



# REGISTER OF HERITAGE PLACES

## Permanent Entry

1. **DATA BASE No.** 16522
2. **NAME** *Eyre Bird Observatory* (1897; 1977-78)  
**FORMER NAME** Eyre Telegraph Station  
Eyre's Sand Patch Telegraph Station
3. **LOCATION** 42 km SE of Cocklebiddy Roadhouse, Cocklebiddy
4. **DESCRIPTION OF PLACE INCLUDED IN THIS ENTRY**  
That portion of Crown Reserve 27632 including Nurina Location 14 as is defined by Heritage Council of Western Australia survey Drawing No. 16522 as prepared by Warren King & Company & Midland Survey Services.
5. **LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA** Dundas
6. **OWNER** State of Western Australia  
(vested in the WA Wildlife Authority)
7. **HERITAGE LISTINGS**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Register of Heritage Places:</li> <li>• National Trust Classification:</li> <li>• Town Planning Scheme:</li> <li>• Municipal Inventory:</li> <li>• Register of the National Estate:</li> </ul>	Interim Entry Permanent Entry   Adopted	27/06/2003 28/11/2003 ----- ----- 14/08/1995 -----
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8. **CONSERVATION ORDER**  
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9. **HERITAGE AGREEMENT**  
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10. **STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**  

*Eyre Bird Observatory*, a single-storey limestone former telegraph building with a corrugated iron hipped roof, constructed in 1897 in Federation Bungalow style, and an associated underground concrete water tank, has cultural heritage significance for the following reasons:

the place was an integral part of a network of telegraph stations that operated between 1897 and 1927, linking Western Australia with the eastern states and overseas through Adelaide;

the place was constructed in 1897 to replace the original 1877 telegraph station, at a time when the gold finds in the State had resulted in

greatly increased telegraph traffic requiring more staff and larger station buildings, and operated from 1897 to 1927 as a repeater station on the East-West Telegraph line, established in 1877;

the place is valued for the using local limestone, and the pleasing scale and proportion of the building, and is a significant element in the remote regional landscape of the Eyre coast.;

the place is a fine representative example of a Federation Bungalow style of regional telegraph office using local limestone, designed by the PWD under Chief Architect George Temple Poole and built with a pleasing scale and proportion, and is a significant element in the remote regional landscape of the Eyre coast;

the place is associated with expirée James Fleming who was involved in construction of the first private telegraph lines in the State in 1869-1872 and, as Superintendent of the Post and Telegraph Department, oversaw construction of the WA section of the East-West line, 1875-1877;

the place was an isolated government outpost in a very remote district, which served the needs of both the Government and the scattered population, with the Telegraph Master at Eyre filling a number of roles, including Customs Officer, Meteorological Observer and Landing Waiter;

the East-West Telegraph line, of which the place was an element, is valued by the Institution of Engineers Australia, WA Division, who have declared the line an engineering landmark, and by Australia Post who have assisted in the establishment of museums of local telegraph history at Eyre and Eucla; and,

since 1978, the place has been occupied by the Royal Australasian Ornithologists Union as an internationally recognised bird observatory.

The steel clad shed, solar powerhouse and detached asbestos toilet building are of little significance.