construction or display of signage provided the sign is less than 1.0 square metre in area and is for identification purposes only.