

PROPOSAL TO NOMINATE AN ITEM OF ENGINEERING INTEREST
CEMENT AUSTRALIA, RAILTON

Proposed EHRP Category	Item of Engineering Interest.		
Item Name:	Cement Australia Works Railton		
Other/Former Names:	Tasmanian Cement Co., Goliath Portland Cement Co., Australian Cement Holdings.		
Locality:	Railton Tasmania		
Address:	101 Cement Works Road, Railton		
Co-ordinates	-41.33095690772785, 146.41575937779308		
Current Owner:	Cement Australia		
Original Owner:	Tasmanian Cement Company		
Current use:	Manufacture of Cement		
Former use:	NA		
Proposed use:	No change		
Item Condition:	Full working order		
Designer:	Not recorded		
Builder:	Not recorded		
Original Mill Started:	1923	Completed:	1926, on going
History: (100 to 600 words)	<p>Goliath Cement began as the Tasmanian Cement Company in 1923. Located at Railton because of its huge limestone deposits and proximity to Devonport as a shipping outlet, the company began cement manufacture in 1926, with its first annual output 25,000 tons. In 1928, Tasmanian Cement was taken over by Goliath Portland Cement, which after several mergers became part of Cement Australia in 2003. Initially, it had the only fully automatic mill of its kind in Australia.</p> <p>Production increased through the 1930s and 1940s to 100,000 tons per year.</p> <p>In 1966 a long term contract with Ready-Mix Concrete led to an \$8 m expansion involving huge new kilns, lifting production to 500,000 tons a year. The following year the first cement silo was constructed on the Devonport wharf, holding 3000 tons, with the first bulk shipment departing on 7 July 1967. The company's second purpose built 15,000 tonne vessel <i>Goliath</i> commenced in 1978 with more silos added at the wharf. In 1972 they acquired Besser Tasmania and entered the concrete brick market. In 1989 Goliath Portland became Australian Cement Holdings and in 2003 Cement Australia, one of the largest</p>		

	<p>cement works in the nation. Production rose to 1,000,000 tonnes per year and then to 1.4m tonnes per annum. The company ships 90% of its output interstate.</p> <p>Assisted by a Government grant, the company is currently reducing its consumption of coal by substituting fuels derived from waste timber and old car tyres.</p>		
Description: (100 to 600 words):	<p>The raw materials for cement production are limestone, sand and clay (silicon, aluminium, iron), shale, fly ash, mill scale and bauxite. The proportions can be adjusted to produce different qualities of cement. These ingredients are prepared for the kiln by combining them with additives and grinding them to provide a fine homogeneous mixture. The mix is passed through a pre-heating chamber and fed into the kiln.</p> <p>The fuel for heating was coal initially sourced locally from many small mines nearby at Dulverton and Newbed. Later it came from the Cornwall Coal Mines near St Marys.</p> <p>The kiln is a long rotating cylinder sloping down at 3° to the horizontal. In the kiln coal is used to heat the mix to 2000°C. The heat facilitates chemical reactions and the mix turns into clinker in the form of marble-sized balls. After leaving the kiln, the clinker is cooled, gypsum added and then placed into rotating drums fitted with steel balls which grind the mix into fine powder, the final product, which is stored in silos.</p> <p>Tasrail trains carry the bulk cement to silos on the wharf at Devonport ready for transfer to the bulk ship <i>MV Goliath</i>.</p>		
Engineering Significance:	<p>Goliath Portland Cement had the only fully automatic mill of its kind in Australia, and was the first to develop the carriage of bulk cement by sea. Assisted by a Government grant, the company is currently reducing its consumption of coal by substituting fuels derived from waste timber and used car tyres.</p>		
Webpage Summary: (200 to 300 words)	<p>Located at Railton because of its huge limestone deposits and proximity to Devonport as a shipping outlet, the company began cement manufacture in 1926, with its first annual output 25,000 tons. Production over the next 100 years has increased to 1.4 million tonnes.</p>		
Engineering Theme:	Early colonial enterprise still operating		
Heritage Listing:	Not listed		
References:	<p>Wendy Rimon, Goliath Cement, Companion to Tasmanian History Alan Dyer OAM, Dulverton, Railton & Newbed Cement Australia Railton site tour, Cement Australia</p>		
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EHA Branch Chair:	Indrek Tufts	Approval Date:	February 2026

Images:



Railton Cement Works (ABC News)



Tasrail Bulk Cement Train (YouTube)



MV Goliath Bulk Cement Ship (The Mercury)