



## 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)

- 3.1 Inspecting the coastline
- 3.7.1 Shipping to and from Australian ports
- 3.10.1 Regulating waterways
- 3.15 Struggling with remoteness
- 5.1 Working in harsh conditions

#### HERITAGE COUNCIL OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA THEME(S)

- 106 Workers
- 201 River and sea transport
- 209 Technology and technological change
- 309 Technology and technological change
- 507 Water, power, major transport routes

#### 11.1 AESTHETIC VALUE\*

*Point Moore Lighthouse*, a tall and distinctive prefabricated cast iron tower painted red and white, is a striking vertical feature. (Criterion 1.1)

*Point Moore Lighthouse* is a very well resolved design solution, exhibiting engineering design excellence. (Criterion 1.2)

By reason of its location and its tall presence, together with its striking appearance, *Point Moore Lighthouse* has value as one part of some of Geraldton's key vistas and has a significant landmark value. The natural environment around the site is degraded and infested with exotic plants and weeds. (Criterion 1.3)

#### 11.2. HISTORIC VALUE

The construction of the lightstation at Point Moore indicates the emergence and continuing development of Champion Bay as an important regional port in Western Australia. (Criterion 2.1)

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\* For consistency, all references to architectural style are taken from Apperly, Richard; Irving, Robert and Reynolds, Peter *A Pictorial Guide to Identifying Australian Architecture: Styles and Terms from 1788 to the Present*, Angus & Robertson, North Ryde, 1989.

*Point Moore Lighthouse* has provided a navigational aid to shipping from the time of its construction in 1878 and, as such, has contributed to the safety of sea transport in the area from that time. (Criterion 2.1)

*Point Moore Lighthouse* is associated with the development of a succession of jetties that provided port facilities for Champion Bay, a port that served a large and rich hinterland from 1850. (Criterion 2.2)

The tower has close associations with the Chance Brothers of Birmingham, who supplied lenses and other lighthouse hardware for many of Australia's lighthouses. (Criterion 2.3)

*Point Moore Lighthouse* is the tallest of the prefabricated cast iron panel towers in Western Australia and its design and execution indicates a high degree of design excellence. (Criterion 2.2)

### **11. 3. SCIENTIFIC VALUE**

Parts of the lease back area have been identified as having the potential to be archaeologically significant. These include the area between the current lighthouse and the extant laundry building, which may contain sub-surface structural elements and cultural deposits associated with the former keepers' cottages. Sub-surface Aboriginal cultural deposits may also be present (Criterion 3.2)

### **11. 4. SOCIAL VALUE**

The place was included on the City of Geraldton's Municipal Inventory and included in the Heritage Trail. It is valued by the community for its aesthetic and historic qualities. (Criterion 4.1)

As one of Geraldton's key landmarks which features in a number of vistas, the *Point Moore Lighthouse* contributes to the community's sense of place. (Criterion 4.2)

## **12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE**

### **12. 1. RARITY**

*Point Moore Lighthouse*, constructed of iron plates imported from England, is the tallest of the prefabricated cast iron panel towers in Western Australia and therefore has some rarity value. (Criterion 5.1)

*Point Moore Lighthouse* is a reminder of a way of life of operating and living at manned lightstations, a practice which has long since ceased. (Criterion 5.2)

### **12. 2 REPRESENTATIVENESS**

*Point Moore Lighthouse* is a very fine representative example of a prefabricated cast iron panel lightstation from the last quarter of the nineteenth century. (Criterion 6.1)

### **12. 3 CONDITION**

The tower and light are in fair to good condition, but the concrete apron slab is in very poor condition. The *Agave* sp and *Lycium ferocissimum* are very invasive and well established. The other weedy species are of minor importance. There was no evidence of plant disease.

#### **12.4 INTEGRITY**

The original intention of the 1878 tower is clearly legible and although the changes in the light source have obscured the original methods of lighting. The integrity of the site as whole is high. *Point Moore Lighthouse* is currently in use.

#### **12.5 AUTHENTICITY**

The place retains a very high degree of authenticity in relation to the original development in the 1874-78 period, with only minor alterations.

### **13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE**

Attached are key sections of the Supporting Evidence prepared by Considine and Griffiths Architects Pty Ltd, McDonald Hales and Associates, Muir Environmental, 'Point Moore, Geraldton, Western Australia: Lighthouse Conservation Assessment', for The Australian Maritime Safety Authority, May 2000.

#### **13.1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE**

For a discussion of the Documentary Evidence refer to Considine and Griffiths Architects Pty Ltd, McDonald Hales and Associates, Muir Environmental, 'Point Moore, Geraldton, Western Australia: Lighthouse Conservation Assessment', prepared for The Australian Maritime Safety Authority, May 2000.

#### **13.2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE**

For a discussion of the Physical Evidence refer to Considine and Griffiths Architects Pty Ltd, McDonald Hales and Associates, Muir Environmental, 'Point Moore, Geraldton, Western Australia: Lighthouse Conservation Assessment', prepared for The Australian Maritime Safety Authority, May 2000.

#### **13.3 COMPARATIVE INFORMATION**

For a discussion of the Physical Evidence refer to Considine and Griffiths Architects Pty Ltd, McDonald Hales and Associates, Muir Environmental, 'Point Moore, Geraldton, Western Australia: Lighthouse Conservation Assessment', prepared for The Australian Maritime Safety Authority, May 2000.

#### **13.4 REFERENCES**

Considine and Griffiths Architects Pty Ltd, McDonald Hales and Associates, Muir Environmental, 'Point Moore, Geraldton, Western Australia: Lighthouse Conservation Assessment', prepared for The Australian Maritime Safety Authority, May 2000.

#### **13.5 FURTHER RESEARCH**

There are presently two Native Title claimant groups whose claims encompass all or part of the proposed Point Moore lease back area.

No Aboriginal archaeological sites were identified within the Point Moore lighthouse site. Nevertheless, the potential for sub-surface cultural deposits/skeletal material remains and will need to be taken into consideration, particularly if there are any proposed changes in land-use.

It is also important to note that relevant Aboriginal community representatives should be consulted and otherwise involved in the management of Aboriginal cultural material.