

## Dobbs Drift Lookout

( 'conventional vehicles - five minutes from town')

Dobbs Drift is classic pagoda country located only a couple of kilometres from the centre of Lithgow. It is easily accessible in even a small conventional vehicle, with only the last kilometre of road unsealed. The view to the north west, even from the carpark, is stunning and until recently (April 2021), the immediate area was a mass of Pink Flannel Flowers *Actinotus forsythii*, a wildflower that only flowers after a significant fire event. Spectacular formations, caves and unusual orchids abound in this ancient landscape, right on the Northern edge of Lithgow



**How to get there.** Drive east along Main Street, at the end of the street, turn left at Bridge Street cross the railway bridge and immediately turn right into Inch St, proceed 1.5 klms and turn left into Atkinson Street (there is a direction indicator to the Glow Worm Tunnels) that becomes State Mine Gully Road. Follow State Mine Gully Road past the State Mine museum passing the foundations of the old Lithgow Power Station on your right. Proceed about two kilometres up the road which becomes very steep and is unsealed for the last kilometre or so. Stop at the un-signposted rough parking area on the left as you get to the top of the gully. A 500 metre walk out along the ridge along a 4WD track back towards Lithgow provides a fantastic view to the North West over thinly vegetated pagoda rich sandstone country.

**History.** Down in the steep valley below the ridge is a drift (an angled rather than vertical tunnel) cut in 1948 to provide ventilation into the State Mine. This drift was named Dobbs Drift after Jack Dobbs, a popular coal miners union official of the time. Over the years, the whole ridge lookout has come to be referred to as Dobbs Drift, whilst the steep valley itself is often referred to as Permafrost Gully.

**Destination Pagodas** is a proposal to dedicate 39,000 hectares of Pagoda Country as a State Conservation area. The 'Destination Pagodas' proposal represents a fine balance between legacy coal mining interests and the need to protect this country with its diverse and unique scenery and rare flora and fauna. A recent independent assessment of the economic potential of the Destination Pagodas proposal suggests that it would benefit the Lithgow economy by some \$ 40m per annum and provide some 250 additional jobs in the region.

*"A world-class tourism and conservation reserve on Lithgow's doorstep, a win for workers, community, and environment"*