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# DELEGATE RIVER DIVERSION TUNNEL

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## Location

DELEGATE RIVER AND CHINAMANS CREEK BONANG, EAST GIPPSLAND SHIRE

## Municipality

EAST GIPPSLAND SHIRE

## Level of significance

Heritage Inventory Site

## Heritage Inventory (HI) Number

H8623-0005

## Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO285

## Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Inventory

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - July 5, 2005

What is significant?

The Delegate River Gold Diversion Tunnel is a diversion which was excavated in 1889 by the Delegate River Gold Sluicing Company. The tunnel was used to divert the waters of the Delegate River effectively cutting off a long section of the original river course. The dry river bed was extensively worked.

How is it significant?

The Delegate River Gold Diversion Tunnel is of historical and scientific importance to the State of Victoria.

Why is it significant?

The Delegate River Gold Diversion Tunnel is historically and scientifically important as a characteristic and well preserved example of an early form of gold mining. Gold mining sites are of crucial importance for the pivotal role they have played since 1851 in the development of Victoria. Water diversion and sluicing are important key

ingredients in an understanding of gold mining technology as it was employed in mountainous country where water was plentiful and perennial.

[Source: Victorian Heritage Register]

Hermes Number 11098

Property Number

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## History

Heritage Inventory History of Site: Popular legend has it that the Delegate River tunnel was constructed by Chinese miners in the 1860s to divert the river and allow working of the bed. It is true that by 1868, a party of Chinese on the Upper Delegate had constructed 'a flood-race of considerable length, calculated to carry all the Delegeate River', but this sounds more like a channel than a tunnel. In 1889 the Delegate River Gold Sluicing Co. was formed to sluice the terrace wash above the alluvial flats just below the point where the Bendoc to Bonang road crossed the Delegate River. A water-race, 1 mile 55 chains long and 2 ft deep, was cut, and a tunnel of approximately 200 ft (60 m) in length was driven through hard rock as a tail-race.

*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/>*