
CONNESS REEF MINE SITE

Location

334 UPPER MURRAY ROAD TOWONG, TOWONG SHIRE

Municipality

TOWONG SHIRE

Level of significance

Heritage Inventory Site

Heritage Inventory (HI) Number

H8325-0007

Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Inventory

Hermes Number 12200

Property Number

History

Heritage Inventory Description:

Conness' Reef—north of the Gift lode, on the southern flank of Mt Talgarno (or Flagstaff Hill, as it was called)—was among the first reefs worked on the Bethanga field in the mid-1870s. In 1879, the mining registrar referred to 'Conness' old forfeited gold mining lease', which was then being worked by the Endeavour Co. From 1884, Conness' was part of the Wallace Bethanga Co.'s ground. Late that year, Conness' upper tunnel was reported to be in about 400 ft on a lode considered to be very rich. Good stone was produced until at least the end of 1886, and the tunnel was driven a further 200 ft during 1887-8.

After the Wallace Bethanga Co. was prevented from calcining (burning) its ore in open kilns at the upper Bethanga township in 1887, a 400-ton capacity calcining kiln was built on Conness' Reef and was in operation by 1889. (The company also had a public battery on Flagstaff Hill—possibly at Conness' Reef.)

References to Conness' Reef beyond that date have not been found, but it is almost certain that work on the lode

was continued by the Bethanga Goldfields Co. when it took over Wallace's leases in the mid-1890s.

References:

Mining Surveyors' Reports (Mitta Mitta North) March 1879; (Bethanga Subdivision), December 1884, September 1886, June 1887, December 1889, March 1889

Philipp (1987), p. 170

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/>