
LAKES ENTRANCE OIL SHAFT (THE SHAFT & HOLDING TANKS)

Location

WHITERS STREET AND OUTLOOK AVENUE LAKES ENTRANCE AND PALMERS ROAD LAKES ENTRANCE, EAST GIPPSLAND SHIRE

Municipality

EAST GIPPSLAND SHIRE

Level of significance

Heritage Inventory Site

Heritage Inventory (HI) Number

H8422-0017

Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Inventory

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - November 17, 2002

The Lakes Entrance Oil Shaft was a pioneering example of using horizontal drilling within thin reservoir sands to maximise oil production. During WWII the Federal and State governments took it over to look for oil to make Australia more oil self-sufficient. It was the only oil shaft in Australia and deserves to be protected. It is also the most complete and best sampled neogene onshore section in southern Australia.

Interpretation
of Site

ALTHOUGH THE SITE IS NOT INTACT, IT HAS THE POTENTIAL TO TELL THE STORY OF EARLY OIL EXPLORATION AS WELL AS BEING USED AS A CENTRE FOR PRESENTING BASS STRAIT OIL PRODUCTION AND OIL INDUSTRY GENERALLY. THE LOCATION OF THE SITE NEAR THE TOURIST RESORT OF LAKES ENTRANCE ADDS TO THE APPEAL AND POTENTIAL FOR INTERPRETATION. THE OIL SHAFT HAS BEEN USED OVER THE YEARS AS A TIP AND MAY CONTAIN MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT FROM THE EARLY DAYS OF OIL DRILLING TECHNOLOGY.

Other Names ADDRESS UPDATED 8/1/03 FORMERLY "WITHERS STREET, LAKES ENTRANCE".,

Hermes
Number 12715

Property
Number

History

THE LAKES ENTRANCE OIL SHAFT WAS BEGUN IN THE 1930S BY THE AUSTRAL OIL DRILLING SYNDICATE. IT WAS TAKEN OVER BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IN 1942 UNDER THE NATIONAL SECURITY REGULATIONS TO FIND OIL. IT WAS FINANCIALLY UNSUCCESSFUL BUT WAS A UNIQUE ENGINEERING SUCCESS. WHEN THE FEDERAL GOVT PULLED OUT AT THE END OF THE WAR, THE WORK WAS CONTINUED BY A REFORMED "LAKES OIL PTY LTD". IT WAS TAKEN OVER BY "WOODSIDE" IN THE LATE FIFTIES UNTIL BOUGHT BY ROB ANNELLS AND RESTRUCTURED. IT IS AUSTRALIA'S OLDEST SURVIVING OIL COMPANY AND NOW RETAINS THE LEASE OVER THE EXISTING ORIGINAL OIL SHAFT. IT PAVED THE WAY FOR EAST GIPPSLAND OFFSHORE OIL FINDS.

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/>