



Blackguard Gully Precinct

Proposed SCF allocation: \$500,000

Background

Blackguard Gully is one of three gullies that converge near the eastern end of the Town of Young. At this point it joins Victoria Gully and Garibaldi Gully. The discovery of gold in Burrangong Creek in 1860 sparked a major gold rush, drawing hopeful prospectors of various nationalities. As the rush developed organised groups of miners, struggling to make a living in the difficult conditions, committed the most widely known and documented acts of violence against Chinese miners in the history of the Australian gold rushes. These attacks occurred in January 1861. Much of the Blackguard Gully area was subsequently allocated to Chinese miners who experienced a second series of attacks in June and July 1861. After the gold rush subsided in 1862 Blackguard Gully and its surrounds were worked by various groups of Irish miners using ground sluicing methods. Ground sluicing activity by Irish immigrant families continued well into the 20th century. The section of Blackguard Gully listed on the NSW State Heritage Register is typical of heavily sluiced alluvial gold mining areas. The former Young Shire Council developed a Conservation Management Plan for Blackguard Gully – which is listed on the State Heritage Register.

Scope

The former Council also investigated the possibility of enhancing the area as a visitor attraction. The Blackguard Gully site is largely inaccessible. The development of the area as a Visitor Attraction and making the site more accessible to visitors and residents could open-up additional matched funding sources from the state and federal government tourism and heritage grants.

Project Snapshot

