

TIVOLI NORTH CITATIONS

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Former Abermain Power Station

Off Mt Crosby Rd

Haightmoor Coke Ovens

Off Mt Crosby Rd

EXPANDED IPSWICH HERITAGE STUDY

Name:	Former Abermain Power Station
Category:	Industrial
Location:	Off Mt Crosby Road, Tivoli near intersection with Warrego Hwy
RPD:	RP202980/2
Listing boundary:	main structure and 20 metres in each direction
Other listings:	Nil
Significance level:	Local

History: Termed a “packaged” power station, Abermain was built in 1952-3 at a cost of \$2 million. It comprised two Babcock and Wilcox boilers supplying steam for a 10,000 kilowatt turbine and alternator. It met emergency demands for power in the winter of 1953 and then became part of the Southern Electric Authority’s generating system.

The station stood adjacent to the Haighmoor-Tivoli Colliery and was the first SEA power station to be located on a coalfield, a practice that was continued with Swanbank.

The SEA stated in 1967 that it was one of the first power stations in Australia in to use a cooling tower system for the extraction of heat from condenser water to enable its re-use, another system that was continued at Swanbank. (Note: this system was used at the Ipswich Railway Workshops Power House in 1903 but presumably was not generally used in the intervening years.)

The power house ceased operation in 1967 and was placed in reserve.

Description: A concrete structure equivalent to approximately four storeys high. Steel-framed glass windows, some window panes are broken. Large doorway entering from eastern side allows appreciation of original large chamber of power station. The chimney seen in early photos is no longer standing.

Significance: This property is a place of cultural heritage significance and satisfies one or more of the criteria in Division 13.6 of Local Law 30 of the Ipswich Town Planning Scheme as evidenced by, but not exclusive to, the following statement of significance, based on **Criteria a, d, f**.

The place is an example of a small-scale power station of the post-war period. It was a precursor of later power stations in its use of cooling tower technology and also in the choice of a site on a coal-field.

Associated items:

References: The SEA News December 1967

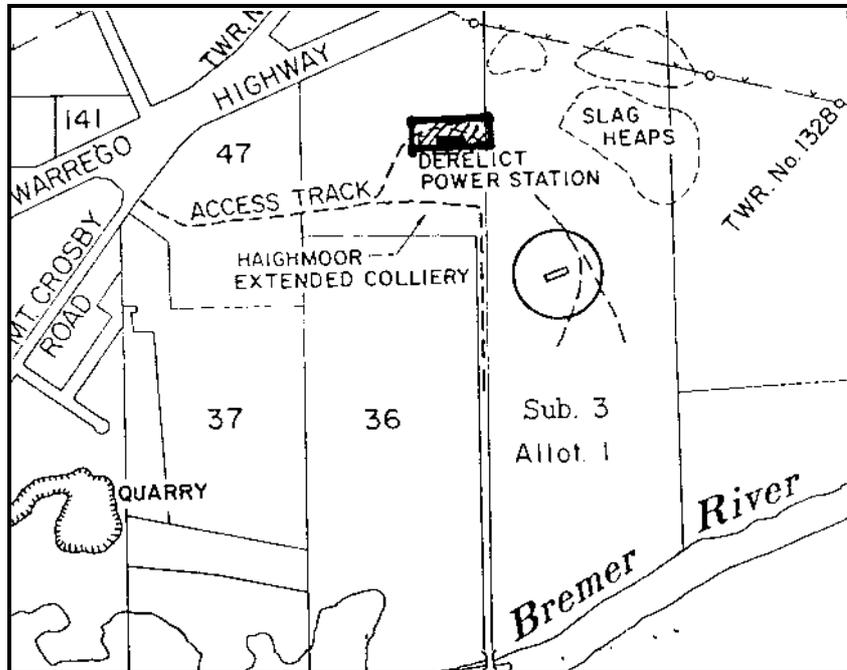
Comments: Contemporary structures not part of listing. Flexibility in continued adaptive re-use would be appropriate.

Note: This report has been prepared on the basis of evidence examined by the study team and seeks to identify the most important heritage values of the item. The purpose of this report is to provide an initial evaluation. If any action is planned which might affect the cultural heritage significance of this place, advice should be sought through the Ipswich City Council Heritage Advisory Service.

EXPANDED IPSWICH HERITAGE STUDY



Former Abermain Power Station



Abermain Power Station 1967 (From *The SEA News*, Dec 1967)

EXPANDED IPSWICH HERITAGE STUDY

Name:	Haighmoor Coke Ovens
Category:	Industrial item
Location:	Off Mt Crosby Road, Tivoli (access track near intersection with Warrego Hwy)
RPD:	RP885020/2
Listing boundary:	10 metres in each direction around the line of the outer brick walls of the ovens
Other listings:	Nil
Significance level:	State

History: Previously operated by the Lindsay Brothers as “Rossend”, Haighmoor was taken up by the Stafford Brothers in 1895.

In 1897, they called tenders for construction of coke ovens and “six stout retorts” were under construction by August. The ovens seem to have remained in production until 1908, but Haighmoor closed down in 1909 and they fell into disuse.

The pit was reopened by Tivoli Collieries in 1945. It is not clear when coking was resumed but in 1956, there was a report that the Haighmoor coke ovens were being expanded. Haighmoor at this period was the only coke supplier on the Ipswich field. Their last use appears to have been in the 1970s.

The ovens were not highly-mechanised or technically advanced, but the methods used produced an adequate supply for local needs. The ovens were filled by a workman using a shovel; the oven door was bricked up, the oven was fired and gaseous products were driven off. After 72 hours, the charge of coke was quenched with water and when cool enough, was unloaded by hand.

There were once about 300 coke ovens on the North Ipswich field, where the coal was suitable for this purpose. Only a few remain and of these, the Haighmoor ovens are the best-preserved.

Description: 18 ovens of a beehive type, built in a double-row battery. The older ovens have a sandstone facing. The battery is covered with earth. (see drawings)

Coke still remains in some of the ovens.

Significance:

This property is a place of cultural heritage significance and satisfies one or more of the criteria in Division 13.6 of Local Law 30 of the Ipswich Town Planning Scheme as evidenced by, but not exclusive to, the following statement of significance, based on **Criteria a, b, d, f**.

The Haighmoor ovens are typical of coke ovens once used in this area and are rare surviving examples. They are sufficiently intact to provide evidence of their former method of operation.

Associated items:

References: QT 29 May 1897, 7 Aug 1897, 1 Nov 1900
RL Whitmore *Coke Oven Technology in the Ipswich Area* U of Q 1983

Comments: The earth cover has gum trees growing from it, a potential source of damage. Some of the trees appear to have recently been ringbarked. Eliminating this vegetation would allow survival of these rare ovens.

Note: This report has been prepared on the basis of evidence examined by the study team and seeks to identify the most important heritage values of the item. The purpose of this report is to provide an initial evaluation. If any action is planned which might affect the cultural heritage significance of this place, advice should be sought through the Ipswich City Council Heritage Advisory Service.

EXPANDED IPSWICH HERITAGE STUDY



Haghmoor Coke Ovens

