



**HERITAGE
COUNCIL**
OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

REGISTER OF HERITAGE PLACES

Register Entry

1. **DATA BASE No.** 3381
2. **NAME** *South Fremantle Power Station (1951)*
3. **LOCATION** Robb Street, Coogee
4. **DESCRIPTION OF PLACE INCLUDED IN THIS ENTRY**
 1. Portion of Lot 1 on Plan 17373 being part of the land contained in Certificate of Title Volume 1878 Folio 135
 2. Lot 2 on Plan 17373 being the whole of the land contained in Certificate of Title Volume 1878 Folio 136 and Lot 3 on Plan 17373 being the whole of the land comprised in Certificate of Title Volume 1878 Folio 137
 3. Portion of Lot 2161 on Deposited Plan 35641 and being part of the land contained in Crown Lease J012739 and part of the land contained in Crown Land Title Volume 3130 Folio 821
 4. Lot 2167 on Deposited Plan 37890 being Reserve 43701 and the whole of the land contained in Crown Land Title Volume LR3131 Folio 896
together as shown in HC Curtilage Map P3381-1
5. **LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA** City of Cockburn
6. **OWNER AT REGISTRATION**
 1. Electricity Networks Corporation (Western Power)
 2. Electricity Generation & Retail Corporation (Synergy)
 3. State of Western Australia (Lease to State Electricity Commission of Western Australia)
 4. State of Western Australia (Management Order to City of Cockburn)
7. **HERITAGE LISTINGS**
 - Register of Heritage Places: Interim Entry 28/10/1997
Registered 08/06/2021
 - National Trust Classification: -----
 - Town Planning Scheme: 14/07/2011
 - Municipal Inventory: 10/04/2014
 - Register of the National Estate: -----
 - Aboriginal Sites Register: -----

8. ORDERS UNDER SECTION OF THE ACT

9. HERITAGE AGREEMENT

10. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

South Fremantle Power Station, a high volume steel frame and concrete former coal-fired electric power station (1951), exhibiting a complementary mix of Art Deco, Inter War Functionalist and Stripped Classical stylistic elements, containing a former Boiler House, Turbine Room, Administration Offices and Laboratories, and Switch House, Coal Storage area, Groynes and Water Basin, has cultural heritage significance for the following reasons:

the place was the second and largest purpose-built thermal power station in Western Australia, a crucial element in the progressive development of Government-sponsored electric power generation in the State, and contributed to the establishment of the interconnected power grid of the South West Power Scheme;

the place is the only extant 1950s power station in Western Australia, and one of only two power stations of masonry construction in the State designed with such compelling architectural intent;

the place is a unique and finely designed large industrial building demonstrating a complementary mix of Art Deco, Inter War Functionalist and Stripped Classical stylistic elements that are characterised through its symmetry, windows, expansive light-filled interior spaces, expressive reinforced concrete structure, and broad horizontal skyline;

the place, by virtue of its size and rectilinear bulk in a sparse marine landscape, is a landmark viewed from both on and offshore, with its prominence further emphasized by the clearing away of other structures and trees to the north;

the place, which operated from the start at 50 cycles generation, facilitated the upgrading of power generation in Western Australia from 40 to 50 cycles, and was a significant technical achievement in the supply of electricity in Western Australia;

the place contributed to Western Australia's post-World War II reconstruction as a major employer of post war European migrants; and,

In the years following its closure, the place has achieved iconic status as a derelict industrial building, the vast interior of which exhibits extensive layers of graffiti of an ephemeral nature that is both representative of a subculture and highly valued by the local and wider community, having been documented on many websites and blogs that celebrate abandoned places, architecture and urban art.

Some significant elements have been removed including the plant and equipment, precipitators, conveyors and coal crushing plant, and in particular the landmark smoke stacks. All the remaining elements are significant, as elements of little or no significance have been removed from the site.