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.

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

12715

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 LATEFIFTIES 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.

For further details about Heritage Overlay places, contact the relevant local council or go to Planning Schemes Online [http://planningschemes.dpcd.vic.gov.au/](http://planningschemes.dpcd.vic.gov.au/)