

6.0 Cultural Heritage Significance

6.1 Introduction

The Statement of Significance is the primary means by which a place is preserved and conserved. It is based on the statements made in the assessment of significance and will form the basis of the conservation policies and policy implementation.

The significance of the place assessed in Section 5 is based on its considered aesthetic, historic, scientific and social values. As part of this assessment, due consideration was given to the degree of significance in terms of rarity and representativeness, condition, integrity and authenticity.

The values identified in the assessment of significance have been summarised below into a concise and succinct Statement of Significance. The statements have been listed in descending order.

6.2 Statement of Significance

The statement of significance has been developed from the City of Rockingham's Municipal Heritage Inventory using the information revealed in this conservation management plan.

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

6.3 Level of Significance

Relative degrees of significance within the place determine the appropriateness of conservation actions. Generally, a five tier grading system is used to identify those parts of the place that area of:

- Exceptional significance
- Considerable significance
- Some/Moderate significance
- Little/no significance (neither contributes nor detracts from the significance of the place)
- Intrusive (detracts from or has an adverse effect on the significance of the place)

Refer to Figure 133 below for illustration of the zones and elements of significance

The five tiers of significance are to be considered on a state context and all five tiers may not be applicable to each place.

6.4 Zones and Elements of Significance

Based on the analysis of the documentary and physical evidence a hierarchy has been developed to broadly categorise the significance of the zones, elements and spaces that make up the Point Peron.

Zones of Exceptional Significance

- There are no zones of exceptional significance.
- The Point Peron "K" Battery site, together with the other elements of the coastal defence network, known as 'Fremantle Fortress' are of exceptional significance.

Zones of Considerable Significance

- The Point Peron "K" Battery site as a whole is of considerable significance.

Zones of Some Significance

- The site of the former barracks/recreation camp is of some significance

Zones of Little of No Significance

- The car parks and the pathways through the site are of little significance though provide an important function of the site.

Intrusive Zones

- There are no intrusive zones

Elements of Exceptional Significance

- There are no elements of exceptional significance

Elements of Considerable Significance

All the remnant built WWII structures:

- Observation Post

- Operations Bunker
- Gun Emplacements No. 1 and No. 2
- Ammunition Bunkers No. 1 and No. 2
- Mushroom Rock and John Point – positions of CASL No. 1 and No. 2

Elements of Some Significance

- Remnants of the barracks/recreation camp buildings on the north side of the headland
- Remnants of the well/artesian bore
- Steps up from the car park to the Observation Post

Elements of Little or No Significance

- Pathways through the site
- The car park and access road
- Recent paintwork on structures

Elements regarded as being Intrusive

- Graffiti on remaining structures



Figure 172: Zones of Significance