

TERMS OF REFERENCE

This notice is made pursuant to section 15 of the *Victorian Environmental Assessment Council Act 2001*.

The Minister for Environment and Climate Change hereby requests the Victorian Environmental Assessment Council (the Council) to carry out a statewide investigation into historic places¹ on public land in Victoria.

The purpose of the Historic Places Investigation is to:

- a) review current information and information sources on historic places on public land, including the representation of historical themes;
- b) examine and provide an assessment of current information, management arrangements for historic places in Victoria and any issues and opportunities related to their future protection, use and sustainability; and
- c) make recommendations for opportunities to improve management arrangements to conserve, protect and enhance the historic, community and educational values of these places, including the potential for sustainable use and adaptive re-use of historic assets.

In undertaking the investigation, the Council is requested to consider how best to manage and conserve the wide diversity of historic places on public land in the context of available resources, pressures on heritage places and emerging trends in heritage conservation. In particular, the investigation should focus on options for managing historic places that are currently difficult to manage.

In addition to the considerations in section 18 of the *Victorian Environmental Assessment Council Act 2001*, the Council must take into account the following matters:

- i. relevant State Government legislation, policies and strategies, Ministerial statements and reports by the Victorian Auditor-General;
- ii. agency databases for historic places assets;
- iii. relevant regional programs, strategies and plans; and
- iv. relevant agreements under the *Traditional Owner Settlement Act 2010* and the *Conservation, Forests and Lands Act 1987*.

A draft proposals paper and a final report are to be prepared, allowing two public submission periods. A separate discussion paper is not to be prepared.

The Council must report on the completed investigation by 31 August 2016*.

1. For the purposes of this investigation, the term 'historic places' includes historic sites, buildings and associated objects. It does not include places associated with Aboriginal cultural heritage prior to contact with non-Aboriginal people (these are addressed by the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006*). It may include places relating to the post-contact period such as Aboriginal mission buildings.

*The date for completion of the investigation was extended from 31 March 2016 to 31 August 2016.