

1.0 Introduction

Point Peron "K" Battery site is an important aspect of the coastal defence system put in place during WW2 along the Fremantle/Rockingham coastline. Since its decommissioning, the place has become overgrown and is presenting in a deteriorating condition.

The Point Peron Rehabilitation Committee (PPRC) was established in late 2014 by the Hon. Phil Edman MLC as a voluntary committee of stakeholders with an interest in rehabilitating the historic Point Peron Battery "K" structures built during World War II. The PPRC propose that a museum be established on the site of the former Barracks/Recreation Camp in the northern part of the Point Peron headland, to recognise the important defence role of Point Peron as part of the "Fremantle Fortress" and to house safely valuable memorabilia and artefacts gathered to date.

In August 2015, South West Corridor Development Foundation Incorporated (SWCDef Inc) appointed Hocking Heritage Studio to prepare a conservation management plan for the Point Peron "K" Battery Site. Funding was awarded to SWCDef Inc through the City of Rockingham's Community Grants Program to prepare the report as the first phase of the Point Peron Rehabilitation Project (PPRC).

The conservation management plan will be recognised as the primary guiding document for the conservation and future use of the site and its associated structures. The purpose of a conservation management plan is to establish what is significant about a place and consequently what policies are required to enable the significance to be retained, or reinstated, in its future use and development.

1.1 Study Area

Cape Peron is a headland to the west of Rockingham city centre located at the southern end of Cockburn Sound approximately 45kms south of Perth and approximately 5kms to the west of Rockingham city centre. The headland contains the suburb of Peron and is known locally known as 'Point Peron'. This study will refer to the site by the local name 'Point Peron'. The study area is located within Crown Reserve No. 48968.

The headland is accessed via Point Peron Road with the study area located to the north west of the three main carparks on the headland. The school camp to the south east of the car parking area is not included in this conservation plan nor is the southern portion of the headland which includes the lookout and paths. General comments and policy relevant to future interpretation may be applicable to these areas.

The study area consists of the remaining WWII infrastructure that formed part of the coastal defence system around the Port of Fremantle. Point Peron "K" Battery is an area of sand dune formation creating a naturally undulating and ever changing landscape, which is predominantly covered in dense native shrubs. The northern part of the headland is characterised by the limestone cliffs whilst to the north east are the protected waters of Mangles Bay in Cockburn Sound and the adjacent Garden Island. To the west and south of the cape is Shoalwater Bay and the coastal waters of the Indian Ocean.

There is little built infrastructure on the headland, all of which relates to the WWII coastal defence system constructed in the 1940s. A more recent viewing platform was constructed to the south-west, also excluded from the conservation management plan. There are no public facilities on site.

The Point Peron site contains the remnant extant WWII infrastructure, pathways constructed c1992 leading around and through the site and a couple of seating benches. The northern section of the headland is protected by timber fencing due to the vulnerable and dangerous condition of the cliffs.

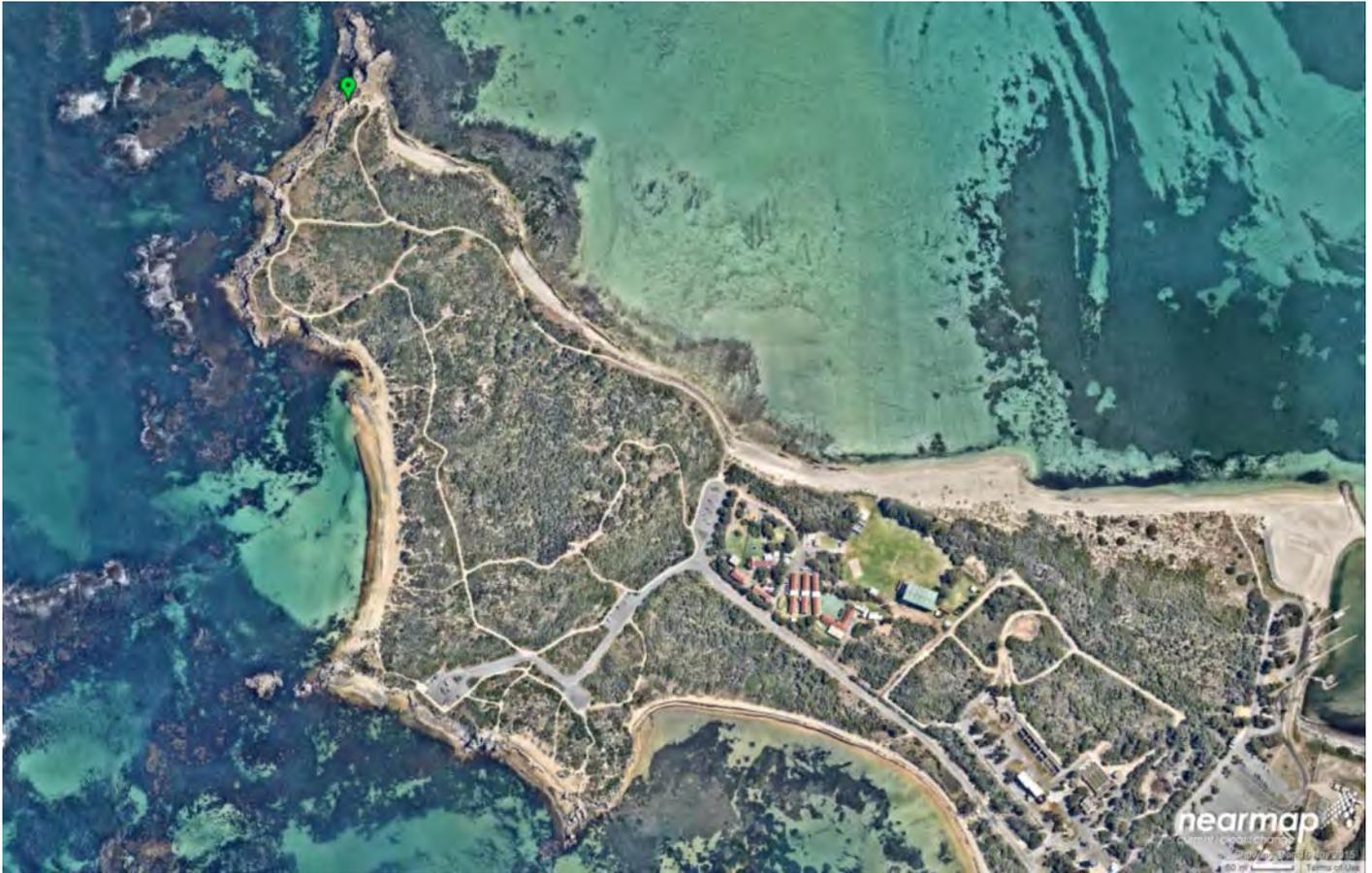


Figure 4: Aerial View of Point Peron in a local Rockingham Context
Courtesy Nearmap 2015

The site is part of Lot 301 in Reserve 48968 as shown on Plan 48616 and designated in LR3140/959. This reserve extends to Safety Bay Road to the east and Boundary Road to the south. A small trigonometric reserve created in 1972 is located around the former Observation Post for the purpose of trigonometric surveys.¹

¹ Refer to Appendix 4 for copies of current and a selection of previous Certificates of Title and survey information.



Figure 5: Cadastral view of Point Peron
Courtesy Landgate 2015



Figure 6: Detail of cadastral view showing location of trigonometric reserve on observation post
Courtesy Landgate 2015

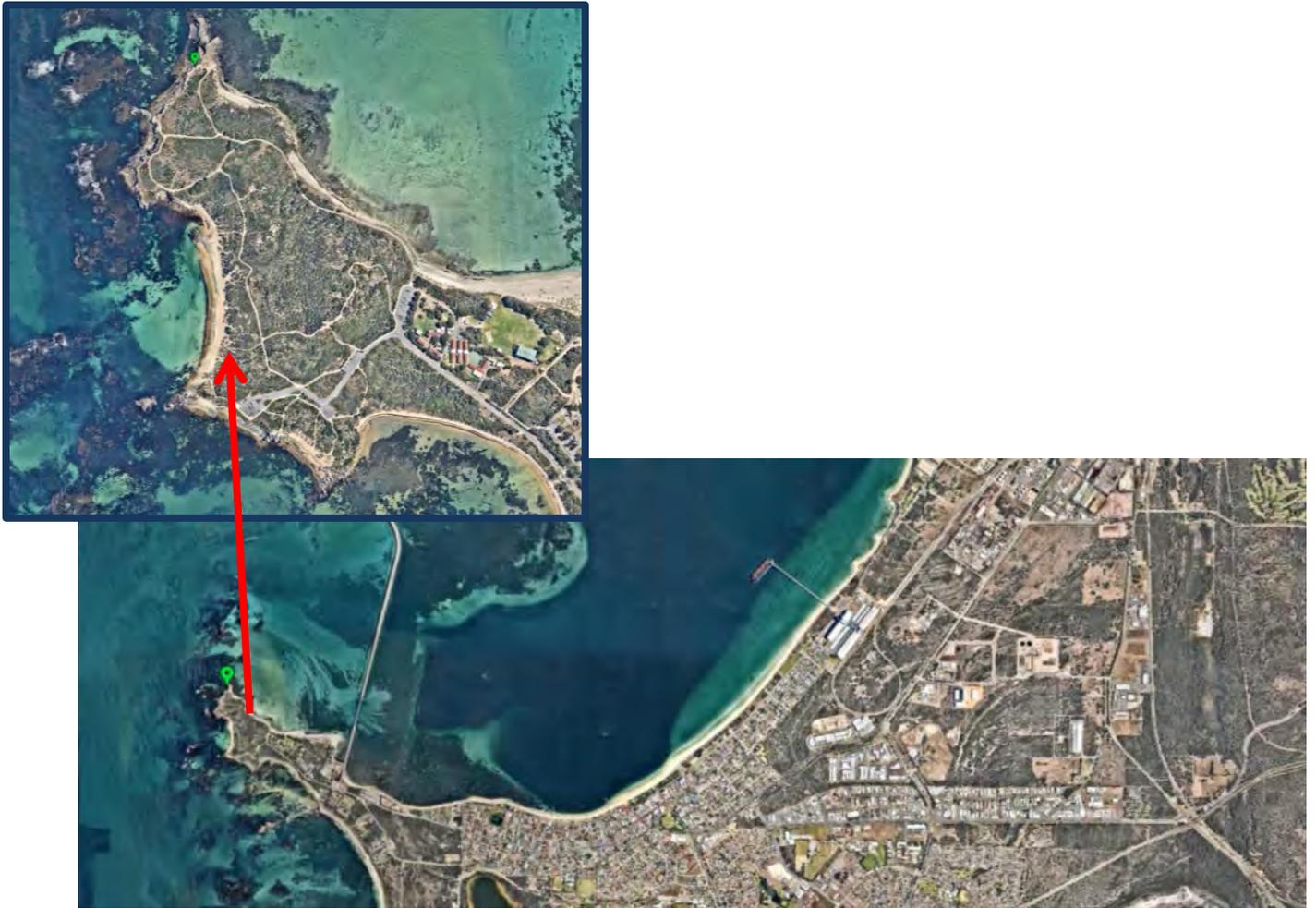


Figure 7: Aerial View of Point Peron in a wider Rockingham Context
Courtesy Nearmap 2015

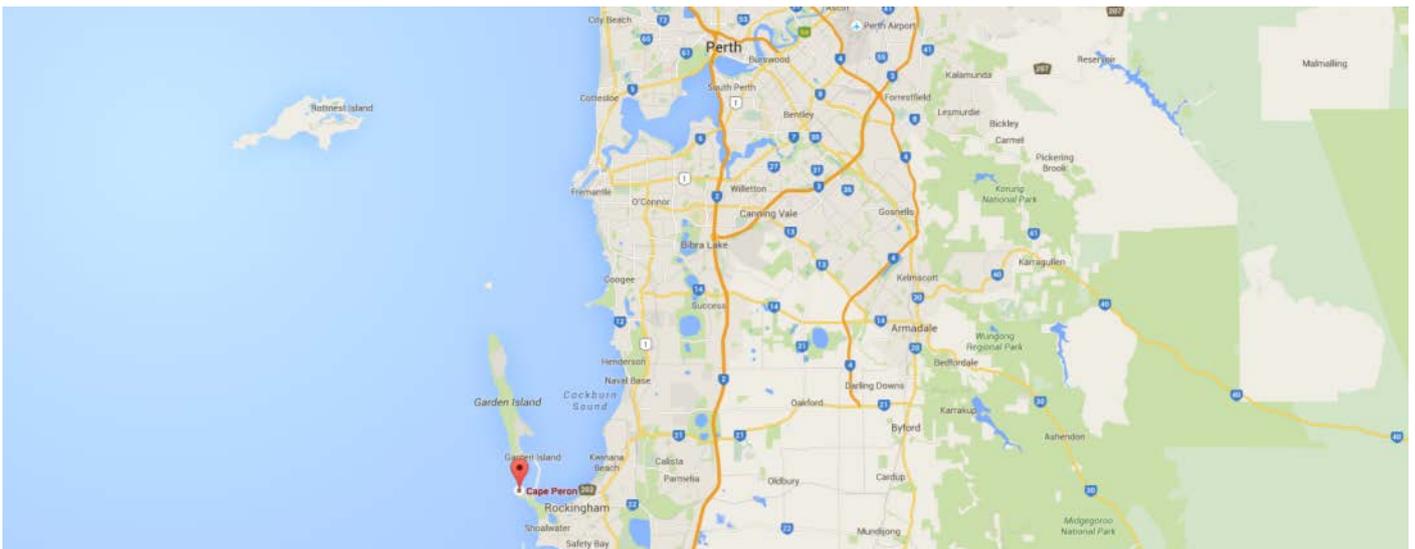


Figure 8: Point Peron site in a regional context
Courtesy Google 2015

1.2 Ownership

The State Government of Western Australia owns the Point Peron "K" Battery site and the surrounding reserve 48968. The responsible agency is the Conservation Commission of WA and Department of Parks and Wildlife.

1.3 Acknowledgements

The authors thank the following individuals and organisations for their assistance and contribution towards the development of the Conservation Management Plan for Point Peron.

- South West Corridor Development Foundation Incorporated
- Point Peron Rehabilitation Committee
 - The Honourable Phillip Edman MLC South Metropolitan Region
 - Amy Gibbs, Research Officer to the Hon. Phillip Edman MLC
 - Kelly Gillen, Department of Parks and Wildlife
 - Deb Hamblin, Councillor, City of Rockingham
 - Mike Ross, Manager Statutory Planning, City of Rockingham
 - Dianne Storey, Treasurer, Rockingham Regional Environment Centre
 - Allan Seymour, Rockingham Returned Services League
 - Marcus Deshon, Development Manager, Cedar Woods Properties Limited
 - Mick McCarthy, Director, South West Group of Councils
 - Phillip Rowson, Royal Australian Artillery Historical Society WA

1.4 Study Team

This conservation management plan was prepared by:

Hocking Heritage Studio

- Gemma Smith BSc (Hons) Estate Man., MSc Hist. Build. Cons., M.ICOMOS, IHBC, APIA
- Prue Griffin, BA, Post Grad Dip. Public Hist, M App Cult Heritage Studies M.ICOMOS
- Gary Chapman, Drafting Technician

External Consultants

- Peter Baxendale Structural Engineer
- Robert Mitchell, Military Historian

1.5 Methodology

This conservation management plan has been prepared in accordance with the standard brief of the State Heritage Office of Western Australia.² A copy of this document can be found at Appendix 1.

The report follows the approach recommended by Australia ICOMOS (International Council on Monuments and Sites) as demonstrated in Appendix 2. It applies the principles set out in *The Australia ICOMOS Charter for the Conservation of Places of Cultural Significance (The Burra Charter); Guidelines to the Burra Charter*:

² State Heritage Office, *An Information Guide to Conservation Management Plans and Standard Brief*, January 2013 <http://stateheritage.wa.gov.au/docs/conservation-and-development/guide-to-conservation-management-plansOCE0050FE47C.pdf?sfvrsn=2>

*Cultural Significance; Guidelines to the Burra Charter: Conservation Policy; and Guidelines to the Burra Charter: Procedures for Undertaking Studies and Reports.*³

The report has also been prepared in accordance with principles of *The Conservation Plan*⁴ and Criteria of Cultural Heritage Significance for Assessment of Places for Entry into the Register of Heritage Place. A copy of the SHO criteria is included at Appendix 3.

The documentary research included the use of primary and secondary sources. The documentary evidence covers both the concise history of *Point Peron "K" Battery* as well as the social and contextual history that relates to the building and development of the site. A complete bibliography of all sources is provided at the end of this document.

Physical evidence was compiled by means of a comprehensive interior and exterior survey of Point Peron "K" Battery including notes on each of the component parts, their general condition, level of authenticity, significance and recommended future actions. Photographs were taken to illustrate the form, setting and condition of the place and information was obtained from a site survey that was undertaken in October 2015.

After evaluating the evidence from the physical and documentary research, an assessment of the cultural heritage significance of the place was derived using criteria established by the Heritage Council of Western Australia.

The conservation and management policy has been formulated to assist with the retention and enhancement of the identified and documented cultural heritage significance.

1.6 Site Inspections

Hocking Heritage Studio and Peter Baxendale Engineer undertook a site inspection of *Point Peron "K" Battery* in September/October 2015

1.7 Previous Studies and Research

There have been no comprehensive studies of the site. However, there have been histories prepared in relation to the battery on the site during World War II, most notably the information compiled and presented by R. K. Glyde c2000 and acknowledgement is extended. A bibliography of the sources consulted is included at 9.0.

³ Peter Marquis-Kyle & Meredith Walker *The Illustrated Burra Charter: Making Good Decisions About the Care of Important Places*, Australia ICOMOS, Sydney 1994. The Burra Charter and Guidelines are available from www.icomos.org/australia

⁴ James Semple Kerr, *The Conservation Plan: A Guide to the Preparation of Conservation Plans for Places of European Cultural Significance*, National Trust NSW, Sydney, 1990, 5th Edition

1.8 Present Heritage Status

Register of Heritage Places:	Assessment Deferred	29/06/2012
National Trust Classification:	-----	-----
Municipal Heritage Inventory:	Adopted – Category A	22/12/1998
City Planning Scheme:	Yes	
Register of National Estate	Permanent	30/05/1995

1.9 Terminology

The meanings of the terminology used within this document are in accordance with the definitions contained under Article 1 of the Burra Charter. For the purposes of this conservation plan the following definitions are used:

Adaptation: means modifying a place to suit a proposed compatible use.

Compatible use: means a use which respects the cultural significance of a place. Such a use involves no or minimal impact on cultural significance.

Condition: refers to the current state of the place in relation to each of the values for which the place has been assessed. Condition reflects the cumulative effects of management and environment effects.

Conservation: means all the processes of looking after a place so as to retain its cultural significance. It includes maintenance and may according to circumstances include preservation, restoration, reconstruction and adaptation and will be more commonly a combination of more than one of these.

Cultural significance: means aesthetic, historic, scientific or social value for past, present or future generations.

Fabric: means all the physical material of the place.

HCWA: means Heritage Council of Western Australia

Interpretation: means all the ways of presenting the cultural significance of a place.

Integrity: is a measure of the long-term viability or sustainability of the values identified, or the ability of the place to restore itself or be restored, and the time frame for any restorative process.

Maintenance: means the continuous protective repair of the fabric, contents and setting of the place and is to be distinguished from repair. Repair involved restoration and reconstruction and should be treated accordingly.

Place: means site, area, building or other work, group of buildings or other works together with the associated contents and surrounds.

Preservation: means maintaining the fabric of a place in its existing state and retarding deterioration.

Reconstruction: means returning a place as nearly as possible to a known earlier state and is distinguished by the introduction of new materials (new or old) into the fabric. This is not to be confused with either recreation or conjectural reconstruction.

Restoration: means returning the existing fabric of a place to a known earlier state by removing accretions or by reassembling existing components without the introduction of new material.

Setting: means the area around the place which may include the visual catchment.

1.10 Statement of Significance

Point Peron "K" Battery large, public open space of sand dune formation covered with dense native planting which features structures constructed in 1941/1942 including two gun emplacements, observation post bunker, operations bunker, two ammunition bunkers and several other ancillary elements which together were part of a network of defence strategies around the port of Fremantle. The place has cultural heritage significance for the following reasons;

- the place, together with the other elements of Western Australia's coastal defence system, known as 'Fremantle Fortress' erected in response to external threats during WWII and together , have the potential to yield information about coastal defence strategies;
- The Battery demonstrates technical achievement in its design – the guns were placed to enable them to cover any shipping approaching within range south of Rockingham and Safety Bay and the western approaches to Garden Island, as well as providing cover for the boom defence which was laid across South Channel;
- The remaining built elements of Point Peron "K" Battery are representative of WWII coastal defence architecture, of functional design and simplistic but robust construction used by the military engineers in a remote sand dune environment;
- The site of the former Point Peron campsite and the headland is valued by the wider community as the venue for many school camps since 1946 to 1996;
- Point Peron "K" Battery is associated with members of the Australian Army specifically the Artillery who served at this site or similar batteries. It is also valued by members of this cohort for its demonstration of past techniques and practices;
- the place is valued as an informal recreational space both before and after WWII and as part of the Rockingham Lakes National Park; and,
- Point Peron "K" Battery is valued by the local community, members of Parliament and the Army Reserves who are contributing to the restoration and conservation of the place.

The pathways, carpark and remnant signage have no cultural heritage significance