
GRAND JUNCTION SLUICING CLAIM

Location

DARTMOUTH ROAD MITTA MITTA, TOWONG SHIRE

Municipality

TOWONG SHIRE

Level of significance

Heritage Inventory Site

Heritage Inventory (HI) Number

H8324-0005

Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Inventory

Hermes Number 11010

Property Number

History

Heritage Inventory History of Site:

Snowy Creek was first worked for alluvial gold in about 1855. Twelve years later, the ground on either side of Snowy Creek between the Mitta Mitta junction and Granite Flat was considered 'worked out'. In 1867, Chinese diggers were providing otherwise, making fair wages from claims in the bed of the creek, near Granite Flat. With the introduction of hydraulic nozzle sluicing in the early 1880s, the Grand Junction Hydraulic Gold Mining Co. was one of numerous parties to peg out leases around Mitta Mitta. The company first began work on its claim on Snowy Creek in 1884, but operations did not begin in earnest until 1886. Throughout 1887 and 1888, the company was occupied with constructing head- and tail-races. Works included a 240-ft flume across Snowy Creek, to join the south and north sections of their water race. When completed in mid-1889, the water race was more than 12 miles in length, including fluming and a 679-ft tunnel. It was fed by the main creek, ensuring a year-round supply of water. Six hundred feet of column iron pipes delivered water to the sluice nozzle. A tail-race, 240

ft long, was cut through hard slate bedrock, allowing full-scale sluicing to commence in mid-1889. In preparation for their first wash-up, the company sluiced away 20,000 cubic yards of ground. When regular mining surveyors' reports ended in 1889, fair expectations were held for the Grand Junction claim. Like most Mitta Mitta sluicing operations, the Grand Junction probably wound up sometime during the 1890s.

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/>