

BMC–Leyland Motor Vehicle Plant

location Victoria Park, Zetland, New South Wales.
owner Land Commission of New South Wales

the plaque
type **Historic Engineering Marker**
location Plaque is yet to be permanently fixed.

plaque text

BMC– Leyland Motor Vehicle Plant

The British Motor Corporation – Leyland Australia manufactured motor cars on this 26 hectare site between 1950 and 1975, During a period of significant postwar reconstruction, migrant assimilation and technical innovation, it employed a peak of 7000 people from 35 nations.

The only plant in Australia to manufacture the complete vehicle, it introduced to Australia the in-line transfer machining of engine blocks, the “rotodip” paint process, automatic conveyor assembly processes and major advances in just-in-time and flexible manufacturing concepts.

Dedicated by The Institution of Engineers, Australia, 2000.



William Richard Morris, Viscount Nuffield (1877–1963)

Morris spent his childhood at Cowley in Oxfordshire, and at the age of 16 started business there making cycles. In 1912 he received an order for 400 motor cars of his own design. By 1926 his company, Morris Motors was producing 50,000 cars a year, one third of the national output. In 1934 he became a baron as Lord Nuffield, and in 1938 a viscount. After a series of mergers his company became British Motor Corporation.

He first visited Australia before World War II to organise the sale of Morris cars. His visit in 1945 was with the clear intention of establishing an integrated manufacturing facility.

Viscount Nuffield is also remembered for his endowment of a Chair in Mechanical Engineering at the NSW University of Technology, later the University of New South Wales.

