
DEEP LEADS ELECTRIC COMMISSION CO

Location

BALD HILL-BARINGHUP ROAD BARINGHUP, MOUNT ALEXANDER SHIRE

Municipality

MOUNT ALEXANDER SHIRE

Level of significance

Heritage Inventory Site

Heritage Inventory (HI) Number

H7623-0004

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO982

Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Inventory

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - August 12, 2005

Deep Leads Electric Commission Power House was constructed for one of a succession of mining companies, all linked to a common ancestor, the Chalks No.3 Company. The original company had a huge lease which took in two converging deep lead systems. Over a period of 23 years, through various company reorganisations and amalgamations, there were a number of attempts to work the deep leads. Overall, these efforts were disastrous, with no less than £535,400 expended for a return of £253,520. In 1903, the Victoria Gold Estates Company, which was working the northern section of the Chalks No.3 lease, received an injection of English capital, which resulted in the formation of a new company; The Victorian Deep Leads Company. The new capital was also used to replace old steam-powered equipment with electrically-powered pumping machinery. This required the expenditure of 25,000 on the electrical equipment for a central power house, which was built adjoining the Charlotte Plains mine. The plant, run by the Deep Leads Electric Transmission Company, consisted of three sets of 400 Kilowatt generators of the revolving field type, direct coupled to 600 horse-power compound condensing engines. The power station supplied power for the last three mines to work the Moolort Deep leads: Victorian Deep Lead Company, Goldfields Charlotte Plains Consolidated Gold, and Loddon Valley Goldfields.

The Deep Leads Electric Commission Power House is of historical, archaeological and scientific importance to the State of Victoria.

The Deep Leads Electric Commission Power House is historically and scientifically important as a characteristic example of an important 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. As well as being a significant producer of Victoria's nineteenth century wealth, deep lead mining, with its intensive reliance on machinery, played an important role in the development of Victorian manufacturing industry. The Deep Leads Electric Commission Power House is important as a manifestation of this aspect of gold mining, especially notable for the adoption of electric power for gold mining. The remains of power stations associated with gold mining sites are rare in Victoria. The foundations of the Moolort power station, alongside those of the Victoria Falls Power Station in Gippsland, are the best preserved in the State; unlike the Victoria Falls site, the remains of the Moolort power station survive in association with the relics of the mining operations to which they once supplied power.

The Deep Leads Electric Commission Power House is also bound, through a maze of company reorganisations and amalgamations, to a number of neighbouring mines, in a 23 year history of working the Moolort deep lead. The group of mines contain the most extensive and diverse array of deep lead mining machinery foundations in Victoria, which contribute significantly to an understanding of the technological history of gold mining.

[Source: Victorian Heritage Register]

Hermes Number 7055

Property Number

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/>