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## OK MINE

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### Location

SKYLINE ROAD DEVILS RIVER, MURRINDINDI SHIRE

### Municipality

MURRINDINDI SHIRE

### Level of significance

Heritage Inventory Site

### Heritage Inventory (HI) Number

H8023-0013

### Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Inventory

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Hermes Number 10636

Property Number

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### History

Heritage Inventory History of Site: According to Maud, the OK mine was the most productive in the Alexandra district during the early 1870s, employing more than 100 men. The first OK Gold Mining Co. was formed in 1871, to work a lease on the Eldorado Reef, at the head of UT Creek in the Puzzle Ranges. When it was first worked in 1867, the ground had yielded between five and 15 oz per ton. Operations at that time were shortlived, due to heavy water close to the surface and the expense of carting stone long distances for crushing. In 1871, the OK Co. let a contract for driving a tunnel. The next reference found to the OK mine is dated 1873, and appears to refer to a new OK Co. The company had been floated just two months before, and was erecting pumping machinery on its shaft. In 1876, the OK lease had recently been forfeited, but was taken up again by Milroy and party. The former lease holders had spent nearly £2,000 in tunnelling, and the new party continued to tunnel towards the reef. 'This will be a fortune to the shareholders,' said the Alexandra Times, 'when they erect machinery on the spot. There are great natural facilities for erecting tramways, dams, etc.' Maud refers to a

'hydraulic battery [on UT Creek] mentioned in contemporary literature' and two stone-retained dams along the creek to store water for the battery and for domestic purposes. Activity at the OK mine seems to have been virtually over by the end of the 1880s. No further reference to the OK mine has been located. However, a reef, possibly the Eldorado, was being worked at UT Creek, about 10 km from Alexandra, in 1914. References: Alexandra Times, 11 August 1868, 6 January 1871, 5 April 1873, 27 May 1876, 10 March 1877 Department of Mines Annual Report, 1914 Maud, pp. 3-4 Mining Surveyors' Reports (Jamieson Subdivision), September 1867

*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/>*