

Victorian Heritage Database Report

Report generated on - 01/05/24

UNCONFIRMED: LONSDALE BEACH

Location

In dunes near wreck of Maffra, 2 miles west of Point Lonsdale

Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

S811

Date lost

n.a.

Length/Breadth/Depth

0.00 / 0.00 / 0.00

Date lost

n.a.

Statement of significance

<p>The unidentified wreck in the dunes in Point Lonsdale is archaeologically significant as any material and/ or artefactual evidence in context will assist in its identification.</p>

VHR history

The wreck of the Maffra in 1888 led to shoreline changes at Point Lonsdale, which exposed buried wreckage from another shipwreck. Based on a contemporary description stating the wreckage as having belonged to "a large sized vessel" that was apparently "wrecked in the locality many years since", this wreckage could belong to any of the larger Point Lonsdale wooden wrecks wrecked prior to 1888 such as the Princess Royal (1849) or Sacramento (1853), or most likely be from the Light of the Age (1858) (the Maffra was wrecked near the Light of the Age). There is also the possibility of the wreckage having been floated by wave action, longshore drift and prevailing tidal currents from the Earl of Charlemont (1853) wrecked at Barwon Heads.

 "During the past few days the sea in the vicinity of Point Lonsdale has encroached upon a part of the beach in an alarming manner. The wrecked schooner Maffra has in some way caused the tide as it rises to flow in a kind of eddy towards the westward, and this has gradually forced itself up the beach until now the water is about 100 yards or so further inland than it was a fortnight ago, and the tents of the men engaged in repairing the damage to the schooner have had to be shifted further back, whilst the sand dune has risen in height from about 7 feet to nearly 40 feet. A most singular circumstances in connection with the encroachment of the sea is that the washing away of what has been hitherto looked upon as the surface sand has left exposed to view portions of the hull, masts, and spars of some vessel evidently wrecked in the locality many years since; wreckage has been carefully examined but so far it has not been identified, although it is evident that the wreck was that of a large-sized

vessel. The wooden hull shows all the signs of having been under the sand for very many years and it is in an advanced stage of decay (QS 23/6/1888).