
TAMBO TRENCHES

Location

GREAT ALPINE ROAD ENSAY, EAST GIPPSLAND SHIRE

Municipality

EAST GIPPSLAND SHIRE

Level of significance

Heritage Inventory Site

Heritage Inventory (HI) Number

H8423-0024

Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Inventory

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - December 10, 2021

What is significant?

This site is a rare and unique type of inland civil defensive position constructed by a local unit of the Volunteer Defence Corps during the early part of WWII.

This site, although simple in its nature and construction, has important social and historical significance. The site is not necessarily technologically significant in its construction but its positioning and layout offer strategic military interpretation. With the geographic and landscape setting providing important interpretive context for the strategic positioning of the site.

The site is historically significant in clearly illustrating the concerns of the Australian Defence Force and local communities to the potential threat of Japanese invasion to Australia's south-east coast.

The setting in mountainous natural bush, overlooking the picturesque Tambo River and surrounding hills, also offers a powerful and engaging realization that the local community believed invasion was a real risk. That this location may have potentially been an important defense position and the scene of potential battle for a strategic route, homes and livelihoods.

The site may be of State or even National significance for its rarity of type being a locally constructed VDC (civil) defence installation. Offering a contrast to the large more formal military defence installation around the Australian coastline.

How is it significant?

Why is it significant?

Interpretation of Site	The trenches were established in 1942 by the Ensay unit of the Victorian 13th Battalion of the Volunteer Defence Corp program of WWII. The features were put in as a civil defence measure against the threat of Japanese invasion of south-east Australia. The trenches were never utilised for their purpose, however training or drill exercise may have taken place. The site network is now largely located within the VicRoads road reserve in a State forest setting. The local community has in recent years developed a historical connection to the site and propose to present some of the site for limited public access and interpretation.
Other Names	VOLUNTEER DEFENCE CORPS (VDC) TRENCHES,
Hermes Number	208351
Property Number	

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/>