DUTTON'S GULLY MINING LANDSCAPE

Location

SOUTH OF MAIN DIVIDE ROAD AND WEST OF WESTERN HIGHWAY. TO THE NORTH OF MCDONALD PARK RECREATION AREA, ARARAT HILLS BLOCK, ARARAT REGIONAL PARK. ARARAT, ARARAT RURAL CITY

Municipality

ARARAT RURAL CITY

Level of significance

Heritage Inventory Site

Heritage Inventory (HI) Number

H7423-0090

Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Inventory

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - July 13, 2022

What is significant?
Dutton's Gully is an alluvial mining landscape. Gold was first discovered in the Ararat Region in 1854, with the first workings consisting of alluvial gold sites (including Dutton's Gully). After the initial Ararat Rush, shallow alluvial mining in the area slowed and the majority of gold resources were coming from reworked gullies and creek beds by sluicing or puddling parties, or alternatively by shallow shafts. Mining in the area continued into the early 20th century. The stream bed of Dutton Gully was mined during the gold rush period by shallow shafts and through the use of sluices and puddling machines.

Most of the extant mining features are shafts, filled or open, associated with extracting gold from the cement beds contained in elevated terraces. Dutton's Gully and its tributaries were most likely worked by sluice and/or puddling machines; however, only evidence of the former mining method was found. In one locality a short section of water race was found associated with a small area of ground sluicing. The site contains archaeological remains that relate to the activities of the Ararat Goldfields during the Victorian Gold Rush era.

The site is historically significant as one of the alluvial mining localities in the Ararat Goldfield. It's also significant in illustrating the technology and consequences of different forms/periods of alluvial gold mining.
How is it significant?

Why is it significant?

Hermes Number   208975

Property Number