

**BETTER HERITAGE INFORMATION
SUMMARY OF STATE HERITAGE PLACE
Echunga Goldfield Jupiter Creek Diggings**



Echunga Goldfield Jupiter Creek Diggings SHP 10460, showing stone chimney built in 1869 by Beatrice Gold Mining Company, May 2016

Source: <https://meander-to-the-max.blogspot.com/2016/05/jupiter-creek-glimpse-of-gold-rush.html>

ENTRY IN THE REGISTER

Description or notes with respect to a place entered in the South Australian Heritage Register in accordance with either the *South Australian Heritage Act 1978* or the *Heritage Places Act 1993*.

The South Australian Heritage Council may correct errors or inaccuracies in the Entry in the Register in accordance with s21 of the *Heritage Places Act 1993*.

NAME: Echunga Goldfield Jupiter Creek Diggings **PLACE NO.:** 10460

ADDRESS: Number 12 and Lot 8 Long Gully Road and Lot 7 Rubbish Dump Road,
Jupiter Creek

CR 5349/844 Lot 7 D26422; CR 5349/845 Lot 8 D26430; CR 5753/827
Section 355 Hundred of Kuitpo

CONFIRMED IN THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN HERITAGE REGISTER:

5 April 1984

COMMENTARY ON THE LISTING

Additional information provided as a part of the content of the South Australian Heritage Register in accordance with s14(6) of the *Heritage Places Act 1993* 'hold information in association with the Register'.

KNOWN AS: Echunga Goldfield Jupiter Creek Diggings

ADDRESS Karna Country

STATEMENT OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

Echunga Goldfield Jupiter Creek Diggings was the site of near-continuous gold mining and prospecting between 1868 and c.1960, including four stages of intensive mining activity. The Diggings' extensive, intensively-worked relict mining landscape has resulted from a wide range of mining and processing techniques developed to recover gold, from simple panning and washing of alluvial gold to sophisticated deep rock mining following underground reefs, mechanical and chemical treatment of gold-bearing ore and industrialised alluvial dredging. The Echunga Goldfield Jupiter Creek Diggings demonstrates both the extent to which these technologies were employed in pursuit of diminishing yields over time during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, and their long-term effects on the natural environment.

Elements of Significance

- Relict mining landscape including eroded mullock heaps, depressions marking the sites of shafts and costeans, open mine shafts and adits, remnant earthworks, and ruins and depressions associated with buildings and structures,
- Round stone chimney and associated underground flue,
- Four dams,
- Underground features including shafts, adits, drives and stopes.

INDICATIVE CRITERIA (under section 16 of the *Heritage Places Act 1993*)

(a) it demonstrates important aspects of the evolution or pattern of the State's history

The Echunga Goldfield Jupiter Creek Diggings is associated with gold mining, which played an important role in the economic development of South Australia in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries and had a marked effect on short-term population movements within the state. Forming part of South Australia's most productive goldfield, the greater Echunga Goldfield, the Jupiter Creek Diggings was the site of near-continuous mining and prospecting activity from the

time of the first rush in 1868 until c.1960, including intensive mining in four main stages comprising the periods 1868 – 1871, 1884 – 1899, 1905 – 1908 and 1931 – 1935.

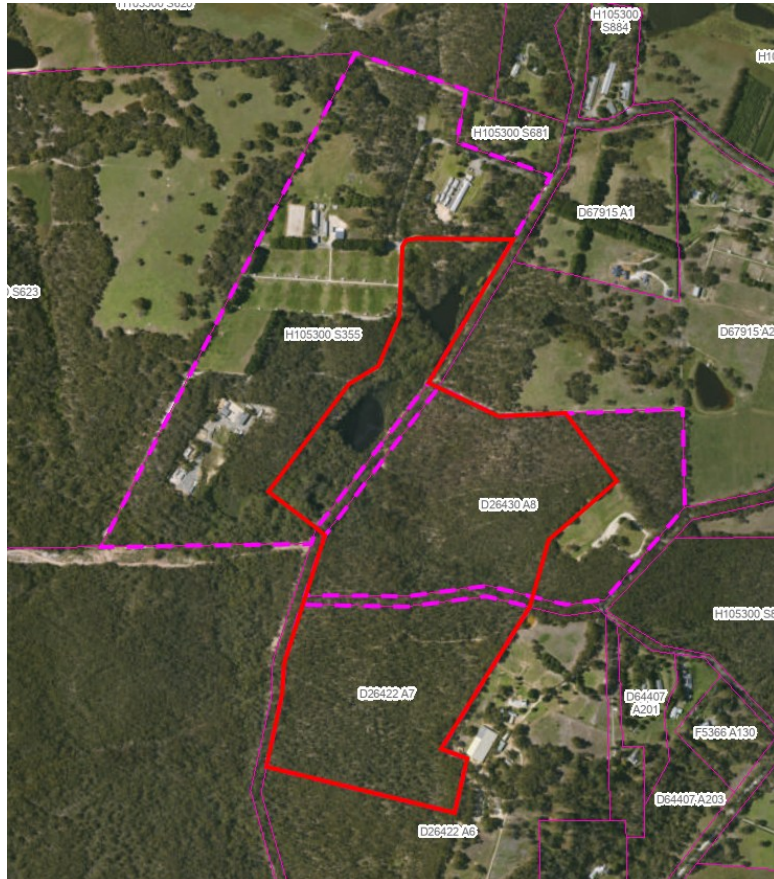
The Diggings' extensive, intensively-worked relict mining landscape has resulted from a wide range of mining and processing techniques developed to recover gold, from simple panning and washing of alluvial gold, demonstrated by extensive eroded mullock heaps; sophisticated deep rock mining following underground reefs, demonstrated by shafts and adits; mechanical and chemical treatment of gold-bearing ore, demonstrated by a surviving processing plant chimney and other ruins; and industrialised alluvial dredging, demonstrated by three large dams. The Echunga Goldfield Jupiter Creek Diggings demonstrates both the extent to which these technologies were employed in pursuit of diminishing yields over time during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, and their long-term effects on the State's natural environment.

SITE PLAN

Echunga Goldfield Jupiter Creek Diggings

PLACE NO.: 10460

12 and Lot 8 Long Gully Road and Lot 7 Rubbish Dump Road, Jupiter Creek



Echunga Goldfield Jupiter Creek Diggings, Number 12 and Lot 8 Long Gully Road and Lot 7 Rubbish Dump Road, Jupiter Creek (CR 5349/844 Lot 7 D26422; CR 5349/845 Lot 8 D26430; CR 5753/827 Section 355 Hundred of Kuitpo).*

Elements of heritage significance include:

- Relict mining landscape including eroded mullock heaps, depressions marking the sites of shafts and costeans, open mine shafts and adits, remnant earthworks, and ruins and depressions associated with buildings and structures,
- Round stone chimney and associated underground flue,
- Four dams,
- Underground features including shafts, adits, drives and stopes.

Elements not considered to contribute to significance of place include:

- Vegetation, trails, fencing and signage.

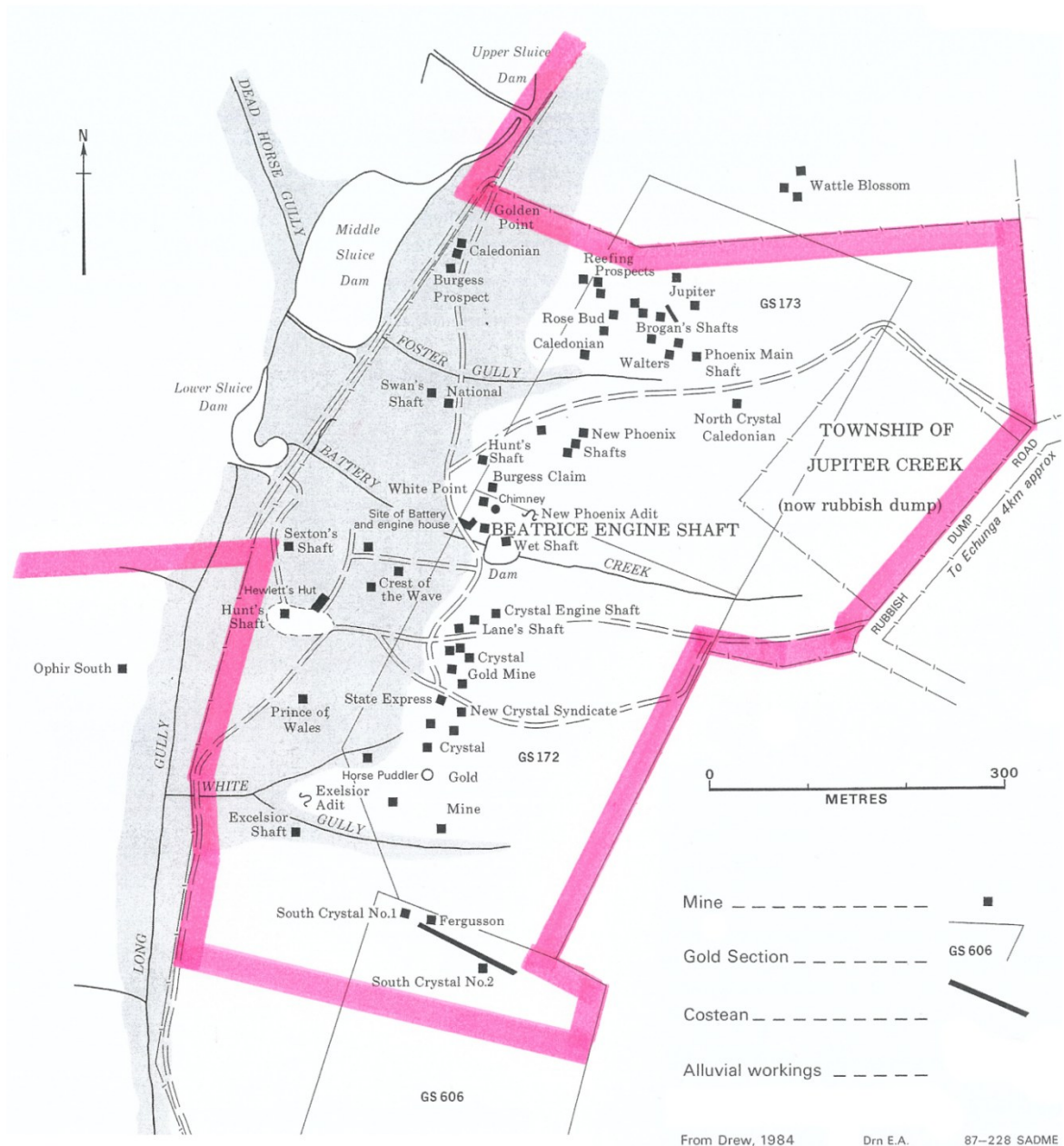
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LEGEND

-  Parcel boundaries (Indicates extent of Listing)
-  Outline of Elements of Significance for State Heritage Place

*Red outline is indicative of elements of significance, noting imperfect alignment of aerial imagery with parcel cadastre.

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION



Echunga Goldfield Jupiter Creek Diggings showing locations of historical features and indicative extent of listing outlined in magenta (internal road reserves not depicted).

Source: Adapted from 87-228 SADME in Jonathon Selby (ed), *South Australia's Mining Heritage* (1987) Adelaide SA: Department of Mines and Energy South Australia p. 68

The Echunga Goldfield Jupiter Creek Diggings is located in Long Gully near Jupiter Creek, approximately 4km west of Echunga. The site comprises gently sloping hillsides and a shallow creek bed in the gully, running roughly north-south, with numerous tributary creeks and gullies running into the main creek. The site is densely vegetated with scrub and secondary growth from previously felled trees.

The Echunga Goldfield Jupiter Creek Diggings comprises numerous eroded mullock heaps (mounds of waste rock) and depressions marking the sites of vertical mine shafts and costeans (trenches), several open mine shafts and adits (horizontal or sloping tunnels into the hillside), remnant earthworks, one round stone chimney and an associated underground flue, ruined remains and depressions associated with other buildings and structures and four dams. Open mine shafts are typically fenced (fences not significant fabric). The site also comprises extensive underground and buried features, including mine shafts, adits, drives (horizontal tunnels leading from shafts), and stopes (voids left behind where ore has been mined out).

Elements of Significance:

Elements of heritage significance include:

- Relict mining landscape including eroded mullock heaps, depressions marking the sites of shafts and costeans, open mine shafts and adits, remnant earthworks, and ruins and depressions associated with buildings and structures,
- Round stone chimney and associated underground flue,
- Four dams,
- Underground features including shafts, adits, drives and stopes.

Elements not considered to contribute to significance of place include:

- Vegetation, trails, fencing and signage.

HISTORY OF THE PLACE

Gold mining and processing in South Australia to 1945

South Australia pioneered metal mining by Europeans on the Australian continent. Wheal Gawler (1841, Wheal Gawler Mine Historic Site SHP 11606) was Australia's first colonial metal mine and produced the continent's first mineral exports of silver and lead for British and European markets.¹ While copper mining played a larger role in the South Australian economy during the nineteenth century, gold mining also made an important contribution to the development of the colony and had a marked effect on short-term population movements within the state.²

Native gold typically occurs in veins or reefs embedded in rock and is often associated with quartz or pyrite. Over time gold, which is one of the least reactive chemical elements and does not oxidise nor dissolve in water, is displaced from its parent rock through erosion and is deposited in the alluvial beds of creeks, rivers or other watercourses, which may comprise silt, sand, clay or gravel or a mixture of these components.

During the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, reef gold was mined by excavating costeans (trenches), shafts (vertical excavations), adits (horizontal or inclined tunnels opening to the surface) and drives (horizontal tunnels opening to a shaft) to facilitate access to subterranean reefs.³ Ore in reefs was typically excavated from below, leaving behind voids (stopes). Gold-bearing ore was processed by crushing or stamping the ore in a large plant called a battery, typically powered by a steam engine. Crushed ore was mixed with water to form a slurry and gold was then extracted from the slurry using a variety of mechanical or chemical processes. The latter included amalgamation and cyanidation. In amalgamation, gold was dissolved in mercury to form an alloy and the resulting amalgam smelted to drive off the mercury, leaving behind pure gold. In cyanidation, gold-bearing ore was dissolved in a solution of potassium, sodium, calcium or bromo-cyanide, then precipitated into pure gold.⁴ Cyanidation enabled the recovery of fine gold particles that could not be recovered effectively through other means.

Alluvial gold was typically recovered by playing water on alluvium, washing away the lighter sediment tailings and allowing the denser, heavier gold, which naturally sinks, to be more easily collected. This could be achieved by various methods, from manually swirling sediment in a metal pan, to complex systems of races and flumes feeding sluice boxes with running water,⁵ supplied by dams. Reef mining typically demanded greater investment in plant and equipment than alluvial mining.⁶ Waste rock (mullock) was left in heaps and eventually trenches, shafts and other excavations slumped through erosion, contributing to the characteristic appearance of an abandoned gold mining landscape.⁷

In South Australia, gold was first found by Europeans on 4 April 1846 at what became known as the Victoria Mine near Castambul in the Adelaide Hills, northeast of Adelaide. Afterwards, gold was reported at several other localities including South Rhine (near Cambrai, 1846), Kanmantoo (1847), Sixth Creek (1847), and Gumeracha (1849).⁸

The European recognition of gold in Ballarat in 1851 led to a mass exodus of working men from South Australia, creating a severe labor shortage and leading, in turn, to a serious downturn in the colonial economy. In response, on 18 December 1851, the South Australian government offered a conditional £1,000 reward for the reportee of the first payable goldfield in South Australia. During the following year, the *Bullion Act* 1852 averted general bankruptcy of the colony by providing a South Australian market for diggers' gold exceeding that paid by Victorian bullion merchants. Between March 1852 and December 1853, the Act also offered monthly armed gold escorts, led by Police Commissioner Alexander Tolmer, to provide secure passage for diggers returning with gold into South Australia from the Victorian goldfields. These measures, as well as promulgation of regulations governing the issuance of licences to search and dig for gold in South Australia, encouraged prospectors and miners to remain in the colony to search for gold, rather than travelling elsewhere.⁹

In 1852, William Chapman recognised gold at Donkey Gully,¹⁰ and shortly afterwards at Chapman's Gully near Echunga. His discovery led to the development of South Australia's first payable goldfield. Now known as the old Echunga goldfield (including Echunga Goldfield – Chapel Hill Diggings SHP 10459), the area was worked extensively between 1852 and 1858, yielding an estimated £18,000 worth of gold.¹¹ Ten years later in July 1868, Thomas Plane and Henry Saunders recognised gold at Jupiter Creek, 3km southwest of Chapman's Gully, leading to further intensive mining (see Jupiter Creek Diggings below). The total yield from the greater Echunga goldfield, including old Echunga and Jupiter Creek, is estimated to stand at 6,000kg of gold, making it South Australia's most productive.¹²

During 1858, gold was also reported at Spike Gully, south of Sandy Creek, and later at Parra Wirra (1869), Birdwood and Uooloo (1870), Waukaringa (1873, Alma and Victoria Mine Site and Structures SHP 10316) and Woodside (1879). These mines, which became known as the Barossa goldfield, became South Australia's second-most productive, yielding 3,110kg of gold, mainly from alluvial workings. Waukaringa became South Australia's largest individual gold mine. Elsewhere, sporadic prospecting occurred around Algebuckina on the Neales River from 1870.¹³

The location of rich silver-lead lodes at Silverton (1875) and Broken Hill (1883) in New South Wales (NSW) encouraged the construction of a railway line between Petersburg (Peterborough after 1918) and Cockburn near Broken Hill, completed in 1887. The construction of the railway brought regular visitors to the surrounding country and resulted in the identification of gold at Manna Hill (1885), Teetulpa (1886), Kings Bluff

(1887), Wadnaminga (1888) and Mount Grainger (1891) near Oodlawirra and Dawson. Collectively, the mining leases opened up by the railway were known as the Northeastern Goldfields. Gold was reported at Tarcoola in 1893 and worked between 1900 and 1912, producing 2,400kg of gold, while the nearby Glenloth Goldfield (1899) produced around 315kg.¹⁴ Tarcoola developed into one of the largest goldfields in the state.¹⁵



Washing alluvium in search of gold at Tonkin's Well, Teetulpa Goldfield, note portable sluice boxes, 1886.

Source: B 9771/16 SL5A

In 1894, the South Australian government leased the Mount Torrens Cyanide Works (SHP 13288) and the neighbouring Criterion Mine, which it operated until c.1956 and 1917 respectively. This marked the first active involvement by the government in mining and processing gold ore in South Australia. The government subsequently built new cyanide works, including stamp batteries, at Petersburg (1897 – c.1990, see Petersburg Cyanide Works below), Arltunga NT (c.1897) and Tarcoola (1901 – 1955, Tarcoola Goldfield, Government Battery and Township SHP 20767),¹⁶ and subsequently purchased a further existing battery at Glenloth (1907 – 1924, Glenloth Gold Battery Site SHP 14642).¹⁷

Government batteries and cyanide works served to encourage prospecting and mining in South Australia during times of economic depression, by providing access to crushing, amalgamation, cyanidation and other facilities that individuals and small syndicates could not afford on their own. The South Australian government also encouraged gold prospecting and mining through measures such as subsidies and new legislation. For example, the *Gold Dredging Act 1905* allowed the issue of leases

over former alluvial goldfields no longer considered capable of being profitably worked by traditional alluvial mining methods.¹⁸

During the twentieth century, gold was mined at Deloraine, near Kersbrook in the Mount Lofty Ranges (1909) and Mongolata, northeast of Burra (1930, Mongolata Gold Battery, remains of Cyanide Works, Eating House and Dugouts and former Blyes' Mine SHP 11004). The Moonta-Wallaroo Mines also produced an estimated 3,200kg of gold as a by-product of copper mining between 1860 and 1938.¹⁹

In 1931, the price of gold, previously fixed at £4 per troy ounce, was floated and began to rise steadily. Men left unemployed as a result of the depression were again encouraged to turn to prospecting on abandoned goldfields, and the government provided aspiring miners with improved access to processing plants in the form of new, rebuilt or upgraded batteries and cyanide works. The South Australian Department of Mines also offered generous subsidies to new mines and the Commonwealth offered bounty on all new gold production.²⁰



Brady's Gully, Teetulpa Goldfield, showing low mullock heaps, 1886.

Source: B 9771/11 SLSA

Echunga Goldfield Jupiter Creek Diggings

The Kurna People are the traditional custodians of the country that includes Jupiter Creek. As settlement advanced and the camping, hunting and ceremonial lands of the Kurna People were fenced by colonists, these original inhabitants were displaced from the region, resulting in their diminished presence by the early 1850s.²¹

By September 1868, two months after Plane and Saunders' discovery of gold at Jupiter Creek, an estimated 1,200-1,300 prospectors and others had descended on the diggings, with over 500 licences issued over an area extending nearly four miles along the watercourse. A temporary township, comprising up to 200 huts and/or tents, two stores, a bakery, blacksmith's shop, a wine shop, Lewis's Jupiter Creek Hotel, and later a police station and post office, became established on a hill above the gully.²² A satellite township emerged on an adjoining hill to the south.²³ Little evidence remains of either settlement.

Mining at Jupiter Creek initially focussed on extracting gold from alluvial deposits in gullies and lower hillsides. The richest diggings included areas known as Whites Gully, Fosters Gully, Golden Point and Surface Point, with several nuggets up to 12 ounces (0.3kg) located.²⁴ At least one exploratory shaft reached a depth of 50 feet.²⁵ Initial excitement subsided due to the opening of the Barossa Goldfield on 1 October 1868 and the approach of harvest. By January 1869, the population had dwindled to an estimated 250 diggers, and the alluvium had been largely worked over by the middle of that year,²⁶ including newly opened areas to the north and south of the diggings, known respectively as Deadhorse Gully and Peg Leg Gully.²⁷ Afterwards, mining activity refocussed on reefs in the higher hillsides.²⁸

Reef mining claims at Jupiter Creek were typically located on sections of alluvial gully leading down to the main creek. The claims were known as Beatrice (1868-71), Caledonia (1868-71), Jupiter (1869), National (1869), Crest of Wave (1869), Edith (1869), Prince of Wales (1869-70), Ophir (1869-70), Fergusson (1869), Inkerman (1869) and Sebastopol (1869).²⁹

The Beatrice Gold Mining Company, established in October 1868, conducted alluvial and reef mining in an area known as Battery Creek. In 1869, the company dammed Battery Creek to supply water and installed a 10-head stamp battery, two puddlers, and an amalgamation plant, powered by two Cornish boilers driving a steam engine housed in a large stone building. Exhaust from the boiler furnaces passed through an underground flue, up a hillside to a circular stone chimney. Nearby, the company sank an engine shaft to a depth of 100 feet, equipped with a beam pumping engine. After nine months' work, the company had sunk four shafts down the centre of the lease but was unable to recoup its outlay on capital investment.

By February 1870, the identification of gold on the Onkaparinga River and the resulting rush left only 30 diggers working Jupiter Creek.³⁰ The Beatrice Gold Mining Company's

operations were suspended at the end of June that year and all of the reef mining companies had been liquidated by the end of 1871. A small number of alluvial prospectors remained to work the goldfield until 1882, when the SA Mining and Prospecting Company acquired almost the entire Jupiter Creek Diggings under claim. After fruitlessly sinking several shafts, the company cancelled its claims at the end of 1883. Notable visible features of the initial rush on the Jupiter Creek Diggings include the Beatrice Gold Mining Company chimney and associated underground flue, engine shaft, and the Battery Creek Dam.³¹

The Crystal Mine era, 1884 – 1899

Several mining companies worked the Jupiter Creek Goldfields between 1884 and the late 1890s. In April 1884, Thomas Plane's son found several small gold nuggets in the mullock of an abandoned shaft, generating renewed interest in reef mining at Jupiter Creek. In partnership with John Riddle, Thomas Plane acquired a lease over the area and began sinking shafts, ultimately locating two gold-bearing reefs.

In 1887, the Crystal Mining Company was formed to work Plane and Riddle's lease. Named after locally abundant quartz crystals, the company appointed experienced Cornish mining captain Steven Lean to manage the workings. A number of other gold-bearing leaders and reefs were found but none proved payable. Operations ceased in 1888 and the company was liquidated in June 1889.³² From 1890 the New Crystal Mining Company, with Captain Plane appointed manager, re-worked the lease and sank several shafts before it too was liquidated in January 1895.

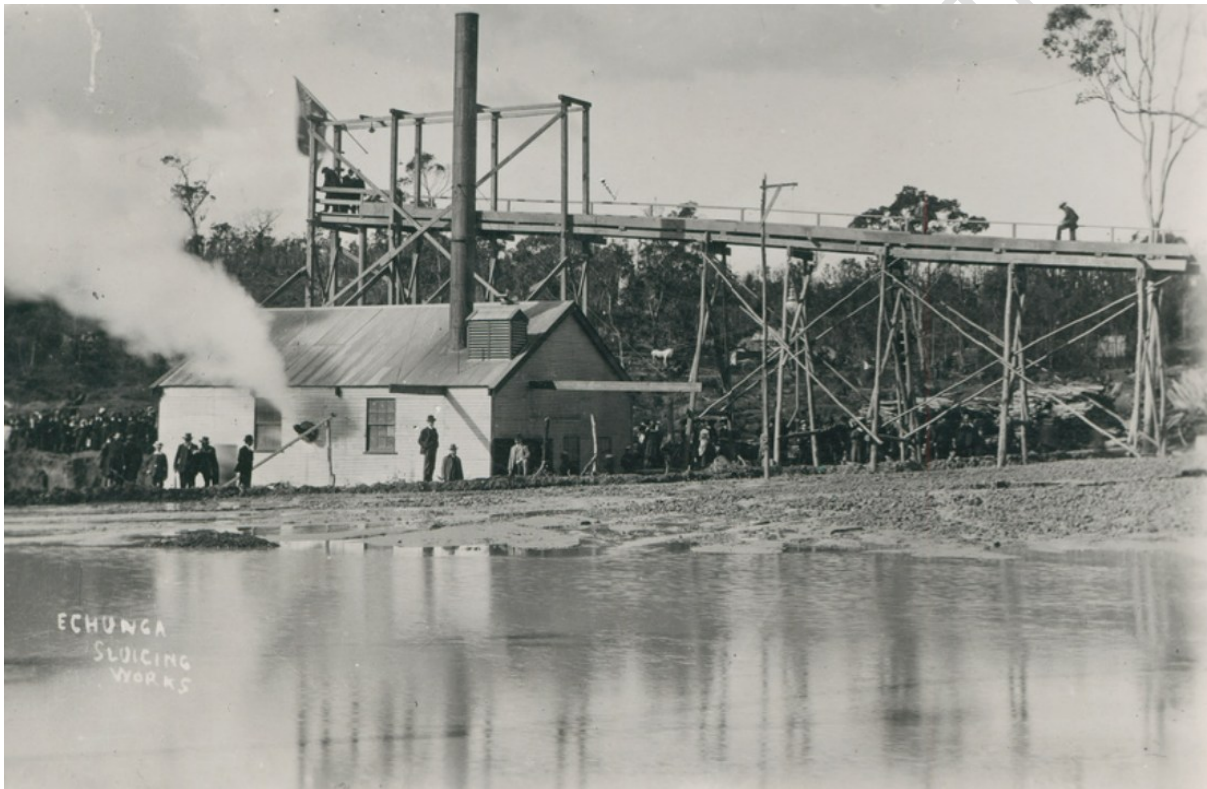
Between 1884 and 1887, Frederick Walters worked a claim northwest of the Jupiter Creek township. Excitement surrounding the reported discovery of gold-bearing rock at Walters' claim in 1888 led to the creation of the Phoenix Gold Mining Company, however, the company was liquidated in September 1889, after the discovery was revealed to have been exaggerated.³³

The South Crystal Gold Mining Company was formed in April 1888 with a lease a short distance to the south of the original Crystal Mining Company lease. The South Crystal company excavated a long costean or exploratory trench up a hillside, sank two shafts and commenced drives. No payable gold was found and the company entered liquidation the following year.³⁴

Notable remaining features of the Crystal Mine include the partly-collapsed, 48-metre-deep Whip Shaft, commenced in 1887; remains of a horse haulage run, comprising a path with a gentle gradient away from the Whip Shaft, which allowed horses to raise and lower kibbles (buckets) up and down the shaft by walking back and forth along the run; and a horse-driven processing plant called a puddler, completed in 1888, with revolving rakes and a large, round trough used to separate gold-bearing ore from clay with water.³⁵ Two shafts (South Crystal No. 1 and No. 2) and a costean remain as visible features of the South Crystal Mine.

Jupiter Creek in the Twentieth Century

Following the passage of the *Gold Dredging Act 1905*, the Echunga Proprietary Hydraulic Gold Sluicing Company was established in that year to recover gold from alluvium in an area known as Golden Point, at the northern end of the diggings. The company constructed three artificial dams in Long Gully, known as the Upper, Middle and Lower Sluice Dams, and imported a hydraulic sluicing plant from the Phoenix Foundry, Ballarat, at a cost of £2,994.³⁶ The plant, comprising a boiler and pumping and sluicing apparatus, was opened by the Premier of South Australia, Tom Price, on 13 July 1906.³⁷ The operation proved uneconomical, and following liquidation and restructure, the company was again liquidated and wound up in 1908, after producing a total 222 ounces (6kg) of gold.³⁸



Echunga Proprietary Hydraulic Gold Sluicing Company sluicing works on opening day, 13 July 1906.

Source: B 11417 SLSA

Mining at Jupiter Creek recommenced on a small scale during the 1930s depression. In 1931, between 25 and 30 individuals were working the goldfield while drawing Unemployment Relief Rations from nearby Echunga. A number of prospectors assembled timber and iron shacks, and some were accompanied by their wives and families.³⁹

Various mining syndicates and individuals excavated numerous shafts, drives and adits during this time, including the New Crystal (1931), State Express Gold Mining (1933-1935), New Phoenix (1932-1933) and Excelsior (c.1930s) Syndicates, as well as

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Confirmed in the South Australian Heritage Register on 5 April 1984

Draft BHI SSHP for Consultation 18 June 2026 to 18 September 2026

individual claimholders Tom Burgess and Herbert Hunt (c.1932-1933), but no payable gold was recovered.⁴⁰ While most work on the field had ended by 1940, a handful of prospectors remained until c.1960.

Notable remaining features from the twentieth century period include the Upper, Middle and Lower Sluice Dams, the New Crystal Syndicate Shaft, the Excelsior Adit and the New Phoenix Adit.⁴¹

The Echunga Goldfield Jupiter Creek Diggings was confirmed in the South Australian Heritage Register on 5 April 1984 as Echunga Goldfield—Jupiter Creek Diggings.⁴² The site of the former Jupiter Creek Township served as the local council rubbish dump until at least 1984. The dump was disused by c.1989.

In 1996, Lot 7 D26422 and Lot 8 D26430 were gazetted as a Historical Diggings Reserve under the care, control and management of the Minister for Mines and Energy, under the *Crown Lands Act 1929*.⁴³ The SA Police (SAPOL) Echunga Training Centre is located within the State Heritage Place on Section 355, northwest of the relict mining landscape. Fossicking is permitted within the Historical Diggings Reserve under the *Mining Act 1971*.⁴⁴

Aboriginal Cultural Considerations

The *Heritage Places Act 1993* makes provision for the identification, recording and conservation of places and objects of non-Aboriginal heritage significance. The protection and preservation of Aboriginal heritage is provided for under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1988*. Contact the Aboriginal Heritage Unit for listings.

CHRONOLOGY

Year	Event
1841	Wheal Gawler at Glen Osmond (Wheal Gawler Mine Historic Site SHP 11606) is Australia's first metalliferous mine.
1846	4 April, gold is first found by Europeans in South Australia at Castambul in the Adelaide Hills. Gold is reported at Rhine, near Cambrai.
1847	Gold is reported at Kanmantoo. Gold is reported at Sixth Creek.
1849	Gold is reported at Gumeracha.
1851	Gold is reported at Ballarat, Victoria, causing a mass exodus of working men from South Australia and a serious downturn in the economy. 18 December, the South Australian government offers a conditional £1,000 reward for the reportee of the first payable goldfield in South Australia.

- 1852 The *Bullion Act 1852* averts general bankruptcy of the colony by providing a South Australian market for diggers' gold exceeding that paid by Victorian bullion merchants.
- March, the first armed gold escort under Police Commissioner Alexander Tolmer provides secure passage for diggers returning with gold into South Australia from the Victorian goldfields.
- 23 August William Chapman, his father and two friends, Hampton and Hardiman, report the discovery of gold at Donkey Gully, near Echunga, to the Treasury. The area becomes known as the Echunga Goldfield and later, the old Echunga Goldfield.
- December, Tolmer leads the last gold escort from the Victorian goldfields.
- 1858 Mining ends on the old Echunga Goldfield.
- Gold is reported at Spike Gully, south of Sandy Creek.
- 1868 Thomas Plane and Henry Saunders identify gold at Jupiter Creek, leading to intensive mining in the surrounding area.**
- September, an estimated 1,200-1,300 prospectors descend on Jupiter Creek. Over 500 licences are issued over an area extending four miles along the watercourse, and a temporary township is established.**
- October, the Beatrice Gold Mining Company is established to work the Jupiter Creek Diggings.
- The Caledonia Company is established to work the Jupiter Creek Diggings.
- 1869 January, the population at Jupiter Creek dwindles to an estimated 250 diggers. Alluvium has been largely worked over and mining activity refocusses on reefs in the hillsides.**
- The Beatrice Gold Mining Company dams Battery Creek to supply water and installs a 10-stamp battery, two puddlers and an amalgamation plant, powered by two Cornish boilers driving a steam engine. Exhaust from the boiler furnaces passes through an underground flue, up a hillside to a circular stone chimney.**
- The Jupiter, National, Crest of Wave, Edith, Prince of Wales, Ophir, Fergusson, Inkerman and Sebastopol companies are established to work gold reefs at the Jupiter Creek Diggings.**
- 1870 February, the identification of gold on the Onkaparinga River leaves only 30 diggers working at Jupiter Creek.
- June, the Beatrice Gold Mining Company's operations are suspended.
- Gold is reported at Birdwood and Uooloo.
- Sporadic prospecting occurs around Algebuckina on the Neales River around this time.

- 1871 December, all of the reef mining companies established to work the Jupiter Creek Diggings have been liquidated. A small number of individual alluvial prospectors remain working on the goldfield.**
- 1873 Gold is reported at Waukaringa.
- 1875 A silver-rich load is found at Silverton, NSW.
- 1879 Gold is reported at Woodside.
- 1882 The SA Mining and Prospecting Company acquires nearly the entire Jupiter Creek Diggings under claim, usurping individual prospectors.
- 1883 A silver-rich lode is reported at Broken Hill, NSW.
The SA Mining and Prospecting Company cancels its claims over Jupiter Creek after fruitlessly sinking several shafts.
- 1884 April, Thomas Plane's son finds several small gold nuggets in the mullock of an abandoned shaft at the Jupiter Creek Diggings. Thomas Plane and John Riddle acquire a lease over the area.**
- 1885 Gold is reported at Manna Hill.
- 1886 Gold is reported at Teetulpa.
- 1887 The Crystal Mining Company is formed to work Plane and Riddle's lease. The Crystal Mining Company sinks the Whip Shaft.**
A railway line is opened between Peterborough and Cockburn.
- 1888 The Crystal Mining Company builds a horse puddler. The Crystal Mining Company's operations at the Jupiter Creek Diggings end. The Phoenix Gold Mining Company is created to work reported gold-bearing rock at Frederick Walters' claim on the Jupiter Creek Diggings. April: the South Crystal Gold Mining Company is formed to work a lease a short distance south of the original Crystal lease.**
- 1889 The Crystal Mining Company is liquidated.
The South Crystal Mining Company is liquidated.
September: the Phoenix Mining Company is liquidated.
- 1890 The New Crystal Mining Company re-works the old Crystal Mining Company lease with Captain Plane as manager.**
- 1893 Gold is identified at Tarcoola (Tarcoola Goldfield, Government Battery and Township SHP 20767), which is worked between 1900 and 1912 and develops into one of the largest goldfields in the state, producing 2,400kg of gold.
- 1895 The New Crystal Mining Company is liquidated.

- 1899 Gold is found at Glenloth (Glenloth Gold Battery Site SHP 14642).
- 1905** Passage of the *Gold Dredging Act 1905*.
The Echunga Proprietary Hydraulic Gold Sluicing Company is formed to recover gold from alluvium at Golden Point within the Echunga Goldfield Jupiter Creek Diggings.
- 1906** **13 July, the Echunga Proprietary Hydraulic Gold Sluicing Company plant is opened by the Premier of South Australia, Tom Price.**
- 1908 The Echunga Proprietary Hydraulic Gold Sluicing Company is wound up after producing a total 222 ounces (6kg) of gold.
- 1930s** **Mining at Jupiter Creek recommences on a small scale.**
The Excelsior Syndicate is established and later wound up after commencing an adit.
- 1931** Between 25 and 30 individuals were working the Jupiter Creek Diggings while drawing Unemployment Relief Rations from nearby Echunga.
The New Crystal Syndicate is established and later wound up after sinking a shaft and beginning a drive.
 The price of gold, previously fixed at £4 per troy ounce, is floated and begins to rise steadily. Men left unemployed as a result of the depression are encouraged to turn to prospecting on abandoned goldfields.
- 1932** **The New Phoenix Syndicate is established, cuts an adit from Battery Creek, and begins several drives.**
 Individual claimholders Tom Burgess and Herbert Hunt are working the Jupiter Creek Diggings.
- 1933** **The State Express Gold Mining Syndicate is established and sinks several shafts.**
 The New Phoenix Syndicate is wound up.
- 1935 The State Express Gold Mining Syndicate is wound up.
- 1940** **Intensive mining at the Jupiter Creek Diggings has ended by this time.**
- c.1960 A handful of prospectors remain at the Jupiter Creek Diggings until around this time.
- 1984** **5 April, the Echunga Goldfield Jupiter Creek Diggings is confirmed in the South Australian Heritage Register as Echunga Goldfield—Jupiter Creek Diggings.**
 The former Jupiter Creek Township site serves as the local council rubbish dump.
- c.1989 The rubbish dump on the former Jupiter Creek Township site is disused.

- 1996 Lot 7 D26422 and Lot 8 D26430 are gazetted as a Historical Diggings Reserve under the care, control and management of the Minister for Mines and Energy, under the *Crown Lands Act 1929*.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Books and Chapters

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- Michael Pearson and Barry McGowan, *Mining Heritage Places Assessment Manual* (2000) Canberra ACT: Australian Council of National Trusts and Australian Heritage Commission

Reports and Theses

- Register Research Programme 1982/1983, Historical Research Report: Echunga Goldfield, DEW Files
- Peter Bell, Carol Cosgrove, Susan Marsden & Justin McCarthy, Historical Research Pty Ltd, 'Twentieth Century Heritage Survey Volume 2, Report to Department for Environment and Heritage' (2008)

Pamphlets

- Mines and Energy South Australia, 'Gold at Jupiter Creek: a guide to the historic diggings' (January 1994) Adelaide SA: SA Department of Mines and Energy

Legislation

- Act No. 881 of 1905 'An Act to provide the Issue of Leases for Dredging for Gold' (*Gold Dredging Act 1905*)

Gazettes

- South Australian Government Gazette* 5 April 1984
- South Australian Government Gazette* 13 June 1996

Newspapers

- 'Jupiter Creek.' in *South Australian Advertiser* 18 September 1868 p. 2
- 'Jupiter Creek.' in *South Australian Advertiser* 10 October 1868 p. 3
- 'Mining. Echunga Gold Sluicing Co.' in *Mount Barker Courier and Onkaparinga and Gumeracha Advertiser* 7 September 1906 p. 4

Websites

Government of South Australia, Energy and Mining, Fossicking
<https://www.energymining.sa.gov.au/industry/minerals-and-mining/exploration/fossicking#jupiter-creek>

Government of South Australia, Energy & Mining, Historical Gold Mines
https://www.energymining.sa.gov.au/home/events/discover_gold/historical_gold_mines

<https://meander-to-the-max.blogspot.com/2016/05/jupiter-creek-glimpse-of-gold-rush.html>

Archival

B 9771/11 SLA <https://collections.slsa.sa.gov.au/resource/B+9771/11>

B 9771/16 SLA <https://collections.slsa.sa.gov.au/resource/B+9771/16>

B 11417 SLA <https://collections.slsa.sa.gov.au/resource/B+11417>

SITE DETAILS

Echunga Goldfield Jupiter Creek Diggings

PLACE NO.: 10460

12 and Lot 8 Long Gully Road and Lot 7 Rubbish Dump Road, Jupiter Creek

DESCRIPTION OF PLACE:	Relict mining landscape including collapsed and open shafts, adits and costeans; remnant earthworks; mullock heaps; dams; and ruins.	
HISTORIC THEME	5. Developing South Australia's economies 5.2 Mining (including copper mining)	
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION:	1868 – c.1930s	
REGISTER STATUS:	Nominated 20 June 1980 Provisionally entered 23 June 1983 Confirmed 5 April 1984	
CURRENT USE:	Recreational fossicking reserve 1982 – present	
PREVIOUS USE(S):	Gold diggings 1868 – c. 1970s	
LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA:	Mount Barker District Council	
LOCATION:	Address:	Number 12 and Lot 8 Long Gully Road and Lot 7 Rubbish Dump Road, Jupiter Creek SA 5153
LAND DESCRIPTION:	Title Reference:	CR 5349/844 Lot 7 D26422; CR 5349/845 Lot 8 D26430; CR 5753/827 Section 355 Hundred of Kuitpo
	Hundred:	Kuitpo

PHOTOS

Echunga Goldfield Jupiter Creek Diggings

PLACE NO.: 10460

12 and Lot 8 Long Gully Road and Lot 7 Rubbish Dump Road, Jupiter Creek



Circular stone chimney built in 1869 by the Beatrice Mining Company, January 1983.



Open shaft at the Jupiter Creek Diggings, January 1983.

Echunga Goldfield Jupiter Creek Diggings

PLACE NO.: 10460

12 and Lot 8 Long Gully Road and Lot 7 Rubbish Dump Road, Jupiter Creek



Stone ruins at the Jupiter Creek Diggings, January 1983.



Dam at the Jupiter Creek Diggings, January 1983.

Echunga Goldfield Jupiter Creek Diggings

PLACE NO.: 10460

12 and Lot 8 Long Gully Road and Lot 7 Rubbish Dump Road, Jupiter Creek



Hewlett's Hut, vernacular dwelling at the Jupiter Creek Diggings, January 1983, now collapsed.



Costean and adit at the Jupiter Creek Diggings, January 1983.

Echunga Goldfield Jupiter Creek Diggings

PLACE NO.: 10460

12 and Lot 8 Long Gully Road and Lot 7 Rubbish Dump Road, Jupiter Creek



New Phoenix Shaft, May 2016



New Phoenix Adit, May 2016

Source: <https://meander-to-the-max.blogspot.com/2016/05/jupiter-creek-glimpse-of-gold-rush.html>

REVISIONS

Date	Changes

¹ Bernard O'Neil, 'Mines and Mining' Wilfred Prest (ed), *The Wakefield Companion to South Australian History* (2001) Kent Town SA: Wakefield Press p. 356

² C. M. Horn and W. P. Fradd, 'Gold mining in South Australia: the first fifty years' in Jonathan Shelby (ed) *South Australia's Mining Heritage (Special Publication No. 7)* (1987) Adelaide SA: Department of Mines and Energy South Australia/Australian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy p. 63; Government of South Australia, Energy & Mining, Historical Gold Mines https://www.energymining.sa.gov.au/home/events/discover_gold/historical_gold_mines

³ Michael Pearson and Barry McGowan, *Mining Heritage Places Assessment Manual* (2000) Canberra ACT: Australian Council of National Trusts and Australian Heritage Commission p. 171

⁴ Michael Pearson and Barry McGowan, *Mining Heritage Places Assessment Manual* p. 175

⁵ Michael Pearson and Barry McGowan, *Mining Heritage Places Assessment Manual*

⁶ Greg Drew, *The Echunga Goldfields: Geology, History and Selected Newspaper Readings* (2012) Adelaide SA: Government of South Australia Primary Industries and Resources SA p. 12

⁷ Michael Pearson and Barry McGowan, *Mining Heritage Places Assessment Manual* p. 175

⁸ C. M. Horn and W. P. Fradd, 'Gold mining in South Australia: the first fifty years' p. 63

⁹ C. M. Horn and W. P. Fradd, 'Gold mining in South Australia: the first fifty years' pp. 65-66

¹⁰ J. F. Drexel, *Mining in South Australia: a pictorial history* (Special Publication No. 3) Adelaide SA: Department of Mines and Energy of South Australia p. 103

¹¹ Register Research Programme 1982/1983, Historical Research Report: Echunga Goldfield, DEW Files

¹² Government of South Australia, Energy & Mining, Historical Gold Mines (web)

¹³ C. M. Horn and W. P. Fradd, 'Gold mining in South Australia: the first fifty years'

¹⁴ Government of South Australia, Energy & Mining, Historical Gold Mines (web)

¹⁵ J. F. Drexel, *Mining in South Australia* p. 103

¹⁶ J. F. Drexel, *Mining in South Australia* p. 129

¹⁷ Peter Bell, Carol Cosgrove, Susan Marsden & Justin McCarthy, Historical Research Pty Ltd, 'Twentieth Century Heritage Survey Volume 2, Report to Department for Environment and Heritage' (2008) p. 236

¹⁸ Act No. 881 of 1905 'An Act to provide the Issue of Leases for Dredging for Gold' (*Gold Dredging Act 1905*)

¹⁹ Government of South Australia, Energy & Mining, Historical Gold Mines (web)

²⁰ Government of South Australia, Energy & Mining, Historical Gold Mines (web)

²¹ Adelaide Hills Council, 'History and Heritage' <http://www.ahc.sa.gov.au/discover/history-and-heritage>

²² 'Jupiter Creek.' in *South Australian Advertiser* 18 September 1868 p. 2

²³ Greg Drew, *The Echunga Goldfields* p. 10

²⁴ Greg Drew, *The Echunga Goldfields* p. 9

²⁵ 'Jupiter Creek.' in *South Australian Advertiser* 10 October 1868 p. 3

BHI Summary of State Heritage Place: 10460

Confirmed in the South Australian Heritage Register on 5 April 1984

Draft BHI SSHP for Consultation 18 June 2026 to 18 September 2026

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- ²⁶ Register Research Programme 1982/1983, Historical Research Report: Echunga Goldfield, DEW Files p. 3; Mines and Energy South Australia, 'Gold at Jupiter Creek: a guide to the historic diggings' (January 1994) Adelaide SA: SA Department of Mines and Energy
- ²⁷ Greg Drew, *The Echunga Goldfields* p. 11.
- ²⁸ Register Research Programme 1982/1983, Historical Research Report: Echunga Goldfield, DEW Files p. 3
- ²⁹ Greg Drew, *The Echunga Goldfields* p. 12
- ³⁰ Greg Drew, *The Echunga Goldfields* p. 11
- ³¹ Mines and Energy South Australia, 'Gold at Jupiter Creek'
- ³² Greg Drew, *The Echunga Goldfields* p. 13
- ³³ Greg Drew, *The Echunga Goldfields* p. 14
- ³⁴ Greg Drew, *The Echunga Goldfields* p. 17
- ³⁵ Greg Drew, *The Echunga Goldfields* p. 17
- ³⁶ 'Mining. Echunga Gold Sluicing Co.' in *Mount Barker Courier and Onkaparinga and Gumeracha Advertiser* 7 September 1906 p. 4
- ³⁷ B 11417 SLSA <https://collections.slsa.sa.gov.au/resource/B+11417>
- ³⁸ Greg Drew, *The Echunga Goldfields* p. 15
- ³⁹ Greg Drew, *The Echunga Goldfields* p. 16
- ⁴⁰ Greg Drew, *The Echunga Goldfields* p. 16
- ⁴¹ Greg Drew, *The Echunga Goldfields* pp. 17-18
- ⁴² *South Australian Government Gazette* 5 April 1984 p. 873
- ⁴³ *South Australian Government Gazette* 13 June 1996 p. 2920
- ⁴⁴ Government of South Australia, Energy and Mining, Fossicking <https://www.energymining.sa.gov.au/industry/minerals-and-mining/exploration/fossicking#jupiter-creek>