



Commonwealth  
of Australia

Gazette

No. S257, Friday, 7 December 2007  
Published by the Commonwealth of Australia

SPECIAL

*Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*

INCLUSION OF A PLACE IN THE NATIONAL HERITAGE LIST

I, Peter Robert Garrett, Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts having considered, in relation to the place specified 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 determined to have been given to the Council under section 324JH of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*; and

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

Dated 7 December 2007

*[Signed]*

Peter Robert Garrett AM  
Minister for the Environment,  
Heritage and the Arts

**SCHEDULE****STATE / TERRITORY**

Local Government

Name

Location / Boundary

Criteria / Values

**VICTORIA****Wodonga Rural City****Bonegilla Migrant Camp - Block 19:**

About 14.5ha, 1km north of Bonegilla, located at 76 Bonegilla Road, comprising the whole of Lot 1 PS428603.

**Criterion****Values**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <p>(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.</p>              | <p>Block 19 Bonegilla formed part of the Bonegilla Reception and Training Centre which operated between 1947 and 1971.</p> <p>The settlement in Australia of post-war immigrants has had a major impact on the nation's economy, society and culture and is regarded as an important factor in shaping the nation. Post-war immigration transformed the composition and size of the Australian population and is responsible for the second largest demographic change in the nation's history (the largest being the gold rush migration of 1851-1860).</p> <p>Bonegilla was the largest and longest operating migrant reception and training centre of the post-war era. Altogether over 300 000 people, principally from Europe, spent time at Bonegilla between 1947 and 1971.</p> <p>Bonegilla is highly significant as a place which demonstrates a defining change in Australia's immigration policy. Previously, immigration was subject to the White Australia Policy but after the Second World War with the perceived need to rapidly increase Australia's population for economic and defence reasons, government policy enabled large numbers of non-English speaking Europeans displaced by war to emigrate. The majority of 'Displaced Persons' were sent to Bonegilla where they were given courses in English and the Australian way of life.</p> |
| <p>(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.</p> | <p>Block 19, Bonegilla is a rare remnant of a post-war migration centre which retains extant fabric, in an open space setting. Block 19 contains 23 buildings, including a group of timber framed 'P' Series World War II army huts laid out symmetrically in a grid pattern and used as migrant and staff housing, office accommodation, recreation and mess halls, kitchens and ablution blocks. The physical fabric of Block 19, the buildings, road layout, remnant paths and concrete slabs marking former building sites, within their open space setting, reflect the use of former war-time army camps as migrant reception and training centres. The rudimentary barracks buildings and existing layout of Block 19 demonstrate the basic conditions typical of migrant reception places.</p>   |

Criterion	Values
(b) <i>continued</i>	Other typical features included the separate accommodation of men from women and children, purpose-built recreation halls, and planting of native and exotic species in an attempt to 'civilise' the place. Block 19 retains a strong sense of what migrant life would have been like.
(g) the place has outstanding heritage value to the nation because of the place's strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons.	<p>Bonegilla holds powerful connections for many people in Australia. Currently, there are an estimated 1.5 million descendents of migrants who spent time at Bonegilla.</p> <p>Bonegilla forms an important part of Australia's recent collective memory and has become a symbol of post-World War II migration. It represents the role of Australia as the 'host' nation.</p> <p>For the migrants who spent time at the migrant reception and training centre and their descendants, Block 19, Bonegilla is representative of their first home in Australia. For the broader Australian community, Bonegilla represents the post war migration which transformed the nation economically, socially and culturally: <i>I have come to understand, as have so many others, that it is truly an iconic place in the land where the 'journey' takes on so much significance for the new Australians as well as the original ones</i> (Skowronska 2004:11).</p> <p>Bonegilla and its associated oral and written records yield insights into post-war migration and refugee experiences.</p>

---

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