
TRONOH DREDGE HOLES: NORTH HOLE

Location

DREDGE HOLE LANE HARRIETVILLE, ALPINE SHIRE

Municipality

ALPINE SHIRE

Level of significance

Heritage Inventory Site

Heritage Inventory (HI) Number

H8324-0029

Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Inventory

Hermes Number 11022

Property Number

History

Heritage Inventory History of Site:

In 1938, the London-based Tronoh Finance Co. (already with dredging interests in Malaya) leased river flats totalling 356 hectares on the Upper Ovens. The Tronoh leases extended southwards for a distance of 7 km from a point halfway between Stoney and Smoko creeks. The bucket dredge was the biggest in the southern hemisphere: it measured 167 metres long, weighed 4,813 tonnes, and could dredge to a depth of approximately 41 metres. The dredge was built by Thompsons of Castlemaine, and an electricity line was installed from Bright. Construction costs totalled £380,000.

The Tronoh dredge commenced operations in 1942. Soon after, however, wartime manpower restrictions forced its closure for the duration of the WW2, and it was 1946 before operations commenced in earnest. The dredge turned to face north in 1949, the same year in which it returned its highest average yield of 2.29 grains per cubic yard. In fact, the annual volumes of material excavated by the dredge did not exceed much more than half the

projected target. Added to that, continuing low yields and high labour costs eventually made operations unprofitable and the dredge ceased work in 1954. The total gold production of the Tronoh dredge at Harrietville was 54,000 oz. The company failed to honour the land rehabilitation and reclamation covenants on its leases. In 1955, the Tronoh dredge was sold and shipped to Malaya.

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/>