Melton Planning Scheme

**Statement of Significance: Unit 1-6, Unit 8-18, 117 Diggers Rest-Coimadai Road, Diggers Rest, “Diggers Rest Army Housing Estate”, June 2022**

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| **Heritage Place:** | Housing Diggers Rest Army Housing Estate Unit 1-6, Unit 8-18, 117 Diggers Rest-Coimadai Road, Diggers Rest  | **PS ref no:** | HO139 |



**What is significant?**

The Diggers Rest Army Housing Estate was established by the Australian military in the post-war period within the former Diggers Rest transmitting station site. The Former Army Radio Station (included as HO49 in the Schedule to the Heritage Overlay of the Melton Planning Scheme) dates from 1944 and is the only significant wartime building remaining at the Diggers Rest station. The housing estate is a group of detached single-storey residences constructed in the 1950s and 1960s on the south side of Diggers Rest-Coimadai Road and within the site to the north of the Former Army Radio Station to house married military personnel working at the station site.

**How is it significant?**

The Diggers Rest Army Housing Estate is of local historical and representative significance to the City of Melton.

**Why is it significant?**

Together with the Former Army Radio Station (HO49), the Diggers Rest Army Housing Estate is historically significant for its association with the Australian military use of the Diggers Rest transmitting station in the post war period. The Diggers Rest radio transmitting station and Rockbank receiving station were established in 1942 for the US military command and transferred to the Australian Army in 1943. The Former Army Radio Station (HO49) is the last remaining wartime building at the Diggers Rest site. In the post-war period, the Diggers Rest site was used for international communications by the Australian military as well as during the 1956 Olympic Games. The Diggers Rest Army Housing Estate was constructed to house married military personnel working within the site. Housing was also constructed in the early 1960s for military personnel associated with the Rockbank receiving station, however these buildings no longer survive. The Diggers Rest Army Housing Estate is a unique example in the municipality demonstrating the importance and development of defence housing in Australia in the immediate post war period. (Criterion A).

The Diggers Rest Army Housing Estate is a predominantly intact group of residences dating from the late 1950s and early 1960s which clearly demonstrate the characteristics of post-war defence housing. The housing estate is a consistent group of residences with common features and details. In connection with the Former Army Radio Station (HO49) located immediately south of the housing estate, the residences provide clear evidence of the post-war development of the Diggers Rest radio transmitting station in the context of the development of defence housing in Australia in the immediate post-war period. (Criterion D).

On this basis, the following places within the Diggers Rest Army Housing Estate contribute to the significance of the precinct:

1-117 Diggers Rest-Coimadai Rd Contributory

2-117 Diggers Rest-Coimadai Rd Contributory

3-117 Diggers Rest-Coimadai Rd Contributory

4-117 Diggers Rest-Coimadai Rd Contributory

5-117 Diggers Rest-Coimadai Rd Contributory

6-117 Diggers Rest-Coimadai Rd Contributory

8-117 Diggers Rest-Coimadai Rd Contributory

9-117 Diggers Rest-Coimadai Rd Contributory

10-117 Diggers Rest-Coimadai Rd Contributory

11-117 Diggers Rest-Coimadai Rd Contributory

12-117 Diggers Rest-Coimadai Rd Contributory

13-117 Diggers Rest-Coimadai Rd Contributory

14-117 Diggers Rest-Coimadai Rd Contributory

15-117 Diggers Rest-Coimadai Rd Contributory

16-117 Diggers Rest-Coimadai Rd Contributory

17-117 Diggers Rest-Coimadai Rd Contributory

18-117 Diggers Rest-Coimadai Rd Contributory

The open grassed quadrangle, driveway entrance/internal roadway and visual connection between the housing estate and Former Army Radio Station (HO49) also contribute to the significance of the place. No other buildings, structures or landscape elements are contributory to the site.

**Primary source**

*City of Melton Heritage Assessment Project 2020/21: Findings, Lovell Chen*

This document is an incorporated document in the Melton Planning Scheme pursuant to section 6(2)(j) of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*