



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)

- 3.73 Moving goods and people on land
- 3.7.4 Building and maintaining railways
- 3.10 Altering the environment for economic development
- 3.13.1 Building to suit Australian conditions

HERITAGE COUNCIL OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA THEME(S)

- 202 Rail and light rail transport
- 203 Road transport

11.1 AESTHETIC VALUE*

Karalee Reservoir, Rock Catchment & Aqueduct have aesthetic significance as a large engineering project with a great deal of functional refinement. The site features two rocks: Rock No. 1 has a perimeter of approximately 3.68 kilometres and a height of approximately 26 metres, while Rock No. 2 has a perimeter of approximately 2.24 kilometers and a height of 15 metres. Set in dry bushland, the project utilises the two very large granite rocks, which exhibit natural beauty in their own right. (Criterion 1.2)

The catchment rocks, rock dam walls, aqueducts and channel earthworks combine to present a visually powerful man-made ensemble in a bushland setting. (Criterion 1.3)

11.2. HISTORIC VALUE

The place, Karalee Rock, including Hunt's well and dam, is very significant for its key role as a water source on the Goldfields Road. Karalee was an established watering place replete with hotels, and it is also associated with coaching transport and early telegraph between Perth and Kalgoorlie. (Criterion 2.1)

Karalee Reservoir, Rock Catchment & Aqueduct is very significant for its key role in the development of the Eastern Goldfields Railway since it supplied the steam trains with water for about 50 years. The railway was, in addition to

* 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.

the Goldfields Pipeline, largely responsible for the development of the goldfields and the communities along the length of the line. (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)

Through design and constructional innovation the place represents a period of high technical and engineering achievement in Western Australia. (Criterion 2.4)

The place is also significant as a supplementary water source for the Goldfields Pipeline during the 1960s. (Criterion 2.2)

Karalee Rock has significance for its associations with C.C. Hunt and the establishment of a system of wells and dams along Hunt's track, which the Goldfields Road roughly followed. (Criterion 2.3)

It has historic significance for its association with the railway and firewood entrepreneur William Noah Hedges who built the catchment and was an important figure in the development of the railways in Western Australia. (Criterion 2.3)

The place is also associated with the public works engineer William Herbert Shields who designed the place and was also an important figure in the development of the railways. Shields designed and established all the other railway catchment reservoirs on the Eastern Goldfields Railway. (Criterion 2.3)

11. 3. SCIENTIFIC VALUE

Karalee Reservoir, Rock Catchment & Aqueduct are an excellent example of nineteenth century mastery of applied science and technical design. It is associated with the gigantic engineering task of supplying water to the Eastern Goldfields Railway in arid country and so is representative of the high degree of technical innovation achieved in the catchment, storage and delivery of water to the railways. (Criterion 3.1)

11. 4. SOCIAL VALUE

Karalee Reservoir, Rock Catchment & Aqueduct have been a significant place of rest and recreation over a period since 1910. It was well known and served local communities as a swimming and picnic place. It continues to be a picnic destination for tourists and local people. (Criterion 4.1)

12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE

12. 1. RARITY

Hunt's Well and Dam form part of a chain of water sources established by C.C. Hunt in the 1860s and have rarity value as part of a series of endangered and extraordinary structures. (Criterion 5.1)

While similar in respects to many other railway catchment systems, *Karalee Reservoir, Rock Catchment & Aqueduct* is unique in WA for the use of a steel aqueduct structure. (Criterion 5.1)

Karalee Reservoir, Rock Catchment & Aqueduct remains sufficiently intact to demonstrate its distinct functions and represents a particular process and way of life associated with the collection of rainwater for the railways which no longer exists. (Criterion 5.2)

12. 2 REPRESENTATIVENESS

Karalee Reservoir, Rock Catchment & Aqueduct is representative of the ambitious engineering schemes of the late nineteenth century and in particular the development of the railways in this State. (Criterion 6.1)

Karalee Reservoir, Rock Catchment & Aqueduct is representative of a particular type of land use that emerged out of the scarcity of water and the need for railways in the development of the state. (Criterion 6.2)

12. 3 CONDITION

Overall *Karalee Reservoir, Rock Catchment & Aqueduct* is in good condition except for the aqueduct from Rock No. 1 which is in urgent need of conservation work. There are also other identified problems at the place that need urgent conservation.

12. 4 INTEGRITY

Karalee Rock Water Catchment and Reservoir has a high degree of integrity with relatively little loss of material. Integrity has been maintained as much of the material is contained in earthworks or is very heavy and the site is relatively remote.

12. 5 AUTHENTICITY

While the small steam pump and associated industrial and domestic buildings have been removed most of the engineering infrastructure remains relatively unchanged and retains a high degree of authenticity.

13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

Attached are key sections of the supporting evidence, prepared for The National Trust of Australia (W.A.), 2000.

13. 1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

For a discussion of the documentary evidence, refer to Research Institute for Cultural Heritage, Curtin University of Technology, 'Conservation Plan for Karalee Rock Water Catchment (Goldfields Water Supply Scheme – Place J)', prepared for The National Trust of Australia (W.A.), 2000.

13. 2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

For a discussion of the physical evidence, refer to Research Institute for Cultural Heritage, Curtin University of Technology, 'Conservation Plan for Karalee Rock Water Catchment (Goldfields Water Supply Scheme – Place J)', prepared for The National Trust of Australia (W.A.), 2000.

13. 3 COMPARATIVE INFORMATION

For a discussion of the documentary evidence, refer to Research Institute for Cultural Heritage, Curtin University of Technology, 'Conservation Plan for Karalee Rock Water Catchment (Goldfields Water Supply Scheme – Place J)', prepared for The National Trust of Australia (W.A.), 2000.

13. 4 KEY REFERENCES

Research Institute for Cultural Heritage, Curtin University of Technology, 'Conservation Plan for Karalee Rock Water Catchment (Goldfields Water Register of Heritage Places - Assessment Doc'n Karalee Reservoir, Rock Catchment & Aqueduct 3 14/12/2001

Supply Scheme - Place J)', prepared for The National Trust of Australia (W.A.), 2000.

13.5 FURTHER RESEARCH
