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# YOUNG AUSTRALIAN BATTERY AND GOLD CYANIDING WORKS

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## Location

GLENDART TRACK DARTMOUTH, TOWONG SHIRE

## Municipality

TOWONG SHIRE

## Level of significance

Registered

## Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

H1761

## Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO7

## VHR Registration

November 26, 1998

## Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Register

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - May 31, 1999

The Young Australian mine was founded in 1883 and despite being heralded as a promising venture it only operated for a few years. The existing remains at the mine site - a crushing battery and cyanide works - relate to a later (20th-century) phase of the site's history. The 1927 Dodge chassis and engine suggests that the surviving mining plant dates to the Dart River mining revival of the later 1930s.

The Young Australian battery and gold cyaniding works is of historical, scientific and archaeological importance to the State of Victoria.

The Young Australian battery and gold cyaniding works is historically and scientifically important as a characteristic and well preserved example of an important form of gold mining. The ore treatment plant has not been disturbed and the site is very important due to the survival of substantial evidence of a cyanide works. The cyanide process is based on the fact that sodium or potassium cyanide, in the presence of oxygen, will quickly dissolve gold that is in a fine state (tailings or concentrates). The process was introduced during the late 1890s and due to its cheapness and relative simplicity, was undertaken by both small-time miners, and on an extensive scale by large companies. The remains of cyanide works in Victoria are still quite common, but the vast majority are poorly preserved and have been the focus of on-going re-treatment operations.

The Young Australian battery and gold cyaniding works is archaeologically important for its potential to yield artefacts and evidence which will be able to provide significant information about the technological history of gold mining.

## Permit 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 1883,

Heritage Act Categories Registered place, Registered archaeological place,

Hermes Number 5516

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 1761 in the category described as a Heritage place, Archaeological place:

Young Australian battery and gold cyaniding works, Glendart Track, off Corryong-Benambra Road, Corryong, Towong Shire Council.

### EXTENT:

1. All of the Crown land including a 10-head battery crushing battery, a single cylinder horizontal oil engine, a six-cylinder car engine with agitating plant and three corrugated iron cyanide vats, and any other archaeological objects and deposits within a 150 metre radius of the battery, or with Australian Map Grid co-ordinates E698 N546 on 1:100,000 map sheet number 8424 Benambra. The land is part of Dart Forest Block, Coupe address 69751502.

Dated 5 November 1998.

RAY TONKIN

Executive Director

[Victoria Government Gazette G 47 26 November 1998 pp.2888-2889]

*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/>*