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# THE CANYON HYDRAULIC GOLD SLUICING SITE



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1 bright canyon alluvial workings front view

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## Location

FRASERS LANE BRIGHT, ALPINE SHIRE

## Municipality

ALPINE SHIRE

## Level of significance

Registered

## Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

H1231

## Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO12

## VHR Registration

August 13, 1998

## Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Register

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - May 11, 1999

What is significant?

The Canyon Hydraulic Gold Sluicing Site consists of a large excavation containing a network of pebble dumps and tail races. The tail races have been cut through a ridge of Bedrock from the open pit to the River Ovens. Water for sluicing would have been delivered to the site by water races and then directed at the gold bearing deposits. The technology was introduced into Victoria in about 1855. The main period for hydraulic sluicing on the Ovens at Bright was during the 1870s-80s.

How is it significant?

The Canyon Hydraulic Gold Sluicing Site is of historical, archaeological and scientific importance to the State of Victoria.

Why is it significant?

The Canyon Hydraulic Gold Sluicing Site is historically and scientifically important as a characteristic and well preserved example of an early form of gold mining. Gold mining sites are of crucial importance for the pivotal role they have played since 1851 in the development of Victoria. Hydraulic sluicing of alluvial gold deposits is an important key ingredient in an understanding of gold mining technology as it was employed in country where water was plentiful and perennial.

The Canyon Hydraulic Gold Sluicing Site is archaeologically important for its potential to yield artefacts and evidence which will be able to provide significant information about the cultural history of gold mining and the gold seekers themselves.

## Permit Exemptions

**General Exemptions:** General exemptions apply to all places and objects included in the Victorian Heritage Register (VHR). General exemptions have been designed to allow everyday activities, maintenance and changes to your property, which don't harm its cultural heritage significance, to proceed without the need to obtain approvals under the Heritage Act 2017. Specific exemptions may also apply to your registered place or object. If applicable, these are listed below. Specific exemptions are tailored to the conservation and management needs of an individual registered place or object and set out works and activities that are exempt from the requirements of a permit. Specific exemptions prevail if they conflict with general exemptions. Find out more about heritage permit exemptions [here](https://www.heritage.vic.gov.au/permits-and-approvals/heritage-permit-exemptions).

**Specific Exemptions:** **EXEMPTIONS FROM PERMITS:** (Classes of works or activities which may be undertaken without a permit under Part 4 of the Heritage Act 1995) No permits are required for the following classes of works provided they are carried out in accordance with the provisions of the Conservation Plan For Historic Mining Sites

- \* Mineral Exploration
- \* Fire suppression duties
- \* Timber production
- \* Weed and vermin control
- \* Public safety
- \* Rehabilitation

Construction dates 1899,

Heritage Act Categories Registered place, Registered archaeological place,

Hermes Number 5015

Property Number

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## Extent of Registration

### NOTICE OF REGISTRATION

As Executive Director for the purpose of the Heritage Act, I give notice under section 46 that the Victorian Heritage Register is amended by including the Heritage Register Number 1231 in the category described as a Heritage and Archaeological Place:

'The Canyon' Hydraulic Gold Sluicing Site, Star Road, Bright, Alpine Shire Council.

### EXTENT:

1. All of the Crown land (including incised tail races, sluicing pits and pebble dumps) to the extent of a 75 metre easement along the western bank of the Ovens River, between Ashwood Avenue (Buffalo 1:100,000,8224Ñ953360) and Fraser Lane (Buffalo 1:100,000,8224Ñ 956356).

Dated 7 November 1996.

RAY TONKIN  
Executive Director

[*Victoria Government Gazette* No. G32 13 August 1998 p.2194]

*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/>*