



Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999

INCLUSION OF A PLACE IN THE NATIONAL HERITAGE LIST

I, Ian Gordon Campbell, Minister for the Environment and Heritage, having considered, in relation to the place listed in the Schedule of this instrument -

- (a) the Australian Heritage Council's assessment whether the place meets any of the National Heritage criteria; and
- (b) the comments given to the Council under section 324G of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*; and

being satisfied that the place specified in the Schedule has the National Heritage value or values specified in the Schedule include, pursuant to section 324J of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*, the place listed in the Schedule in the National Heritage List.

Dated 8 November 2005

Ian Gordon Campbell
Minister for the Environment
and Heritage

SCHEDULE**VICTORIA****Bayside City****HMVS Cerberus:**

Halfmoon Bay breakwater, just off Black Rock.

Criterion**Values**

- (a) the place has outstanding heritage value to the nation because of the place's importance in the course, or pattern, of Australia's natural or cultural history.

The HMVS *Cerberus* is important as evidence of the development of Australia as a nation and as part of the British Empire. The British Parliament passed the *Colonial Naval Defence Act 1865* giving the colonies the power to make laws to provide for their own naval defence. The construction of HMVS *Cerberus* (1867-1870) reflects a period in Australia's history when the colonies were thought vulnerable to coastal attack and invasion. This was especially felt by Victoria, the wealthiest colony, and from which, a significant amount of the wealth from the goldfields was exported.

The history of the service of HMVS *Cerberus*, from 1871 to 1924, illustrates the development of Australia's defensive needs as part of the British Empire and the role of Britain in providing naval expertise and technical assistance to the Australian colonies. The desire of the colonial governments to produce a coordinated defence was one of the major considerations in the move towards federation, and one, which moved the *Cerberus* from the Victorian Colonial Navy to the Royal Australian Navy in 1911.

- (b) the place has outstanding heritage value to the nation because of the place's possession of uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of Australia's natural or cultural history.

The HMVS *Cerberus* was one of only three vessels of its exact type ever built, and is the only surviving example of this type of vessel in the world. It is the only substantially intact, surviving warship of Australia's pre-Federation colonial navies.

The HMVS *Cerberus* was the first British built naval ship in which sail-power was dispensed with and which used steam power alone for propulsion. It was the first ship to have a central superstructure, with gun turrets above deck both fore and aft. It was also the first British designed warship to use low freeboard in the monitor style and the first to have iron breastwork protection.

The HMVS *Cerberus*, both as an example of Reed's naval design and a monitor style vessel, is a rare feature of Australia's maritime and naval history at a time when the defence of the Australian colonies relied on British expertise and technical assistance.

For a description of any references quoted above, and more information on the place please search the Australian Heritage Database at <http://www.deh.gov.au/cgi-bin/ahdb/search.pl> using the name of the place.