



**HERITAGE
COUNCIL**
OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

REGISTER OF HERITAGE PLACES – ASSESSMENT DOCUMENTATION

11. ASSESSMENT OF CULTURAL HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

The criteria adopted by the Heritage Council in November 1996 have been used to determine the cultural heritage significance of the place.

PRINCIPAL AUSTRALIAN HISTORIC THEME(S)

- 2.2 Adapting to diverse environments
- 3.4 Utilising natural resources
- 3.11.5 Establishing water supplies
- 4.5 Making settlements to serve rural Australia

HERITAGE COUNCIL OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA THEME(S)

- 107 Settlements
- 202 Rail and light rail transport

11.1 AESTHETIC VALUE*

Woolgangie Catchment, Reservoirs and Railway Settlement (ruin) is a well designed engineering system which captures runoff water and directs its flow through the use of rock walls and channels, into a reservoir for use, together with the water body of the reservoir and encroaching bushland, provides for an aesthetically pleasing environment. (Criterion 1.2)

The built features of *Woolgangie Catchment, Reservoirs and Railway Settlement (ruin)* together with the natural setting form a picturesque environment. (Criterion 1.3)

11.2. HISTORIC VALUE

Woolgangie Catchment, Reservoirs and Railway Settlement (ruin) is significant for its role as a water source for travellers on the Goldfields Road, when

* 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Canberra, 1991, with additional reference to Richards, O. *Theoretical Framework for Designed Landscapes in WA*, unpublished report, 1997.

horse/camel drawn transport was prevalent. It is also associated with the early telegraph communications between Perth and Kalgoorlie. (Criterion 2.1)

Woolgangie Catchment, Reservoirs and Railway Settlement (ruin) is significant for the role it played in the development of the Eastern Goldfields as it supplied the steam locomotives with the necessary water required to continue the journey to Coolgardie and Kalgoorlie. The railway was an integral part to the development and industrialisation of the goldfields, and the improvement in living standards for the numerous communities along the pipeline. (Criterion 2.2.)

The catchment is significant as it symbolises the importance of water in this part of the country and Western Australia generally. (Criterion 2.2)

Woolgangie Catchment and Reservoir is significant as a supplementary water source for the Goldfields Pipeline in 1971 to 1987 with the intention of reducing the demand on Mundaring Weir's water stock. (Criterion 2.2)

11. 3. SCIENTIFIC VALUE

Woolgangie Catchment and Reservoirs has the potential to reveal information regarding the catchment and storage of water in a arid location using natural resources and the supply of water to the railway at the turn of the century. (Criterion 3.2)

11. 4. SOCIAL VALUE

Woolgangie Reservoirs are highly valued by the local and surrounding community as a place of recreation since the first reservoir's was established in 1895 to the present day. (Criterion 4.1)

Woolgangie Catchment, Reservoirs and Railway Settlement (ruin) contributes to the surrounding community's sense of place, as a reminder of the scarcity of water, the longevity of small settlements associated with the Kalgoorlie Pipeline and the Goldfield Water Supply Scheme and the utilisation of natural resources to alleviate the need for water. (Criterion 4.2)

12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE

12. 1. RARITY

12. 2 REPRESENTATIVENESS

Woolgangie Catchment, Reservoirs and Railway Settlement (ruin) is representative of a past way of life which was centred on the use of the railway and the collection of water (for both domestic and commercial purposes) which no longer exists, as the advent of cars rapidly made the railway redundant.

Woolgangie Catchment, Reservoirs and Railway Settlement (ruin) is representative of the utilisation of natural resources to provide water for transport and a small settlement.

Woolgangie Catchment, Reservoirs and Railway Settlement (ruin) is representative of a catchment and dam, along the Eastern Goldfields railway line, used to supply water to the steam trains and small settlements along the railway line.

12.3 CONDITION

The overall condition of the place is poor, most of the built features such as the two platelayers cottages, station masters house, railway platform, concrete foundations of outbuildings, telegraph station, reservoir, railway reservoir, site of pump, carrier race, watergates, stone weight, rock catchment area, and railway formation are in a ruinous state, most only have the foundations remaining. The catchment's stone perimeter wall and carrier race are in a good condition and still carry water to the reservoirs.

12.4 INTEGRITY

The integrity of the catchment and two reservoirs is high as the catchment still directs water to the two reservoirs, although the water is no longer used for the railway or the once small settlement of Woolgangie. The other structures on site have a low integrity as the built features are in a ruinous state and do not carry out their intended purpose.

12.5 AUTHENTICITY

Although little fabric remains, and the site is in an advanced ruinous state, the authenticity of the remaining fabric is high. The remnants of the two platelayers cottages, station masters house, railway platform, concrete foundations of outbuildings, telegraph station, reservoir, railway reservoir, site of pump, carrier race, watergates, stone weight, rock catchment area, and railway formation have high authenticity.

Humpy house is also in a ruinous state, however much of the fabric remains in situ. The corrugated iron sheeting walls remain intact. It appears that little or no modifications or alteration have occurred resulting in a high authenticity.

13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

This document is based on 'Conservation Plan for Woolgangie Catchment and Railway Settlement' by Research Institute for Cultural Heritage, 2001; with amendments and/or additions by HCWA staff and the Register Committee.

13.1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

For a discussion of the Documentary Evidence refer to the 'Conservation Plan for Woolgangie Catchment and Railway Settlement' (draft) (pp 9 – 18), by Research Institute for Cultural Heritage, 2001.

13.2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

For a discussion of the Physical Evidence refer to the 'Conservation Plan for Woolgangie Catchment and Railway Settlement' (draft) (pp 18 – 43), by Research Institute for Cultural Heritage, 2001.

13.3 COMPARATIVE INFORMATION

The Heritage Council's database indicates that there are 17 rock catchments, of which only two are on the Register of Heritage Places; *Karalee Reservoir, Rock Catchment and Aqueduct*, Southern Cross, Yilgarn (1897) is comparable to Woolgangie Catchment, Reservoirs and Railway Settlement (ruin) as it also contains a granite outcrop that has been utilised for a catchment by constructing rock walls around the perimeter. However, the channels to the reservoir are not comparable as it is an above ground level metal aqueduct supported by timber posts transporting water using gravity to the reservoir. *Bullabulling Rock Water Catchment and Dams*, Bullabulling, Coolgardie (1895) is comparable as it also utilises a granite outcrop. It has similar rock catchment walls surrounding the catchment directing water flow to the dam/reservoir. It also has two dams/reservoirs on site as does Woolgangie Catchment, Reservoirs and Railway Settlement (ruin).

There are 4 catchments/dams in the Current Assessment program along the Kalgoorlie pipeline. Boondi Catchment and Dam, Boondi, Coolgardie (1899) is comparable in that it is a dam made of stone, has a rock slab channel directing water to a dam from a granite outcrop converted into a catchment. Borrabbin Rock Catchment and Dams, Borrabbin, Kalgoorlie, (1895) is comparable as it too used stone to create catchment walls and rock channels to direct water to the dams. The site contains two dams and two catchment areas, making it larger than Woolgangie Catchment, Reservoirs and Railway Settlement (ruin). Koorarawalyee Reservoir, Koorarawalyee, Coolgardie, (1897) is comparable as the site includes a stone walled catchment area, which directs water to a reservoir/dam for storage (which is of a similar scale to Woolgangie Catchment, Reservoirs and Railway Settlement (ruin)). Yellowdine Catchment and Dams, Yellowdine, Yilgarn, (1895) is comparable as it too has a stone lined channel and stone lined dam. It was directly associated with the Railway line as the dam was built to provide water to the steam trains along the railway as was Woolgangie Catchment, Reservoirs and Railway Settlement (ruin).

The Woolgangie Catchment, Reservoirs and Railway Settlement (ruin) is representative of a catchment and dam along the Eastern Goldfields railway line, used to supply water to the steam trains and small settlements along the railway line.

13. 4 KEY REFERENCES

Research Institute for Cultural Heritage, 2001. *Conservation Plan for Woolgangie Catchment and Railway Settlement* (draft). Prepared for the National Trust of Australia (WA).

13. 5 FURTHER RESEARCH
