

Inner Circle Linear Parklands – Park Street, Brunswick

Statement of Significance



Heritage Place	Inner Circle Linear Parklands - Park Street, Brunswick	
PS ref No	HO133	April 2024

Statement of Significance

What is significant?

The Inner Circle Linear Parklands, including the alignment, physical remnants and historical memory of the former Inner Circle Railway in Yarra, Merri-bek and Melbourne.

Within the City of Yarra, the former North Carlton Station, remnant footings, earthworks and Peppercorn trees at the former North Fitzroy Station site, remnant rail crossings and sidings, retained electrical power stanchions throughout the corridor, the formal council tree plantations, and the contiguity of the parklands as a continuous public open space.

Within the City of Melbourne, the Parkville railway cutting including the bridges at Royal Parade and the Avenue, two intact overhead power supporting structures, the remnant power stanchions, and the remnant signal post within the cutting, and the remnant timber crossing fences on the west side of Bowen Crescent.

Within the City of Merri-bek, remnant rail crossings, retained electrical power stanchions, the former Melbourne council tree plantations along the municipal boundary, and the contiguity of the parklands as a continuous public open space.

The former North Fitzroy Electrical Railway Substation at 863 Brunswick St N, Fitzroy North (state significant VHR place H0939) and the former Gatekeeper's Cottage at 70 Bowen Crescent, Princes Hill (individually significant in HO329 precinct) are significant both individually, for their associations with the history of the Inner Circle Railway and for their visual relationship to the parklands.

How is it significant?

The Inner Circle Parklands are of historical and social significance to the City of Yarra, the City of Melbourne and the City of Merri-bek.

Why is it significant?

The parklands are of historical significance within the three municipalities as evidence of the former Inner Circle Line railway, as developed in the boom period of the 1880s in response to local council lobbying and electrified in the 1920s. (Criterion A)

Initially an essential connection for the Whittlesea and Heidelberg lines before these later ran south through Collingwood, the Inner Circle Line's local passenger services were discontinued after 1948, after which the corridor operated as a goods line through to its closure in 1981. (Criterion A)

The parklands are of further historical significance as an urban space transformed by construction of the railway, its century of changing operations, the associated uses of adjoining railway lands, and the responses of local government and communities to this condition. (Criterion A)

The parklands are of additional historical significance for their association with early community advocacy and opposition to industrial development of the railway reserve lands, and with the pioneering use of a 'black ban' by allied unions in 1965 to stop the planned development of the site that became the Hardy Gallagher Reserve. (Criteria A & G)

The former North Carlton Railway Station Building is of historical and representative significance within the City of Yarra as a Maldon-style railway station designed and constructed by the Victorian Railways, one of the two extant nineteenth century station buildings within the municipality (the Clifton Hill station, also built in the Maldon style, is the other). (Criteria A & D)

The parklands within Yarra and Merri-bek are of social significance as a contiguous public open space secured and safeguarded through ongoing public advocacy since at least the 1960s, and progressively improved to provide contemporary recreational and landscape amenity. (Criterion G)

Primary Source

- Inner Circle Railway Linear Parklands Conservation Management Plan (Lovell Chen, June 2022)

Curtilage Map

