
ORIENTAL REEF WORKINGS

Location

RELIANCE TRACK WANDILIGONG, ALPINE SHIRE

Municipality

ALPINE SHIRE

Level of significance

Heritage Inventory Site

Heritage Inventory (HI) Number

H8224-0060

Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Inventory

Historical Significance	The site has historical significance. The Oriental Reef was the district's second-highest recorded gold producer. The site has scientific significance as a relatively undisturbed network of adits, heaps, carting tracks, and one large open cut.
Hermes Number	10910
Property Number	

History

The reef workings on the Oriental Reef were the most substantial on the Upper Ovens goldfield - the largest open cut, largest recorded tonnage of ore, and the second-largest gold producer. Quartz mining on the Oriental Reef began very early, in 1858. The Oriental Perseverance Co., which operated from 1861-9, had a 16-head battery and produced a reported £300,000 worth of gold.. Also at the mine workings, about 1000 ft above the valley,

during that period was the 'Oriental Restaurant and bunkhouse'. The Oriental Australasia Co., on No. 1 South claim, was active between 1861-76 and had a 32-head battery (of which 16 heads and the engine were later removed to the London & Myrtle Reef, also at Wandiligong).

After the mid-1870s, intermittent work continued on the Oriental Reef until World War One. The largest effort was that of the Bright District Prospecting & Gold Mining Co., which, between 1886 and 1912 (or later) drove a tunnel for over 1,100 m (aptly called the Long Tunnel), in search of the southerly continuation of the Oriental Reef. Local shareholders held 26,000 shares and paid monthly calls of ha'penny per share: in 1899, the 144th call was made. The long-searched-for reef was eventually found, but proved worthless. The Long Tunnel is now used for Wandiligong's water supply.

This place/object may be included in the Victorian Heritage Register pursuant to the Heritage Act 2017. Check the Victorian Heritage Database, selecting 'Heritage Victoria' as the place source.

For further details about Heritage Overlay places, contact the relevant local council or go to Planning Schemes Online <http://planningschemes.dpcd.vic.gov.au/>