



**HERITAGE
COUNCIL**
OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

REGISTER OF HERITAGE PLACES

Assessment Documentation

11. ASSESSMENT OF CULTURAL HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

Cultural heritage significance means aesthetic, historic, scientific, social or spiritual value for individuals or groups within Western Australia.

In determining cultural heritage significance, the Heritage Council has had regard to the factors in the *Heritage Act 2018* and the indicators adopted on 14 June 2019.

PRINCIPAL AUSTRALIAN HISTORIC THEME(S)

- 3.5.3 Developing primary production
- 3.8 Moving goods and people
- 3.12 Feeding people
- 5.1 Working in harsh conditions

HERITAGE COUNCIL OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA THEME(S)

- 101 Immigration, emigration and refugees
- 106 Workers (including Aboriginal, convict)
- 108 Government Policy
- 310 Manufacturing and processing

11(a) Importance in demonstrating the evolution or pattern of Western Australia's history

Robb Jetty (ruin) and Abattoir Chimney (fmr), Coogee demonstrates the development of State Trading Concerns, both in the early disagreements regarding government enterprise and the way in which the state government responded to World War II.

Robb Jetty (ruin) and Abattoir Chimney (fmr), Coogee demonstrates the development of the meat industry in the state, including the economic link with the northern half of the state in the 1870s, the growth of international trade after 1920 and the impact of the live export trade in the 1990s.

Robb Jetty (ruin) and Abattoir Chimney (fmr), Coogee demonstrates the development of the area south of Fremantle as an industrial estate from the 1870s, which lasted until the redevelopment of the area in the 1980s.

11(b) Importance in demonstrating rare, uncommon or endangered aspects of Western Australia's heritage

Abattoir Chimney (fmr) is rare as remnant fabric representative of a large-scale pre-World War II abattoir and the only remnant of any of the government-operated abattoirs that dominated the meat industry in the State through the twentieth century.

Robb Jetty (ruin) and Abattoir Chimney (fmr), Coogee, has some rarity as an example of a timber stock jetty and an example of an industrial brick chimney.

Robb Jetty (ruin) and Abattoir Chimney (fmr), Coogee, is a rare example of a State Trading Concern associated with the provision and export of meat, and is particularly rare as an example of a government-backed private business that was transferred to government ownership.

11(c) Potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of Western Australia's history;

Robb Jetty (ruin), in particular the submerged section has the potential, through archaeological methods, to provide information on the development and use of stock jetties in the 19th and 20th centuries.

11(d) Its importance in demonstrating the characteristics of a broader class of places;

Abattoir Chimney (fmr) demonstrates the structural characteristics of industrial brick chimneys and has representative value as an example of this structure.

11(e) Any strong or special meaning it may have for any group or community because of social, cultural or spiritual associations;

Robb Jetty (ruin) and Abattoir Chimney (fmr), Coogee provided employment to generations of families from a variety of backgrounds, and is still valued by former employees.

Abattoir Chimney (fmr) is still a recognised landmark that contributes to the local community's sense of place.

11(f)¹ Its importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics valued by any group or community;

Abattoir Chimney (fmr) has landmark qualities set in the low, open vista of the coastal area.

Robb Jetty (ruin), in particular the submerged section, forms the base for a thriving marine landscape that has developed around the remnant timber piles.

11(h)² Its importance in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement;

Robb Jetty (ruin), while no longer intact, is associated with the technical development of timber jetties and brick industrial chimney structures in the 19th and 20th centuries.

12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE

12.1 CONDITION

Abattoir Chimney (fmr) is in good condition. The structure is stable and has been maintained.

The Robb Jetty (ruin) remnant is in a poor but stable condition. The marine environment has caused some degradation of the structure but has also covered over the remnant structure in marine concretion.

12.4 INTEGRITY

This section explains the extent to which the fabric is in its original state.

Abattoir Chimney (fmr) has a moderate to high integrity, with the remaining fabric largely unmodified save for general maintenance and works to make it safe.

The Robb Jetty (ruin) remnant has a high degree of integrity as it does not appear to have been artificially modified since it ceased to be used.

The integrity of *Robb Jetty (ruin) and Abattoir Chimney (fmr), Coogee*, is considered to be high overall.

12.5 AUTHENTICITY

This section explains the extent to which the original intention is evident, and the compatibility of current use.

¹ For consistency, all references to architectural style are taken from Apperly, R., Irving, R., Reynolds, P. *A Pictorial Guide to Identifying Australian Architecture. Styles and Terms from 1788 to the Present*, Angus and Robertson, North Ryde, 1989.

For consistency, all references to garden and landscape types and styles are taken from Ramsay, J. *Parks, Gardens and Special Trees: A Classification and Assessment Method for the Register of the National Estate*, Australian Government Publishing Service, Canberra, 1991, with additional reference to Richards, O. *Theoretical Framework for Designed Landscapes in WA*, unpublished report, 1997.

² Please note that HERCON factors with no corresponding value are not listed in this document.

Abattoir Chimney (fmr) has a low degree of authenticity and is unlikely to be reused for its original purpose.

The Robb Jetty (ruin) remnant has a low authenticity as it is in a ruinous state. While the original intention and function of the place can still be discerned, it is unlikely to be restored back to its original function and the remaining structure will likely degrade into the future.

Given that the abattoir as a whole has been demolished with only remnants remaining, the authenticity of *Robb Jetty (ruin) and Abattoir Chimney (fmr)*, Coogee, is considered to be low.

13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

The documentation for this place is based on the heritage assessment completed by Fiona Bush and Martin Gibbs, in 1995, with amendments and/or additions by Clare Menck, historian, in June 2015, and by the Heritage Council and the Department.

13.1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

Robb Jetty (ruin) and Abattoir Chimney (fmr), Coogee comprises the remnant elements of a private meatworks company established in c.1919 that was transferred to government control in 1942 and finally closed in 1992; and a stock jetty established c.1877, replaced with a larger structure in 1895 that was later dismantled c.1975.

Noongar people living around the Swan Valley in the pre- and early contact period can broadly be described as comprising small family groups moving through the landscape in response to seasonal change, utilising a toolkit of wooden and flaked stone tools and grinding stones, notably of quartz, dolerite and chert. The artistic culture of the Noongar people was expressed in painted and engraved art in a wide variety of forms, relating to a complex spiritual worldview that incorporated a connection to the natural world, and the remembrance or ongoing influence of ancestral and spiritual figures.³

The Noongar groups living in and around the Perth area were collectively known as the Whadjuk, while the families living in the area south of Fremantle known as the Beeliar.⁴

After British settlement of the Swan River in 1829, the earliest land grant in the Cockburn area was a large tract, approximately 2000 acres (Location 10), awarded to Captain George Robb in 1830, inland from the future site of Robb Jetty. However, Robb left the property in the care of Sidney Smith the same year and never returned to the Colony.⁵ Robb is believed to have anchored his ship *Leda* south of Catherine Point when he arrived to take up his grant.⁶

In 1830 and 1831, smaller grants between Robb's land (later referred to locally as 'Robb's Grant') and the coast were awarded to Charles Macfaull (north, Location 5) and Henry Edward Hall (south, Location 4), the latter accessed from Catherine's Point, at the north of Owen's Anchorage.⁷ Hall soon relocated to Mandurah, and his land was sold in 1863 to Charles Manning, who established himself in the area and later made a claim for Robb's Grant. All of these early landholdings were east

³ Crawford, I M, 'Aboriginal cultures in Western Australia', & Hallam, S, 'The First West Australians', in *A New History of Western Australia*, C T Stannage (ed.), UWA Press, 1981, pp.16-20, 56-66; Meagher, S & Ride, W D L, 'Use of natural resources by the Aborigines of south-western Australia', & Berndt, R M 'Aborigines of the South-West', in *Aborigines of the West: Their Past and Present*, R M Berndt & C H Berndt, (eds.), UWA Press, 1908, p. 76-77, 81-86; Vinnicombe, P, 'Gooninup: a site complex on the southern side of Mount Eliza: an historical perspective of land use and associations in the old Swan Brewery area, Western Australian Museum', 1989, pp.8-9; Strawbridge, L, *Aboriginal Sites in the Perth Metropolitan Area: A Management Scheme*, Department of Aboriginal Sites, Western Australian Museum, 1988, pp. 10-16.

⁴ *Beeliar Boodjar: An introduction to the Aboriginal History of the City of Cockburn based on existing literature*, City of Cockburn, 2016; 'About the Whadjuk Region,' *Kaartdijin Noongar – Noongar Knowledge* website, accessed 20 August 2019, <https://www.noongarculture.org.au/whadjuk/>

⁵ Michael Berson, *Cockburn: the Making of a Community*, Town of Cockburn, 1978, pp.19-23

⁶ SHO Register Documentation, P16120 *South Beach Horse Exercise Area*, March 2007, p.4

⁷ *Inquirer and Commercial News*, Wednesday 25 January 1888, p.3
<http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/article/66084578>

of Clarence Road, which roughly followed the alignment of the later railway to Robb Jetty. In 1854, what had been Macfaull's land was acquired by John Wellard, who had the contract to supply fresh meat to the Convict Establishment. Wellard used the land for a slaughterhouse and to hold sheep acquired from the Victoria Plains.⁸

The land between the coastal limestone ridge and the inland chain of lakes was held in pastoral leases through to the 1870s, before being largely purchased by pastoralists following legal changes in this decade. From the 1880s, the area along the coastal ridge began to be settled, mostly in smaller holdings granted to new immigrants, including many pensioner guards and ticket-of-leave men. The coastal strip became an industrialised area, described as 'Fremantle's backyard', where any potentially offensive industry was located. This included smelting works, slaughterhouse operated by Copley & Co on Wellard's former land, explosives magazine, a piggery and bacon factory, lime kilns, and two abattoirs operated by Kimberley pastoralists.⁹

The two Kimberley-linked slaughterhouses, run by Forest Emanuel & Co and Connor Doherty & Durack, were both close to the site of Robb Jetty (fmr). The former controlled shipping and stock from the West Kimberley, the latter from the East Kimberley. As there was no cold storage, the companies pastured the stock on their land nearby.¹⁰ Both businesses primarily received live stock from pastoral stations in the north of the State.¹¹ Prior to construction of the jetty, animals were unloaded in the water and swum to shore.¹²

In September 1876, £250 was added to government estimates 'for the construction of a boat-jetty, at Catherine's Point, for the convenience of the shipping in Owen's Anchorage', with tenders for the work called in May 1877 in the *Government Gazette*.¹³ Historical data is conflicted but suggests Robb Jetty was built around this time, although cattle from the Northwest were still being swum to shore upon arrival at Owen's Anchorage as late as 1891.¹⁴

A photograph dated c.1890 shows the extended jetty feeding cattle into a race accessing three yards. At least ten ships are shown, almost all sailing vessels (anchored offshore) with one steamer pulled up at the jetty. The jetty has high fenced sides clearly designed for confining stock.¹⁵ Cattle were transferred from

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- 8 Michael Berson, *Cockburn: the Making of a Community*, Town of Cockburn, 1978, pp.19-23, 34
- 9 Michael Berson, *Cockburn: the Making of a Community*, Town of Cockburn, 1978, pp. 46, 99
- 10 Michael Berson, *Cockburn: the Making of a Community*, Town of Cockburn, 1978, pp.100-101
- 11 Martin Gibbs & Fiona Bush, 'The Robb Jetty Abattoir Site: Archaeological Report', prepared for the Heritage Council of Western Australia and the Department of Trade and Commerce, October 1995, p.3
- 12 Martin Gibbs & Fiona Bush, 'The Robb Jetty Abattoir Site: Archaeological Report', 1995, pp.3&22
- 13 *Inquirer and Commercial News*, Wednesday 13 September 1876, p.1S, <http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/article/66302137>; *Inquirer and Commercial News*, Wednesday 9 May 1877, p.3 <http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/article/66304130>
- 14 *West Australian*, Thursday 13 February 1936, p.19 <http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/article/32988930>; *West Australian*, Tuesday 29 September 1891, p.5 <http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/article/3025357>; *Inquirer and Commercial News*, Friday 20 November 1891, p.5 <http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/article/69703939>; *Western Mail*, Saturday 22 August 1891, p.14 <http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/article/33067448>; *West Australian*, Saturday 15 August 1891, p.4 <http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/article/3023491>
- 15 Fremantle History Centre, Image collection, Image 4816 c.1890 <http://cdm16702.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/singleitem/collection/myfirst/id/5177/rec/1>

vessels to the jetty using a sling.¹⁶ The image seems to show a shorter jetty than a 1920s image and is likely to be the original jetty.¹⁷

In 1894, the Government appointed Mr Matt Price to extend 'what is known as Robb's jetty' at Owen's Anchorage and construct associated stockyards. The extension added 545 feet to the jetty, allowing it to reach deeper water so that cattle could be unloaded onto the jetty rather than swum to shore.¹⁸ A well was also sunk to provide water to the jetty and the yards.¹⁹ The new jetty was described as 'a remarkably fine structure, designed specially [*sic*] for the landing of live stock'.²⁰ Soon after its construction, in January 1895, a portion of the decking was destroyed by fire.²¹

In 1898, the government constructed the much-anticipated rail link from Fremantle Port to Robb Jetty. This had been requested by shipping and commercial interests in the area for some years. As it was such a short length and used an existing roadway for part of its route, the work was completed by Departmental labour.²²

By the 1890s, almost all of Perth's meat supply came from the northwest. The slaughterhouses run by Forest Emanuel & Co and Connor Doherty & Durack known as the 'Kimberley Meat Ring' monopolised domestic meat supply to the Metropolitan area and the goldfields and were accused of causing excessively high prices for meat.²³ As late as 1899, Connor Doherty & Durack continued to erect new quarantine facilities near to Robb Jetty, and by 1905, the two abattoirs near Robb Jetty were operated by Forrest Emanuel & Co (which included Premier John Forrest's brother Alexander) and Copley & Co.²⁴

Government involvement in the industry, through State-run sale yards and abattoirs, was seen as a means to break this monopoly, as by the early 1900s a government abattoir was operating at Kalgoorlie. The Scaddan government's *Government Trading Concerns Act* (1912) initiated a wide array of government industries, including abattoirs at Wyndham, North Fremantle and Midland.²⁵

However, Henry Lefroy's Liberal government, which had replaced Scaddan in 1917, was not keen to continue the system of State industries Scaddan had initiated and opted instead to provide government financial support to a private

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- 16 *Daily News*, Monday 19 June 1893, p.3 <http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/article/76922213>
- 17 Compare with https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Robb_Jetty1920s.jpg accessed 22 June 2015
- 18 *Western Mail*, Saturday 3 March 1894, p.34 <http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/article/33100314> (quote); *Southern Times*, Thursday 22 March 1894, p.3 <http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/article/157514675> ; *West Australian*, Monday 27 August 1894, p.4 <http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/article/3065893>
- 19 *Inquirer and Commercial News*, Friday 17 May 1895, p.8 <http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/article/66261450>
- 20 *Inquirer and Commercial News*, Friday 18 January 1895, p.5 <http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/article/66264007>
- 21 *Inquirer and Commercial News*, Friday 18 January 1895, p.5 <http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/article/66264007>
- 22 *West Australian*, Saturday 14 May 1898, p.6 <http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/article/3203281>
- 23 Jo Bloomfield, 'Australian Abattoirs', <https://australianabattoirs.wordpress.com> accessed 19 June 2015; *Westralian Worker*, Friday 19 January 1912, p.2 <http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/article/149831337>; *West Australian*, Saturday 5 February 1898 p.3, <http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/article/3194349>; Michael Berson, *Cockburn: the Making of a Community*, Town of Cockburn, 1978, pp.100-101
- 24 *West Australian*, Tuesday 7 February 1905, p.7 <http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/article/25373737>; *West Australian*, Wednesday 18 January 1899, p.3 <http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/article/3208279>
- 25 *Westralian Worker*, Friday 19 January 1912, p.2 <http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/article/149831337>; Robin Chinnery & Rosemary Rosario, Draft assessment documentation, P17617 Midland Saleyards, May 2007 (amended June 2007), pp.6-9; SHO database, P04554 Wyndham Meatworks (fmr)

company, with a government representative on the board and the government retaining the right to buy out the company if it became a monopoly.²⁶ In 1918, the West Australian Meat Exports Co. Ltd. was formed with the intention of establishing a meat freezing works in Fremantle for the export market.²⁷

Sites at Arthurs Head and Robb Jetty were considered for the new works with the Robb Jetty site eventually chosen, as it was both close enough to the port to minimise transportation and far enough from population centres so as 'not to become obnoxious', and the area had a long history with meat works.²⁸ The land, approximately 30 acres, was leased from the government on a 21-year lease, with the option for later renewals or government purchase the works.²⁹

By this time increasingly heavy steamships had taken their toll on Robb Jetty. By 1909, the Fremantle Harbour Trust was complaining to the government that the jetty was in such poor condition that 'if something were not done towards strengthening and improving it a serious disaster might occur at any moment'.³⁰ Although initially the government resisted works to the jetty, claiming funds should not be allocated until the future location of abattoirs was settled, in 1910 the PWD included 'Robbs Jetty extension' on its list of proposed works at government estimates.³¹

The Melbourne engineering firm D'Ebro, Meldrum and Wagstaff was appointed to oversee the meat works, as they had relevant specialist engineering experience, with D'Ebro sent to Perth for the planning stages. A South Australian government expert, Mr G.A.W. Pope, was brought to Perth to advise the company, with the government signing off on all plans in 1919.³²

The new abattoir buildings included a two-storey slaughterhouse, with sheep handled on the upper floor and cattle and pigs below, and a two-storey cool storage. The cool rooms were lined with jarrah and insulated with charcoal, and could be subdivided to allow for storage of fruit, vegetables and butter if required. 'Liberal use' was made of concrete and water supply, in the interests of hygiene, and 'novel' system of shuts was installed to convey waste and secondary products away from the slaughter floors.³³ The buildings were described as 'lofty and well lighted and ventilated', with 'only the pure air of the sea' crossing the floors, due to many louvres.³⁴

Initially exclusively an export facility, it was anticipated that the two-storey buildings would in time be expanded to also meet domestic demand. The initial works were to provide freezing capacity for around 1,500 sheep carcasses per day, with a total storage capacity of around 50,000. Slaughtering works were to allow for killing around 100 head of cattle per day, and there were also provisions for slaughter of

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- ²⁶ *Kalgoorlie Miner*, Monday 30 December 1918, p.4 <http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/article/92722748>
²⁷ *West Australian*, Friday 7 March 1919, p.8 <http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/article/27597592>
²⁸ *Kalgoorlie Miner*, Monday 30 December 1918, p.4 <http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/article/92722748>; *Daily News*, Monday 19 May 1919, p.5 <http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/article/81391663>
²⁹ *West Australian*, Monday 3 March 1919, p.5 <http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/article/27597032>
³⁰ *Western Mail*, Saturday 21 August 1909, p.4 <http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/article/37585284>
³¹ *Western Mail*, Saturday 21 August 1909, p.4 <http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/article/37585284>; *West Australian*, Tuesday 25 January 1910, p.5 <http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/article/26247840>
³² *Daily News*, Monday 19 May 1919, p.5 <http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/article/81391663>
³³ *West Australian*, Monday 6 June 1921, p.5 <http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/article/27965727>
³⁴ *Western Mail*, Thursday 2 February 1922, p.8 <http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/article/38871810>

pigs.³⁵ The works were to use the natural fall of the site, with stock yards and lairages at the highest ground and the process ending on lower land. The rail connection was constructed first, to allow materials for the remaining construction to be brought to site. The whole plant was to be electrically operated, which was novel enough at the time that the fact was specifically reported in the newspapers.³⁶

In 1921, dredging off Fremantle deepened the channels around Garden Island, and it was proposed that extending Robb Jetty by around 400ft would reach it into deep water, around 40ft, and enable large ships to unload stock for the new abattoir.³⁷ Robb Jetty remained the site where 'practically all of the water-borne stock are landed', avoiding transporting animals through populated suburbs.³⁸

Slaughtering of sheep for export began at the new abattoir in October 1922.³⁹ Although initially intended as an export facility only, changes had been made during the construction phases to cater also for domestic markets. Stock were conveyed to the site by rail, and frozen carcasses transported to the main port for export.⁴⁰ The first general manager of the works was Mr Urquhart, who had also been involved in erection of the plant.⁴¹

The government had, in the end, loaned more than half the funds for the project, despite misgivings about the delays in construction. It was recognised that the business would need government support for some time to be viable.⁴² As loans in the establishment phase totalled over £100,000, there was considerable opposition to continue to prop up the company.⁴³

In the 1920s, the abattoir operated as 'Fremantle Freezing and Meat Works'. It included cold storage for potatoes and fruit, manufacturing ice and wool scouring in addition to slaughtering animals and butchering meat. Several thousand lambs were slaughtered each year, a fraction of the number processed at the plant in later years.⁴⁴

Funds were allocated in 1923 to replace the piles along a portion of Robb Jetty. The structure deteriorated rapidly on account of its relatively exposed position.⁴⁵

A photograph dated c.1920s shows a large steamship berthed at Robb Jetty, with cattle being swum from the ship to the beach.⁴⁶ This suggests that construction of the jetty had still not ended the practice of swimming stock to shore, despite some animals drowning when unloaded in this manner. However, the image shows the jetty with high sides, indicating it was also being used for stock.

35 *Western Mail*, Friday 23 May 1919, p.9 <http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/article/37611678>

36 *Daily News*, Monday 19 May 1919, p.5 <http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/article/81391663>

37 *West Australian*, Monday 6 June 1921, p.5 <http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/article/27965727>

38 *Western Mail*, Thursday 2 February 1922, p.8 <http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/article/38871810>

39 *West Australian*, Tuesday 14 November 1922, p.6 <http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/article/23879552>

40 *West Australian*, Thursday 16 November 1922, p.7 <http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/article/23879806>

41 *West Australian*, Friday 12 October 1923, p.11 <http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/article/31193483>

42 *West Australian*, Thursday 16 November 1922, p.7 <http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/article/23879806>

43 *West Australian*, Thursday 29 November 1923, p.7 <http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/article/31202183>

44 Martin Gibbs & Fiona Bush, 'The Robb Jetty Abattoir Site: Archaeological Report', 1995, p.3

45 *West Australian*, Thursday 25 January 1923, p.8 <http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/article/23885793>

46 https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Robb_Jetty1920s.jpg accessed 22 June 2015

Other images suggest that by the 1920s rails had been laid down Robb Jetty and a small hut added midway along its length, where the jetty widened out.⁴⁷

Stockmen herded animals that arrived by sea through a race running southwest to northeast across the northern end of the abattoir site, into holding pens in the grounds of the abattoir. Land in the Coogee and Hamilton Hill areas was used for holding paddocks prior to large cold storage facilities being developed at the abattoir. Some pastoralists with large holdings hired trains in lambing season to carry their stock to the place.⁴⁸

From the mid-1930s, there were calls for Robb Jetty to be renovated or completely rebuilt, with some suggesting the structure was by then sixty years old.⁴⁹ All cattle from the Northwest were reported to be unloaded at Robb Jetty in this period.⁵⁰

By this period the abattoir was capable of storing 1,200 carcasses, the refrigeration provided via electric power supplied from P3318 *East Perth Power Station*.⁵¹ The boiler at the site appears to be used for the purposes of rendering slaughtered animals of products such as tallow; however more research may uncover other uses for this structure. The rendering operations did however cause a noxious smell which was the subject of complaint in Fremantle for a number of years.⁵²

In the 1930s, the company expanded the Robb Jetty abattoir works. A new mutton dressing floor was installed in 1936 and three extra dressing chains added in 1938, doubling the facility's capacity. Additional cold storage was also added to cater for the increased output, including a four-storey cold store completed in 1941.⁵³ The latter building was designed by Oldham, Boas and Ednie-Brown and constructed by Fairweather and Son, beginning in 1938.⁵⁴

By the 1940s, the West Australian Meat Export Company was in financial difficulties. Commonwealth intervention in 1941 failed to rescue the business and the company requested that the State Government buy out the private shareholders.⁵⁵ Consequently, the *West Australian Meat Works Act 1942* enacted full government ownership from 1 July that year, the abattoir being considered essential as part of the war effort.⁵⁶ Under Government ownership, facilities were expanded in 1943 and operations diversified into fruit storage and the processing of egg pulp, turtles and crayfish.⁵⁷ A post-war logo for the West Australian Meat

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- 47 Fremantle History Centre, Image collection, Image 2500 c.1920s
<http://cdm16702.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/singleitem/collection/myfirst/id/3808/rec/4> ; Image 1478A, no date,
<http://cdm16702.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/singleitem/collection/myfirst/id/1840/rec/1>
- 48 Martin Gibbs & Fiona Bush, 'The Robb Jetty Abattoir Site: Archaeological Report', 1995, pp.3&22
- 49 *West Australian*, Wednesday 28 October 1936, p.10 <http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/article/40971979> ; *West Australian*, Thursday 13 February 1936, p.19 <http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/article/32988930>
- 50 *Western Mail*, Thursday 20 May 1937, p.20 <http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/article/38908117>
- 51 'Frozen Lamb Trade', *The Daily News*, 27 September 1930, p. 11
- 52 *Sunday Times*, 9 June 1935, p. 2; *The West Australian*, 9 December 1940, p. 5; *The West Australian*, 22 January 1941, p. 11
- 53 Martin Gibbs & Fiona Bush, 'The Robb Jetty Abattoir Site: Archaeological Report', 1995, p.4
- 54 *West Australian*, Saturday 2 April 1938, p.9 <http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/article/41673777>
- 55 Martin Gibbs & Fiona Bush, 'The Robb Jetty Abattoir Site: Archaeological Report', 1995, pp.3-4
- 56 State Records Office WA, Agency Listing, West Australian Meat Export Works (Agency 802); Martin Gibbs & Fiona Bush, 'The Robb Jetty Abattoir Site: Archaeological Report', 1995, pp.3-4
- 57 Martin Gibbs & Fiona Bush, 'The Robb Jetty Abattoir Site: Archaeological Report', 1995, p.4

Export Works lists the company's operations as 'abattoir, cold storage, ice and fertilizer works; exporters of frozen meat, meat products and tallow'.⁵⁸

The 1953 photograph also shows that the core buildings that remained at the abattoir's closure in 1992 were already in place at this time, including the slaughter floors, maintenance workshops, boiler house and chimney, by-products area, boning room and the northern portion of cool rooms. Between 1953 and 1965, extensive additional cool rooms were added at the south end of the abattoir complex, increasing by about 50% the land area on site covered by fridges and freezers. In the same period, large covered lairages were constructed at the north of the site, with smaller buildings, possibly earlier pens and shelters, removed from the northern perimeter of the site.⁵⁹ From at least the 1960s, the southeast portion of the site contained holding pens and, along the eastern boundary, some grass paddocks. The hard-surfaced holding pens were separated from the paddocks by a line of trees, planted in the early 1950s. These trees remain extant in 2015.⁶⁰

In 1970, a new beef floor was added, with associated cold storage. A large new administrative office building was added in the early 1970s. Additional buildings were constructed in 1976. The German-style beef floor was removed in the early 1980s as it had not proved successful. In 1977, Wesfarmers constructed a modern processing area to collect bone stock for soup, but quickly found there was insufficient bone stock to make the venture viable. Plant was subsequently removed and the building used for other purposes.⁶¹

In the early period, waste from the abattoir was discharged directly into the ocean, but another post-war development was an effluent treatment plant built on site to remove solids and the remainder was sent into the main sewerage system.⁶²

An aerial photograph from 1953 shows Robb Jetty as a single, straight structure, widening some distance from the shore so that approximately a third of the structure, closest to the shore, was single width and the remaining two thirds double width.⁶³ A 1965 aerial photograph shows Robb Jetty still intact. Sand movement had caused the waterline to retreat since 1953, with more than half the narrow portion of the jetty now over land and a considerable portion buried in the dunes.⁶⁴

Slaughtering of pigs, sheep and cattle initially used the 'single kill' method, where one worker did all the stages of killing and preparation, from fetching an animal from the pens to ticketing the prepared meat. This was a relatively slow approach to the work.⁶⁵ Gradually, as standards changed, the abattoir moved towards a production line process rather than single kill. This 'chain' method separated out stages of the process to different workers, and was much faster, allowing the

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- 58 Alexander Simon, 'Robbs Jetty Abattoir', undated memoir in SHO collection (c.2000), p.1
- 59 Aerial photographs, 1953 and 1965, Landgate Mapviewer; Martin Gibbs & Fiona Bush, 'The Robb Jetty Abattoir Site: Archaeological Report', 1995, site map (np)
- 60 Aerial photographs, 1953, 1965, 1974, 1977, 1985, 2015, Landgate Mapviewer
- 61 Martin Gibbs & Fiona Bush, 'The Robb Jetty Abattoir Site: Archaeological Report', 1995, pp.4-6, 15, 17, 19-20; Aerial photographs 1965, 1974 & 1977, Landgate Mapviewer.
Note: the 1977 image appears to show the Bone Stock building under construction.
- 62 Martin Gibbs & Fiona Bush, 'The Robb Jetty Abattoir Site: Archaeological Report', 1995, p.22
- 63 Aerial photograph, 1953, Landgate Mapviewer
- 64 Aerial photographs, 1965 and 1974, Landgate Mapviewer
- 65 Martin Gibbs & Fiona Bush, 'The Robb Jetty Abattoir Site: Archaeological Report', 1995, pp.11&15

place's overall output to increase markedly. Animals were carried along on a rail, keeping the carcass off the floor to improve hygiene. Workers were on platforms at varying levels, depending on the task, and as the carcasses were continually moving, they also had to move along their platforms.⁶⁶

The nature of the work required a largely seasonal, casual workforce, as animals were generally slaughtered through spring. At peak there could be up to 600 workers on site and 10,000 animals slaughtered a day, and in low seasons the workforce reduced by two-thirds, slaughtering only 1,000 animals per day.⁶⁷

Many women were employed at the factory. Although some worked at the actual slaughtering, most did ticketing, branding, trimming, packaging and bagging carcasses. In the earlier periods, fathers and sons often worked together in the slaughterhouse, creating a close-knit working community, but as mechanisation increased the intergenerational links broke down. However, social facilities were provided on site, including a tennis court and cricket pitch, and the company supported its own football team with uniforms and equipment. The workers, many of whom were casual employees, came from across a wide suburban area and many ethnic groups, unlike at the larger Midland abattoir workforce, which was predominantly very local and largely Italian and Slavic origins.⁶⁸

Aboriginal stockmen travelling from the Northwest with the cattle camped in the dunes near the jetty during the *Robb Jetty (ruin) and Abattoir Chimney (fmr)*, Coogee's period of operation, living along areas that had been inhabited by Noongars for generations. The Aboriginal stockmen who lived in the Robb Jetty Camps worked moving the stock from the beach into holding pens and paddocks. Two notable figures in these camps were Wandi, who began working in the abattoirs and went on to be a respected racehorse handler, and Black Paddy, a stockman and boxer. Another Aboriginal man who worked at *Robb Jetty (ruin) and Abattoir Chimney (fmr)*, Coogee was Simon Gentle, a Stock Agent representative.⁶⁹ Noongar children who grew up living in the beachside camps remember the smell of the tanners, and being warned by their parents not to swim after 3pm, as this was when the abattoir discharged its blood and offal into the ocean, which attracted sharks.⁷⁰ In addition to this, local Aboriginal men worked handling the stock at the abattoir or on the killing floor.⁷¹

Hygiene requirements in the 1970s were pressuring output levels, and a feasibility study resulted in operational changes, including some building works. By the mid-1980s, however, the cost-effectiveness of the place was becoming questionable. By this time the place was almost exclusively serving the export market, including

66 Martin Gibbs & Fiona Bush, 'The Robb Jetty Abattoir Site: Archaeological Report', 1995, pp.11&14

67 Martin Gibbs & Fiona Bush, 'The Robb Jetty Abattoir Site: Archaeological Report', 1995, p.7

68 Martin Gibbs & Fiona Bush, 'The Robb Jetty Abattoir Site: Archaeological Report', 1995, pp.7-8, 10

69 SHO Register Documentation, P16120 *South Beach Horse Exercise Area*, March 2007, pp.4, 6 & 11
Note: the Department of Aboriginal Affairs has a site registered as Robb Jetty Camp – Site ID 3707, which stretches along the beach and sand dunes from the termination of Ocean Drive south to the boundary of P3381 *South Fremantle Power Station* (RHP); Cook, D, *That was my home: Voices from the Noongar camps in Fremantle and the Western Suburbs*, UWA Publishing, 2019, pp. 68-73

70 *ibid.* pp. 95-96

71 'Patrick Hume Interviewed for the City of Cockburn Aboriginal History Project (2001)', City of Cockburn Library Website, accessed 20 August 2019, <https://www.cockburnlibraries.com.au/blog/podcasts/patrick-hume-aboriginal-oral-history-project/>

the USA, Canada, Europe and the Middle East, the latter requiring halal slaughter to meet the needs of Muslim consumers.⁷²

One requirement of halal slaughter was Muslim employees to take 'first blood'. The halal slaughter was audited by visiting Muslim clerics, who checked both that a Muslim was making the kill and that the animals were facing Mecca. The direction of Mecca from North Coogee was marked on the walls of the abattoir. A small prayer room was established in the employment office and used both by employees and the local Muslim community. It is thought the changes to ensure halal slaughter were made in the 1970s or possibly 1960s.⁷³

Former workers believe the move to halal certification also resulted in the end to handling pigs, with the pig slaughter line removed to improve the mutton and beef lines.⁷⁴

Increasing hygiene standards resulted in construction of additional ablution facilities on site, including substantial male and female change rooms, showers, lockers and laundry area. There were two canteens, initially for day and night workers, but later separating beef and mutton workers, as beef workers were not permitted to cross the mutton floor to reach the main canteen due to potential contamination of the meat. In later periods of operation, mutton and beef workers were mostly socially separate groups. Those who handled viscera had a separate ablutions area on account of the smell.⁷⁵

In 1975, government abattoirs and saleyards were taken over by the Western Australian Meat Commission.⁷⁶ This agency abolished the West Australian Meat Export Company and brought Midland and Robb Jetty together under one organisational structure.⁷⁷

Recent reports have stated that around this time Robb Jetty was 'burnt and dismantled'. By June 1977, aerial photographs indicate the jetty had been completely removed, although as the image appears to have been taken at high tide, it is possible sections remained that would be visible at low water. The jetty was reportedly 265 metres long at the time of its removal.⁷⁸ After this point sheep and cattle were brought to the abattoir by trucks.⁷⁹

Aerial photographs of the Coogee area in 1974 also show the slow encroachment of residential areas from the north and west into what had been industrial or market garden areas. While this residential growth reached its limit by the mid-1980s, it was accompanied by the demolition of industrial building in the 1990s.⁸⁰

With the expansion of the live export trade to Indonesia in the 1990s, the factory continued to operate at a loss and the government decided to close it.⁸¹ In 1992,

⁷² Martin Gibbs & Fiona Bush, 'The Robb Jetty Abattoir Site: Archaeological Report', 1995, pp.5-6

⁷³ Martin Gibbs & Fiona Bush, 'The Robb Jetty Abattoir Site: Archaeological Report', 1995, pp.8&15

⁷⁴ Alexander Primosi, 'Robbs Jetty Abattoir', undated memoir in SHO collection (c.2000), pp.1-2

⁷⁵ Martin Gibbs & Fiona Bush, 'The Robb Jetty Abattoir Site: Archaeological Report', 1995, p.9

⁷⁶ Chinnery & Rosario, Draft assessment documentation, P17617 Midland Saleyards, 2007, pp.13-14

⁷⁷ State Records Office WA, Agency Listing, West Australian Meat Export Works (Agency 802)

⁷⁸ Aerial photographs, 1965 and 1974, Landgate Mapviewer; SHO Register Documentation, P16120 *South Beach Horse Exercise Area*, March 2007, p.9

⁷⁹ Martin Gibbs & Fiona Bush, 'The Robb Jetty Abattoir Site: Archaeological Report', 1995, p.22

⁸⁰ Aerial photographs, 1965, 1974, 1985, 1999, Landgate Mapviewer

⁸¹ Beth Johnston, 'Push for northern abattoir', in *Farm Weekly (online)*, 27 June 2010,

Robb Jetty Abattoir ceased operation and in December 1994 all plant was removed from the building. In 1995, the buildings were demolished, with the exception of the chimney. An archival record was compiled midway through the demolition process of the buildings and structures that remained.⁸²

With the closure of the large metropolitan abattoirs, the functions of Robb Jetty Abattoir largely transferred to Katanning, or to a number of smaller private abattoirs across the State.⁸³

In 1997, restoration works to Abattoir Chimney (fmr) were completed, commissioned by Landcorp and with Heritage Council approval, including cleaning, repairing and stabilising the brickwork.

In the late 1990s, the North Coogee Landscape Project resulted in landscaping of the beach dune area, including installing interpretative sculpture marking the access between Robb Jetty and the abattoir site. The artwork, created by sculptor Tony Jones, was named 'Human Race' and constructed of metal to imitate a cattle race, with images of cattle on the race fencing and two windvanes with livestock imagery.⁸⁴

The former industrial land at *Robb Jetty (ruin) and Abattoir Chimney (fmr), Coogee*, including sites of the former abattoir, smelting works, rail marshalling yards is in the process of redevelopment for commercial and residential use, in conjunction with the adjacent P3381 *South Fremantle Power Station* (extant). Aerial photographs indicate that the northern portion of this former industrial land, closest to South Beach, has been redeveloped over the past ten years, but the southern section, including the abattoir site, has had little change in this time and in 2017 remains mostly vacant land.⁸⁵

13.2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

Robb Jetty (ruin) and Abattoir Chimney (fmr), Coogee consists of the Abattoir Chimney (fmr), a brick chimney built c.1919, and the only extant structure from the abattoir demolished in 1995, and Robb Jetty (ruin), the subsurface and underwater remnants of the timber jetty established in c.1877 that was demolished c.1975.

Abattoir Chimney (fmr)

Abattoir Chimney (fmr) lies in an empty field between Bennett Avenue and Robb Road, Coogee, as well as behind the main sand dune system of the shoreline. The local environment consists of patchy grasses and a mix of native and introduced trees, including Athel Pines (*Tamarix philoxeroides*), Moreton Bay Figs (*Ficus macrophylla*), Tuart (*Eucalyptus gomphocephala*) and *Acacia* sp.⁸⁶ The lot on which Abattoir Chimney (fmr) stands is surrounded by a wire mesh fence topped with barbed wire.

<http://www.farmweekly.com.au/news/agriculture/agribusiness/general-news/push-for-northern-abattoir/1867666.aspx> accessed 19 June 2015

82 Martin Gibbs & Fiona Bush, 'The Robb Jetty Abattoir Site: Archaeological Report', 1995, pp.5-6

83 Martin Gibbs & Fiona Bush, 'The Robb Jetty Abattoir Site: Archaeological Report', 1995, p.5

84 SHO Register Documentation, P16120 *South Beach Horse Exercise Area*, March 2007, p.16

85 Aerial photographs, 2000 to 2015, Landgate mapviewer

86 GHD *Report for Cockburn Coast; Robb Jetty Ecological Assessment*, Landcorp, 2012, Attachment C, p. 7; http://www.cockburn.wa.gov.au/documents/CouncilServices/CityDevlpmt/PROJECTS/Cockburn_Coast_2012/Em_Ecolog_Assess.pdf

Abattoir Chimney (fmr) itself faces southeast, determined from the face on which the opening once functioned. The overall structure measures approximately 28 m high and is the traditional chimney stack of a circular tube tapering towards the top, with an ornamental crown.⁸⁷

The firebox at the base is a rectangular cube, approximately 3 m by 3 m at the base and 3.2 m high, constructed of brick and laid in an English bond. The former opening is still apparent on the southeast face, a triple layer of voussoirs over a stretcher bond section where the opening has been filled in.

The chimney offset is not apparent; the interface between the rectangular firebox and the round stack has been covered by concrete. This takes the dramatic form of a square pyramid from which the stack erupts. Photos of Abattoir Chimney (fmr) from August 1995 indicate that this was part of the original structure.⁸⁸

The stack is similarly constructed of brick laid in English bond, 2.8 m in diameter where it meets the firebox and tapering gently towards the crown.⁸⁹ The thickness of the wall similarly reduces in thickness from 470mm at the base to 230 mm at the top.⁹⁰ The crown consists of a triple layer of corbelled brick, which leads up to two projecting lips encircling the stack. The lips are separated by a series of projecting brick piers, creating the effect of encircling brick pillars. Above this lies a final short stretch of stack which is capped with a metal plate.

Other metal additions to the structure include a series of metal rings on the stack and crown, and a thin metal strip running the length of the stack, connecting the concentric rings and the cap plate. This strip ends in a small metal aerial that acts as a lightning conductor. Photos of Abattoir Chimney (fmr) from August and December 1995 and tender documents for the restoration of the structure dated to 1997 indicate that these supports were already part of the chimney at this point.⁹¹ A more recent support for the structure is a metal frame encasing the firebox.

Between 2013-2014 Landcorp, managers of the site, undertook repair and maintenance works to Abattoir Chimney (fmr). This included repointing and re-bricking where required along the base, the removal of graffiti and application of a clear lacquer along the base, as well as the refitting and repairing steel bands along the stack.⁹²

An inspection of Abattoir Chimney (fmr) performed in April 2015 noted that the structure was in good condition for its age, although there was some mortar fretting throughout.

Robb Jetty (ruin)

Robb Jetty (ruin) extends southwest from South Beach, roughly west of Abattoir Chimney (fmr). There is an unsealed path from the dunes leading from the exposed jetty remnant to Robb Road, although this path does not extend through the Kwinana railway line further east to connect back to the Abattoir Chimney (fmr). The local environment consists of low dune system with open grassland of *Spinifex*

87 *Robb Jetty Chimney Restoration: Tender Document*, Landcorp, 1997, p. 1

88 Photos held by the State Heritage Office, PD 3211 *Robb Jetty (ruin) and Abattoir Chimney (fmr)*, Coogee

89 *Robb Jetty Chimney Restoration: Tender Document*, Landcorp, 1997, drawing no. 2332-99-S01

90 Martin Gibbs & Fiona Bush, 'The Robb Jetty Abattoir Site: Archaeological Report', 1995, pp. 21

91 *Robb Jetty Chimney Restoration: Tender Document*, Landcorp, 1997, p. 1

92 pers.comm. P Gazzone, Landcorp, 31 August 2015.

longifolius over weed dominated herb layer the areas of rehabilitation. Associated vegetation includes species of *Oleria*, *Atriplex*, *Asphodelus*, *Pelargonium* and *Tetragonia*.⁹³

The exposed portion of Robb Jetty (ruin) is approximately 25 m long and consists of 9 pairs of concrete pile remnants, each pile connected to its partner by a truss (assumed to be metal or concrete). A central structure runs the length of the exposed section, a reinforced metal effluence pipe that once serviced the Abattoir boilers.⁹⁴

The submerged section of Robb Jetty (ruin) lies in deeper water, separated from the exposed section by a gap of approximately 90 m. The submerged portion of Robb Jetty (ruin) is approximately 150 m long, consisting of successive groups of 4 timber log piles that once supported the jetty structure. The piles are approximately 60 cm in diameter, and composed of jarrah. The piles were cut when the jetty was demolished, the remnant piles towards the deepest and furthest end of the jetty being longer (up to 3 m) as they were not as much of a threat to boat movements as the timber piles closer to the surface. Numerous structural remnants are present in the vicinity of these piles, including timber trusses and metal fastenings.⁹⁵ Other artefacts in the area include bottles and modern debris such as car tyres.⁹⁶

The marine environment of the submerged section of the Robb Jetty (ruin) consists of coarse sand over submerged limestone ridges, with the major marine flora species consisting of a seagrass meadow (including *Posidonia* sp., *Amphibolis* sp. and *Halophila* sp.), with *Ecklonia* sp. kelps and various red and brown algae species attached to the piles. Animal species include sponges (*Porifera* sp.), starfish and shellfish (including *Crinoidea*, *Archaster* and *Turbo* sp.), octopus, cuttlefish as well as a variety of nearshore fin fish such as wrasse, boxfish, trumpeters and trevally.⁹⁷ The submerged timber piles have acted as bases for immediate ecosystem, although this has also degraded the timbers themselves. Both the exposed and submerged sections of Robb Jetty (ruin) have been covered in concretion from layers of marine biological growth.⁹⁸

Other sources of disturbance include the movement of objects by recreational divers and the exposure/concealing of cut timber pile bases through sand movement, particularly through the effect of artificial groynes on coastal currents.⁹⁹

The site is currently used as a recreational dive location, as well as for dive training and heritage training in marine archaeology.¹⁰⁰

93 Eco Logical Australia, *South Fremantle Power Station Master Plan*, Hassell, 2012, Attachment C, p. 3; http://www.cockburn.wa.gov.au/documents/CouncilServices/CityDevlpmt/Cockburn_Coast/Master_Plan_APP_ENDICES.pdf

94 pers.comm. P Baker, Dept. of Maritime Archaeology, WA Maritime Museum & Shipwreck Galleries, 9 November 2015.

95 *ibid.*

96 *ibid.*

97 *ibid.*; species list derived from *Marmion Marine Park Management Plan 1992-2002*, Dept of Conservation and Land Management, 1992, pp. 26, 29-32

98 pers.comm. P Baker, Dept. of Maritime Archaeology, WA Maritime Museum & Shipwreck Galleries, 9 November 2015.

99 *ibid.*

100 *ibid.*

13.3 COMPARATIVE INFORMATION

Abattoirs and Slaughterhouses

There are 22 places in the SHO database listed with the use 'abattoir', having the words 'abattoir', 'slaughterhouse' or 'meatworks' in their name. In addition to *Robb Jetty (ruin) and Abattoir Chimney (fmr)*, *Coogee*, one other place is on the Register:

- P11738 *Air Beef Abattoir and Aerodrome (ruins) and Glenroy Homestead*, West Kimberley (1947-1951), which provided a cattle slaughtering service to northwest pastoralists from 1949 to 1965, especially those on inland properties for whom shipping stock to abattoirs at Fremantle or Wyndham was challenging.

The other places noted above include formal abattoirs, meatworks and other meat-processing factories, and smaller private slaughterhouses in rural settings that directly supplied local butchers:

- P04554 Wyndham Meatworks (fmr) was established in 1913 as a government plant that operated from 1919 to 1985. Wyndham Meatworks was the main industry of the town and the social life of Wyndham revolved around abattoir's peak seasons.¹⁰¹ The place was added to the HCWA assessment program in 2005. At that time, the original meatworks building had been demolished, with only some structures remaining, including the drain, blacksmiths shop, store and office. In 2008, the place was reconsidered by the Register Committee and, in light of the dilapidated nature of the site, it was removed from the assessment program. The majority of the site has now been demolished.¹⁰²

At least six of the other abattoirs in the database are noted as sites only. Most appear to have been private operations, and generally much smaller than *Robb Jetty (ruin) and Abattoir Chimney (fmr)*, *Coogee*.

- P05128 Katanning Meatworks, constructed in 1973, appears to be the only operating abattoir noted in the database. It is owned and operated by the Western Australian Meat Marketing Co-op Ltd. A small c.1940 meatworks, P03126 Abattoir (fmr), East Rockingham, was determined in 2013 not to warrant assessment for entry into the Register. It is included in P03841 East Rockingham Heritage Precinct, which is in the assessment program. P17617 Midland Saleyards (1911) is immediately adjacent to the site of the former Midland Abattoir, and was incorporated into the abattoir operations after the latter was established in 1914. Midland Abattoir was a State government concern and the abattoir and saleyards together were the second largest employer in Midland through most of the twentieth century. The abattoir closed in 1981 and buildings have all been demolished.¹⁰³

¹⁰¹ SHO database, P04554 Wyndham Meatworks (fmr). Social history notes are from MI data.

¹⁰² The old flywheel is still extant, although this was intended for relocated to the Wyndham port in August 2016. *The Kimberley Echo*, 11 August 2016, 'Town celebrates 130th anniversary', Source: <https://au.news.yahoo.com/thewest/wa/a/32299845/town-celebrates-130th-anniversary/#page1>, Accessed 18 October 2016.

¹⁰³ Chinnery & Rosario, Draft assessment documentation, P17617 Midland Saleyards, 2007

A new abattoir for the Kimberley is currently under construction east of Derby and is scheduled to begin operations before the end of 2015.¹⁰⁴ Kimberley beef at present is processed at least in part at an abattoir in Gingin.¹⁰⁵

A website documenting Australian abattoirs lists thirteen active abattoirs in Western Australia, with the nearest to the Metropolitan area being at Wooroloo, and the northernmost being at Greenough. Another twelve are listed as no longer operating, including five in the Kimberley region.¹⁰⁶

Robb Jetty (ruin) and Abattoir Chimney (fmr), Coogee is rare as remnant fabric representative of an early abattoir, and the only remnant fabric in Western Australia of any large-scale pre-World War II abattoir and the only remnant of any of the government-operated abattoirs that dominated the meat industry in the State through the twentieth century.

Jetties

Between 1832 and 1942, at least 80 timber jetties for commercial shipping were built, modified, extended or replaced along the Western Australian coast. All were basic in design, mostly constructed of local hardwoods. Only three of these pre-1940s jetties remain substantially intact, all of which are on the Register:

- P00423 *Busselton Jetty* (1865-1911)
- P00831 *Tanker Jetty, Esperance* (1935)
- P04566 *One Mile Jetty and Tramway, Carnarvon* (1898-1959)

The SHO database lists 71 places with the use 'jetty', of which ten are on the State Register, including the three above. Eight of these are ocean structures and two are located in rivers. Two other ocean jetties are ruinous:

- P04222 *Eucla Jetty (Ruins), Abutment & Beach Landing* (1887-1898)
- P04231 *Norwegian Bay Whaling Station, Albany* (1915)

Another one has been demolished but remains Registered pending an interpretative outcome:

- P03402 *Bunbury Timber Jetty* (1864-1998)

Most of the other jetties on the Register are town jetties associated with the general shipping trade of the area. The two ruinous jetties noted above are both associated with specific industries; at Eucla, with supplies for construction and maintenance of the East-West Telegraph line, and at Albany, with a whaling and guano site. Both these places also retain ruins of the earlier industry. At Eucla, the telegraph station ruins are Registered as a separate place (P03558 *Eucla Telegraph Station (Ruin)*) while at Albany the whaling station and jetty ruins are part of the one Register entry.

One other Registered jetty associated with a specific industry is:

¹⁰⁴ Tyne McConnon, 'Kimberley abattoir on track for opening in second half of 2015', at *ABC Rural News (online)*, 17 March 2015, <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2015-03-17/kimberley-abattoir-months-away/6324912>, accessed 19 June 2015

¹⁰⁵ Flip Prior, 'Local beef a Kimberley first', at *West Australian (online)*, 21 November 2013, <https://au.news.yahoo.com/thewest/wa/a/15439581/local-beef-a-kimberley-first/> accessed 19 June 2015

¹⁰⁶ Jo Bloomfield, 'Australian Abattoirs', <https://australianabattoirs.wordpress.com> accessed 19 June 2015

- P04553 *Streeter's Jetty*, Broome, associated with the pearling industry.

A total of five jetties are noted in the State Heritage office database as being built specifically (or at least predominantly) for stock transport:

- P04566 *One Mile Jetty and Tramway*, Carnarvon (1898-1959)
- P04860 Old Broome Jetty site, now known as the Groyne Area: 1896-1897

Robb Jetty (ruin) is a representative example of the practice of building timber shipping jetties, and has some rarity as remnants of a nineteenth-century stock jetty.

Chimney Architecture

A search of the State Heritage Office database for examples of industrial chimneys is difficult, as this information is not always immediately apparent in the database entries. A search of all places with the word 'chimney' in the name returns 11 places, of which 5 are on the State Register, including *Robb Jetty (ruin)* and *Abattoir Chimney (fmr)*, Coogee. Of the remainder, 3 are comparable to the Abattoir Chimney (fmr); part of *Robb Jetty (ruin)* and *Abattoir Chimney (fmr)*, Coogee:

- P124 *Davies Park & Foundry Chimney* (RHP): a culturally modified landscape related to the Karridale mill, the masonry chimney was established c.1883 by M C Davies and remains the most obvious remnant of the mill operations.
- P868 *Bristle Kilns (fmr)*, Belmont (RHP): Established c.1910 by Piercy and Pitman, this kiln complex was one of the main industries of the area for decades. The beehive kilns and brick chimney stacks were established in the 1930s and are still extant. This place is listed on the State register at an Interim level.
- P1900 *Warribanno Smelter Complex Ruin* (RHP): comprises a group of foundry related structures, quarry cairns and associated vegetation, established 1849-1854. The chimney at the place consists of a square brick masonry structure that is associated with one of the earliest smelters in Australia.

State Trading Concern

A search of the State Heritage Office database for places directly associated State Trading Concern returns 3 places, all of which are on the State Register. A wider search based upon the comparative information for these and other places known to be State Trading Concerns increases this number to 9 places, 8 of which are entered in the State Register. These places include implement works, brickworks, timber mills, hotels and quarries. While *Robb Jetty (ruin)* and *Abattoir Chimney (fmr)*, Coogee is rare as a government-backed private enterprise that was converted to state control during World War II, places comparable as other State Trading Concerns include:

- P1463 *State Hotel (fmr)* (RHP): located in Gwalia, this two storey brick and iron building was established in 1903 as the state government's first state-managed hotel. This hotel was a significant part of the local town site until it closed in 1964.

- P11381 *Pemberton Timber Mill Worker's Cottages Precinct* (RHP): established c.1913, this complex of residences was built for State Sawmills employees and was an integral part of State Sawmills operations until 1961. The place is also significant in demonstrating the development of a community, the place including a teacher's house, boarding house and church.
- P15829 *Armadale State Brickworks Dust Room & Machinery Shed* (fmr) (RHP): Established in 1949, this industrial complex operated to extract fine aggregate for brick making. The place was a response by the state government to the construction boom following World War II, and employed a number of post-war migrants.
- P16788 *Government Quarries* (fmr) (RHP): Established in 1901 at Boya, this granite and diorite quarry included two crushing plans and a stretch of railway track. The place is significant as the only quarry established under the Government Trading Concerns Act and for demonstrating the development of quarrying in the state. The place was closed in 1942 and ceased to be State Trading Concern in 1950.
- P17617 *Midland Saleyards* (fmr): Established in 1911 as a private saleyard and then operated as a State Trading Concern from 1914, this place comprises timber and steel sheep pens, loading ramps, shelters, walkways rail lines and weigh stations. The place was the longest continuously operating saleyard in the stat until its closure in 2010. Structures from the life of this place are extant in 2017 however the place is scheduled for redevelopment.
- P22190 *Site of State Engineering Works*: Established in 1912, this industrial factory was a major employer in Fremantle, its activities including a foundry, steel fabrication, pattern making, woodworking and the sale/repair of farm machinery. The place was closed in 1987 and the building was demolished for residential development in 1988.

Conclusions

The comparative information for Abattoir Chimney (fmr) indicates that this place is very rare as a physical remnant of a substantial early 20th century abattoir, and is similarly rare as a remnant example of a State Trading Concern. The place can be considered rarer still if it is considered as an example of a State Trading Concern that dealt with the provision of meat, with the only comparable place in terms of scale and complexity being P17617 Midland Saleyards (fmr).

Robb Jetty (ruin) is a representative example of remnant late 19th/early 20th century timber stock jetty, and has some rarity in this regard. The place similarly is a representative example and has some rarity as an intact, early 20th century industrial brick chimney.

13. 4 KEY REFERENCES

Martin Gibbs & Fiona Bush, 'The Robb Jetty Abattoir Site: Archaeological Report', prepared for the Heritage Council of Western Australia and the Department of Trade and Commerce, October 1995.

The above document is also based on interviews with Mr Terry Dunham, Chief Engineer of the abattoir 1982 to 1992, who had also worked at Midland abattoir from 1955 to 1981. Mr Dunham was interviewed on-site at the time of demolition works.

13. 5 FURTHER RESEARCH

Further historic research may uncover other early uses for the boiler at the abattoir.