

Heritage Overlay No.: 097
Citation No.: 256
Place Djerriwarrh Early Crossing Place

Other Names of Place: Deep Creek
Location: On old Ballarat Road (disused route), across Djerriwarrh Creek.
Critical Dates: Pre-1858-59
Existing Heritage Listings: VHI
Recommended Level of Significance: LOCAL

Statement of Significance:

The old Ballarat Road crossing place over the Djerriwarrh Creek west of Melton, is significant as a rare and highly intact example of a crossing built to accommodate gold-rush traffic. It is also part of a pre gold-rush era crossing place of which evidence of gold-rush era development remains, including a sandstone quarry, tracks, fords, and archaeological evidence that could relate to gold-era shanties and hotels, or a later toll house or school.

The Djerriwarrh crossing place is historically significant at a Local Level (AHC A4, B2, D2) for its association with the internationally significant Victorian goldrush, and as a rare surviving example of a place built to accommodate 1850s gold-rush traffic. Its context of earlier tracks and fords associated with the original Portland Road has significance as rare evidence of pre gold-era transport in Victoria.

The Djerriwarrh Bridge(1858-9) and its cultural landscape context is scientifically significant at a STATE Level (AHC C2). The bridge retains tool marks associated with its quarrying. The related quarry, below the present bridge, early fords and tracks, and archaeological evidence of nearby wayside places also have high potential to provide information relating to the ephemeral gold-era transport, construction practices, and the way of life.

The Djerriwarrh Bridge and its cultural landscape context is socially significant at a STATE Level (AHC G1). The bridge quarry, early fords, wagon ruts, tracks, cut and fill of an early road, and archaeological evidence of wayside places have special educational value through their potential to interpret the bridge and the era.