

**Place name** Harrison's Cut Diversion Sluice

**Survey Date:** 31/03/1999

**Other name**

**Id:** 830

**Street**

**Last Update**

**Locality** Dargo

**Postcode**

**Official Locality**

**Property No**

**Local Government Area** Wellington Shire

**Property Info**

**Precinct:** Not in precinct

**Easting** 526100

**Northing** 5868800

**Map** 8323: 261.688

**Workshop number**

**Workshop votes**

**Field survey number**

**Community priority**

**Designer**

**Builder**

**Ownership**

**Built Date**

**Change Date**

**Description** Locality: On Dargo River, north of junction of Upper Dargo and Matheson tracks.

Former Use: Heritage Inventory Present Use: Forestry; Description: Heritage Inventory Description: Diversion sluice formed by a 20ft deep, 8ft wide, 150ft long channel cut through a narrow spur. River flows through the diversion, creating a small waterfall.

Heritage Inventory Site Features: The 'Harrison's Cut' diversion sluice is formed by a 20ft-deep, 8ft-wide, 150ft-long channel cut through a narrow spur. The river now flows through the diversion, creating a small waterfall. The site is a popular recreation and scenic location.; Access: Heritage Inventory Relocation: On the Dargo River, north of junction of Upper Darge and Matheson Tracks.

Heritage Inventory Access: Unrestricted; Condition: Heritage Inventory Condition: Good,Intact

Heritage Inventory Threats: Not Threatened

: Locality - Dargo River, north of junction of Upper Dargo and Matheson tracks

Deep cut through hillside truncating a large bend in Dargo River. (Sale Workshop): Locality - Upper Dargo

Former Use: E.1880 ; gold diversion ; ; Description: Date Started early 1880; Date Finished ; Storeys 0; Desc ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE;

**Condition**

**Integrity**

**History**

Heritage Inventory History of Site: The Dargo River was worked by alluvial miners as early as the 1850s, but the first rush occurred in 1862 in the vicinity of Dargo township. The following year, the Upper Dargo (in the now Alpine National Park) was rushed, and that part of the river remained the focus of alluvial—and later quartz—workings for years to come. In 1869, alluvial miners (mainly Chinese) were again shifting their attention to the Lower Dargo river. The Middle Dargo was rushed in 1880, and was worked—along with the rest of the Dargo and the Wentworth—with fair success throughout the eighties. Several claims on the Middle Dargo were reported as giving very good yields in 1885, and in 1886 'Antonio and mate' won 40 oz in six weeks from their claim on that part of the river.No record was found of Harrison's Cut or any undertaking of its kind. Its position would probably qualify as the Middle Dargo, therefore suggesting a construction date in the 1880s. Nothing is known of the name's origin, but the name Harrison has strong connections with the area. Edward Harrison was mining registrar for the Crooked River–Dargo goldfield from 1879–84, after which (his brother?) Henry Harrison took over. Henry Harrison was also a storekeeper and mine-owner, and one of the last residents of Grant.

Allowed river bed to dry by diverting water course to allow dry alluvial mining of river bed on at least two sites. (Sale workshop)

**Heritage Protections**

Register	Reference	Zoning	Status
Historic Places Branch Database	7122		Listed

Planning Scheme	HO113	Listed
Victorian Heritage Inventory	H8323-0013	Listed
Victorian Heritage Register	H1263	Listed

**National Estate**

Code	Assessment Detail
G	: Value - This place was assessed for social value (sub-criterion G1). The indication of possible social value from the workshops was confirmed by the social value research, but was not selected, for further assessment by the present study. This place is therefore a high priority for future social value research in the Gippsland region.

**Research Required**

**Recommendations** Heritage Inventory Policies: Road Reserve

Victorian Heritage Inventory listing means a permit is required from Heritage Victoria for any disturbance to place (including conservation works).

**Fieldwork priority?**

**Stage 1 Ranking** Assessed & protected      **Stage 2 priority** No Action: Already include

**Final Ranking** State significance      **Final Recommendation** Amendment C26

**Statement of significance** Regional scientific significance as a rare type of site that is a well-preserved and accessible diversion sluice. Social value: as a popular recreation and scenic spot. (Heritage Inventory)  
 The Harrisons Cut Gold Diversion Site is a 50 metre diversion which was probably excavated in the early 1880s. The name Harrison has strong connections with the Crooked River-Dargo goldfield from 1879-84. The cutting was used to divert the waters of the Dargo River effectively cutting off a long section of the original river. The dry river bed would have been extensively mined.  
 The Harrisons Cut Gold Diversion Site is of historical, and scientific importance to the State of Victoria.  
 The Harrisons Cut Gold Diversion 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. Water diversion and sluicing are important key ingredients in an understanding of gold mining technology as it was employed in mountainous country where water was plentiful and perennial.

**Extent of designation** To the extent of:

**Informant** Don Ripper Potential informants - Rob Christie, Briagolong Hotel. Doug Stevenson, 13 Marrah Drive, Bairnsdale

**Notes** Victorian Heritage Register Categories: Heritage place

**Follow up**

<p><b>Bibliography</b> Mining Surveyors' Reports (Crooked River Subdivision), September 1869, March &amp; December 1880; (Dargo Subdivision) June 1885, December 1886          Photos, Slides          Context Pty Ltd. 1999. Identification and Assessment of community and heritage values in the Gippsland Forest Region. Report to Environment Australia and Natural Resources and Environment, Victoria as part of the Comprehensive Regional Assessment: National Estate Gippsland Regional Forest Agreement.           Heritage Victoria File No. 607563          2 photos (Diversion sluice) 2 (slides)          Bannear, D., (1996), Gippsland Goldfields: historic mining sites assessment project</p>
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