



**HERITAGE
COUNCIL**
OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

REGISTER OF HERITAGE PLACES

The place does not have the cultural heritage significance required to meet the condition for entry in the State Register under section 38 of the Heritage Act 2018

1. **DATA BASE No.** 18426
2. **NAME** Port Hedland Detention Centre (fmr) (1969-74; c.1991; 2003-04)
FORMER NAME (or OTHER NAMES) Beachfront Village; Mt Newman Mining Co. Accommodation; BHP Single men's quarters
3. **LOCATION** 15 Dempster St, Cooke Point
4. **DESCRIPTION OF PLACE INCLUDED IN THIS ENTRY**
Lot 2 on Diagram 82673 being the whole of the land contained in Certificate of Title Volume 1954 Folio 448.
5. **LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA** Town of Port Hedland
6. **CURRENT OWNER**
Commonwealth of Australia
7. **HERITAGE LISTINGS**
 - Register of Heritage Places: -----
 - National Trust Classification: -----
 - Town Planning Scheme: -----
 - Municipal Inventory: 28/11/07
 - Register of the National Estate: -----
 - Aboriginal Sites Register: -----
8. **ORDERS UNDER SECTION OF THE ACT**

9. **HERITAGE AGREEMENT**

10. **STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**
Port Hedland Detention Centre (fmr), a complex of accommodation buildings, constructed of besser block, clad in corrugated iron with low pitched iron roofs and associated living structures established in 1974 as mining staff quarters and later

modified in 1991 for use as an immigration detention centre, has cultural heritage significance for the following reasons:

the place was the first facility specifically established for the detention of illegal maritime arrivals ('boat people');

the place was an integral component in the development of Australia's detention policy in response to the increasing number of unauthorised maritime arrivals ('boat people') in the 1990s and early 2000s;

the place, along with other immigration detention centres, was subject to a Human Rights and Equal Opportunities Commission Inquiry in 1998 as criticisms of immigration policy and the conditions in such facilities began to enter the public consciousness;

the place, particularly J Block, is an example of the type of accommodation used for the detention of those arriving in Australia without a valid entry permit;

J Block still retains fabric which demonstrates its conversion into a high-security detention facility that was used for the isolation of some detainees;

the place demonstrates a common practice during this period, that is immigration detention centres being located away from large urban centres and isolated from capital cities whilst in this case, also positioned closer to the region where many arrivals reached Australia; and,

the place is an example of one of the accommodation options for mining employees, namely single-men, in the Pilbara region during boom periods.

The prefabricated 'dongas' (post 2008) and Kitchen and Diner Building (post 2008) are of little significance.



REGISTER OF HERITAGE PLACES

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11. ASSESSMENT OF CULTURAL HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

Cultural heritage significance means aesthetic, historic, scientific, social or spiritual value for individuals or groups within Western Australia.

In determining cultural heritage significance, the Heritage Council has had regard to the factors in the *Heritage Act 2018* and the indicators adopted on 14 June 2019.

PRINCIPAL AUSTRALIAN HISTORIC THEME(S)

- 2.4 Migrating
- 3.14.2 Building to suit Australian conditions
- 3.22 Lodging People
- 4.6 Remembering significant phases in the development of settlements, towns and cities
- 7.2.1 Protesting
- 7.6.2 Controlling entry of persons and disease
- 7.6.5 Incarcerating people

HERITAGE COUNCIL OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA THEME(S)

- 101 Immigration, emigration and refugees
- 106 Workers (including Aboriginal, convict)
- 108 Government Policy
- 111 Depression and Boom
- 303 Mining (including mineral processing)
- 403 Law and Order
- 502 Refugees

11(a) Importance in demonstrating the evolution or pattern of Western Australia's history

Port Hedland Detention Centre (fmr) was the first facility specifically established in Australia for the detention of illegal maritime arrivals ('boat people').¹

¹ The term 'boat people' was a commonly used colloquial term for 'unauthorised maritime arrivals', 'illegal maritime arrivals' and 'illegal entrants' in the 1980s and 1990s. A search of historical newspapers in Trove returns over 1300 results between 1980 and 2004.

Port Hedland Detention Centre (fmr) was an integral component in the development of detention policy in Australia in response to the increasing number of unauthorised maritime arrivals ('boat people') in the 1990s and early 2000s.

Port Hedland Detention Centre (fmr), along with other immigration detention centres, was subject to a Human Rights and Equal Opportunities Commission Inquiry in 1998 as criticisms of immigration policy and the conditions in such facilities began to enter the public consciousness.

Prior to its use as an immigration detention centre, the place was constructed to provide accommodation for mining employees, namely single-men, during the period of the mining boom in the Pilbara region in the 1970s.

11(d) Its importance in demonstrating the characteristics of a broader class of places;

Port Hedland Detention Centre (fmr) is an example of the type of accommodation used for the detention of those arriving in Australia without a valid entry permit, and Block J still retains fabric which demonstrates its conversion into a high-security detention facility.

Port Hedland Detention Centre (fmr) demonstrates a common practice during this period, that is immigration detention centres being located away from large urban centres and isolated from capital cities whilst in this case, also positioned closer to the region where many arrivals reached Australia.

Port Hedland Detention Centre (fmr) is an example of one of the accommodation options for mining employees, namely single-men, provided in the Pilbara region during boom periods.

12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE

12.1 CONDITION

The overall site and buildings are generally in fair to good condition, with most of the buildings, with the exception of Block J, having been refurbished and reoccupied for commercial accommodation purposes following the closure of the Immigration Detention Centre in 2004.

Due to the place being situated in a cyclone prone area, some of the elements have been subject to a degree of weather damage. The semicircular rolls of corrugated iron below the eaves of the accommodation blocks show evidence of severe rust damage. Air conditioning units and other electrical services are no longer functional, including the perimeter security cameras.

Overall, the site has been well maintained and secured.

12.2 INTEGRITY

This section explains the extent to which the fabric is in its original state.

The overall site retains a high degree of integrity. The original layout of the place is as it was when constructed in 1974 for mining accommodation, with additional

elements added post 2008, mainly in the form of 'donga' style accommodation. The original Accommodation Blocks/Administration Blocks remain extant with little or no change to the exterior of these buildings, and only minor refurbishment of the interiors to provide upgraded accommodation for the period of the commercial accommodation. Block J retains a high degree of integrity with no evident external modifications. Although, this building was not inspected for this assessment, images of the internal fabric suggest it remains intact as the building has not been in use since the closure of the Detention Centre in 2004.

12.3 AUTHENTICITY

This section explains the extent to which the original intention is evident, and the compatibility of current use.

Overall, the place has a high degree of authenticity. Prior to, and following its use as an immigration detention centre, the place was used for various accommodation purposes, and this change of use has resulted in only minor changes to upgrade the interior fabric and facilities. Therefore, the use of the place as a detention centre is still evident in the remaining fabric. Block J has remained vacant since the closure of the detention centre in 2004 and has not been modified since this time. The previous use of this building as a high security/isolation block remains clearly evident.

13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

The documentation for this place is based on the heritage assessment completed on behalf of the Department of Finance and Deregulation by AECOM Australia, in June 2013, with amendments and/or additions by the Heritage Council and the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage.

13.1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

Located on the traditional lands of the Kariyarra language group, whose land extends to the Sherlock and Yule Rivers, Port Hedland is situated in the Pilbara region of Western Australia. The Kariyarra lived a traditional hunter-gatherer lifestyle for 40,000 years prior to Colonial settlement when this way of life began to be disrupted. From the early settlement period onward (c.1860-70), Aboriginal people worked as labourers on pastoral stations in the region.

The town of Port Hedland was gazetted in 1896 with the discovery of gold in the region which resulted in a boom. A railway line was subsequently constructed in 1911, although by this time the gold rush was waning.²

Iron ore was first documented in the Pilbara region in the nineteenth century but the first mining leases were not taken up until 1927. In 1938, the Commonwealth Government placed an embargo on the exportation of iron ore, however, exploration of the resource continued. The embargo was lifted in 1960 clearing the way for the large scale development of Western Australia's iron ore industry.³ Up until this point, Port Hedland remained relatively small, but in 1957, the discovery of iron ore at Mt Newman, situated 426km away, resulted in a boom for the town. Production began in earnest in 1966 at Mt Goldsworthy and Tom Price and company towns began to be established as required under various agreements with mining companies.⁴

In 1964, aerial imagery of the future site of *Port Hedland Detention Centre (fmr)* shows that the area was still bush beyond the edges of the town's development.⁵ In 1967 the Mt Newman Mining Company (now known as BHP Billiton Iron Ore⁶) was formed and mining of the rich iron ore deposits discovered previously in 1957 commenced in 1969. By the end of this decade The Mt Newman Mining Company began to ship iron ore from Port Hedland. Rapid population growth of the town ensued and housing shortages followed. To provide housing for its workforce the Mt Newman Mining Company began constructing a large accommodation centre (*Port Hedland Detention Centre (fmr)*) on land at Cooke Point which was completed in 1974. By this time the population of the town had reached over 8000.⁷

The camp created by the mining company was almost a townsite of its own on the Cooke Point side of Port Hedland. The area currently known as *Port Hedland*

2 Historic Heritage Assessment, Former Port Hedland Immigration Detention Centre. Prepared for the Department of Finance and Deregulation Jun 2013 by AECOM Australia Pty Ltd. p.22.

3 'Register of Heritage Places – Below Threshold Assessment documentation for P18802 Wickham Police Station 26 February 2016, p. 5.

4 *ibid.* p. 5.

5 Historic Aerial Imagery, 1964, Landgate, accessed via DPLH InQuiry Mapping system, 14 July 2020

6 Valuation Report, 15 Dempster Street, Port Hedland. Prepared for Jones Lang Lasalle by LMW in September 2016. p.2

7 Historic Heritage Assessment, Former Port Hedland Immigration Detention Centre. Prepared for the Department of Finance and Deregulation Jun 2013 by AECOM Australia Pty Ltd. p. 23.

Detention Centre (fmr) is the area designated single men's barracks on the 1972 town plan.⁸

The mid-1970s saw the beginnings of Australia's immigration detention policy following the first wave of people arriving in Australia by sea from Vietnam without an appropriate permit to enter and remain in Australia; at that time referred to informally and in the media as 'boat people'. Although these first arrivals were perceived by the broader community to be genuine refugees and caused little concern, the second wave of arrivals from Cambodia, China and Vietnam in the late 1980s, raised issues in the Australian community relating to unemployment and 'queue jumping'. Immigration detention facilities were at that time limited, and were designed for short-term stays. With the passing of the *Migration Legislation Amendment Act 1989* changes were introduced which saw those who were reasonably supposed to be an illegal entrant in Australia to be held in custody, including at an immigration detention centre, until the person was ready, willing and able to leave Australia voluntarily, or until their immigration status could be determined.⁹

With further arrivals occurring into the 1990s, it was determined that another facility, in addition to Westbridge Migrant Hostel in Sydney (later Villawood IDC), was required and the Port Hedland Immigration Reception and Processing Centre was established in 1991. The Port Hedland facility, housed in re-purposed mine worker accommodation, was the first specifically set up to house people arriving by sea without a valid entry permit, ('boat people') predominately at that time coming from Cambodia. The introduction of the *Migration Amendment Act 1992* made it a requirement to detain these 'unlawful non-citizens'.¹⁰ In 1992, the Port Hedland Detention Centre held a total of 292 detainees, the highest number in the country, followed by Villawood with 139 detainees.¹¹

When the detention of persons in Australia who were known or reasonably suspected to be unlawful non-citizens became mandatory in 1992, the Port Hedland Detention Centre was in demand. As a result, it was often a focus for public attention and demonstrations. The conditions in detention facilities became an issue, and the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission (HREOC) made a number of inspections of the facility between 1996 and 1998. It was also a primary focus of the Commission's inquiry into conditions in detention with conclusions drawn that it met the minimum standards for humane treatment of detainees.¹²

In 1997, major refurbishments were undertaken to improve the living conditions and facilities at the centre but by 1999 it was at capacity. The resulting protests and escapes attracted much media attention, ultimately leading to the establishment of

8 *ibid.* p. 23.

9 *ibid.* p. 25; (s 92 of the *Migration Act* as it was on 19/12/1989).

10 *ibid.* p.25 & 26.

11 Parliament of Australia: Parliamentary Library: Immigration detention in Australia, Janet Phillips and Harriet Spinks, Social Policy Section, March 2013. Available at:
https://parlinfo.aph.gov.au/parlInfo/download/library/prsub/1311498/upload_binary/1311498.pdf;fileType=application/pdf

12 Historic Heritage Assessment, Former Port Hedland Immigration Detention Centre. Prepared for the Department of Finance and Deregulation Jun 2013 by AECOM Australia Pty Ltd. p.26.

the Woomera Immigration Detention Centre, in South Australia and the Curtin Immigration Detention Centre, in the Kimberley Region of Western Australia.¹³

Between 1999 and 2001 the number of detainees increased at Port Hedland Detention Centre with approximately 9,500 people entering Australia's migration zone seeking asylum in Australia during this period, mainly from the Middle East. The influx ultimately led to the 'Pacific Strategy'.¹⁴ This strategy was devised in response to the Tampa incident in 2001, when 433 asylum seekers were rescued from their sinking boat by Norwegian ship, the MV Tampa, which was denied entry to Australian waters, subsequently resulting in all asylum seekers on board being sent to the Pacific Island of Nauru. Following this incident, the Christmas, Ashmore and Cartier, and Cocos (Keeling) islands became excised offshore places meaning unauthorised maritime arrivals could not make a valid application for any class of visa (including a protection visa) while in Australia. Instead they were held in custody, including at an immigration detention centre, until the person was ready, willing and able to leave Australia voluntarily, or until their immigration status could be determined.¹⁵

As incidents at immigration centres escalated in the early 2000s, HREOC noted the conditions at Block J, which had been converted into a high security block at Port Hedland in its final years of operation, as being of particular concern describing them as being 'totally unacceptable'. A direction was given that the Block not be used until it had been refurbished. Works were subsequently completed 2003-04. However, it was only used once following these refurbishments as the detention centre closed soon after.¹⁶

The Port Hedland Immigration Detention Centre was decommissioned in 2004, at which time the last 17 detainees were removed from the Centre. It remained vacant until 2007 at which time it was leased to Auzcorp and refurbished for use as a commercial accommodation facility named Auzcorp Beachfront Village. Improvements made by Auzcorp at this time included the addition of 2 laundries, a substantial workshop and maintenance shed and a new mess/dining area. The place ceased to function in this capacity between 2013 and 2016.¹⁷ Block J was not included in the Auzcorp lease, and was mothballed at the time the detention centre closed.¹⁸

13.2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

Port Hedland Detention Centre (fmr) is located in the suburb of Point Cooke in the town of Port Hedland which is approximately 1640km north of Perth and approximately 220km east-north east of Karratha. Port Hedland is the centre of the iron ore industry in the State and the primary sea port for the Pilbara region in the north west of Western Australia.

13 *ibid.* p.26-27.

14 *ibid.* p.25.

15 *ibid.* p.26.

16 *ibid.* p.27.

17 Historic Heritage Assessment, Former Port Hedland Immigration Detention Centre. Prepared for the Department of Finance and Deregulation Jun 2013 by AECOM Australia Pty Ltd. p.28.

18 Valuation Report, 15 Dempster Street, Port Hedland. Prepared for Jones Lang Lasalle by LMW in September 2016. p.27; Historic Heritage Assessment, Former Port Hedland Immigration Detention Centre. Prepared for the Department of Finance and Deregulation Jun 2013 by AECOM Australia Pty Ltd. p.28.

The place comprises a complex of accommodation buildings and associated living structures established in 1974 as mining staff quarters. Significant building upgrades and other works were carried out between 1991 and 2004 during the period when the place was in use as a detention centre. Further works and refurbishment was undertaken in the early 2000s when it was converted to commercial accommodation. In 2020, aerial imagery shows that the original structures remain extant and additional structures have been added to the site since its initial construction to facilitate new uses.

Landscape and setting

The site of *Port Hedland Detention Centre (fmr)* is a large, irregularly shaped block of land at the northern end of Cooke Point with a total area of approximately 30,200 m². It is located in a semi-residential area, bounded to the south by Dempster Street, and, to the north, by sand dunes fronting the northern shoreline of Cooke Point.

Extensive areas of bitumen serve as car parking, and concrete paths link the ten two storey accommodation blocks throughout the site. Vegetation throughout the site is sparse and includes bougainvillea plantings that have grown over parts of the northern and eastern perimeter fencing. Other plantings are limited to small shrubs and various palm trees.

Interspersed throughout the main accommodation blocks are numerous prefabricated demountable buildings constructed post 2008.

Accommodation Blocks/ Administration Blocks

All of the accommodation/administration blocks on the site (excluding the 'donga' style accommodation) were constructed in the early 1970s as part of the Mt Newman Mining Company Single Men's Quarters facility. They comprise ten almost identical two storey residential blocks arranged across the site in pairs. The blocks constructed of besser block, are clad in corrugated iron and are rectangular in plan with concrete floors and low pitched iron roofs. Each contains 30 rooms. The Blocks are Alpha, Bravo, Charlie, Delta, Echo, Foxtrot, Golf, Hotel, Juliet and Kilo (Blocks A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, J, and K).

All blocks retain much of their original form and fabric, with little or no change to the exterior fabric and only minor refurbishment of the interiors to provide upgraded accommodation following the closure of the detention centre in 2004. The buildings have two main access points at the ground floor and security cyclone proof mesh covering the windows. The paired buildings tend to mirror each other almost identically in terms of their internal form and fabric, with occasional minor differences. The interior layout of each of these blocks generally comprises a central corridor on both the lower and upper levels, running the length of the block (approximately 34m), off which the accommodation rooms are located. In some blocks, the accommodation rooms are arranged in pairs, and in others they are irregularly spaced along the corridor. Storage rooms and ablutions facilities are also located on the lower and upper levels.

During Auzcorp's occupancy of the site, internal modifications were made to one of the blocks for conversion to an administration/reception area, with offices, training and conference rooms in addition to accommodation units.

The heritage assessment undertaken in 2013 notes that personal inscriptions by former detainees written into the concrete paths at the entry to the buildings in the courtyard space between Accommodation Blocks A and B were still evident. The inscriptions, some written in Arabic, include the names of detainees but have not been translated.¹⁹ These remained extant in October 2020.

(Blocks H & K)

During the operational life of the *Port Hedland Detention Centre (fmr)*, Block H housed a chapel, schoolroom, activities room, and kitchen area on the lower level. This different function is reflected in the block's layout, which differs significantly to those of the other accommodation blocks on site, in that it does not have a central corridor, instead having a corridor running the length of the southern side of the building.

Block K is a double-storey, rectangular plan, besser block structure situated in the south-western portion of the site adjacent to Dempster Street. The interior of Block K indicates that it was previously of similar layout to the other accommodation blocks, however it was modified post-2008 by Auzcorp to accommodate reception and administration requirements.

Block J

In addition, to the east of the general accommodation blocks, is a former high security/isolation block (Juliette Block). The building is the only original accommodation block located in this part of the site, as Block I ('India'), which was located to the north of Block J, was destroyed by fire in December 2002. Block J comprises a double-storey besser block structure with a flat, corrugated iron roof. The exterior southern and northern elevations are clad in corrugated iron, while the eastern and western elevations are unclad. Block J has a semi-circular roll of corrugated iron mounted below the eaves, which was installed as a preventative measure to stop detainees from gaining access to the roof.

Fabric that is reflective of Block J's past usage as a high security separation facility remains intact. The southern face of the building remains partially enclosed by an external metal cage, and the original heavy steel construction doors with observation windows and lockable food drop boxes remain in situ. Internally, like the other accommodation blocks, rooms on both the upper and lower levels are arranged off a central corridor, and rooms on the lower level comprise solitary detention rooms at the western end. The rooms appear to retain their original fixed fittings. It is likely that the control room located on the southern side of the building remains in-situ but was not inspected in 2020.

Former Mess Building (Maintenance Building post 2004)

The former Mess Building is a large, single-storey building situated in the southern portion of the site adjacent to Dempster Street of corrugated iron construction with asbestos sheeting. Unique to the site, the building has a flat roof, which enabled it to be utilised as a protest location for detainees during the period of unrest at the Detention Centre. Later, following the period of Auzcorps lease, the building was

¹⁹ Historic Heritage Assessment, Former Port Hedland Immigration Detention Centre, Jun 2013. p.7.

used as a general maintenance and storage area. Original structural elements and fittings including interior structural support beams and columns are still extant.

Laundry 3

Laundry 3 is located in the southern portion of the main Beachfront Village compound. It is surrounded on all sides by demountable 'donga' accommodation structures. Laundry 3 is the one remaining laundry building of the four constructed for the Mt Newman Mining Camp facility in the 1970s. It comprises a single storey, 7m x 7m square besser block structure. To the south of Laundry 3 is the former Mess Building. Accommodation blocks G and H are located to the west, while blocks A and B are situated to the north.

Perimeter fencing and remains of access gate

The former perimeter fence remains extant at the site, demarcating the Beachfront Village property boundaries to the west, north, and east. The fence is steel construction approximately 2m high, with steel posts spaced at narrow intervals and rising up to culminate in a sharp point. The posts are no longer mounted with barbed or razor wire, as they were when the detention centre was in operation. The fencing was retained as a functional component of the Beachfront Village site. While the external perimeter fencing has been removed from the southern property boundary adjacent to Dempster Street, remains of the access gate are located towards the eastern extent of the Dempster Street property frontage, adjacent to the driveway between the former Mess Building and Block J. The former gate posts are still extant and include a motion sensor, light post and mounted CCTV cameras, which are no longer operational. A number of other surveillance posts, comprising light posts with mounted CCTV cameras and associated motion sensors (now defunct) can also be found around the eastern and northern site boundaries.

Current kitchen and Diner Building (post 2008)

The Current Kitchen and Diner comprises a plain, single storey, corrugated iron clad windowless structure with a flat roof, located in the north western part of the site. Accommodation blocks E and F are located to the north of the building, C and D to the east, and G and H to the south. The building and its contents have no association with the previous operations of the site as Detention Centre or Mt Newman Mining Company miner's accommodation.

Prefabricated 'Dongas' (post 2008)

Demountable 'dongas', which provided single accommodation for guests of the Beachfront Village, are interspersed throughout the accommodation Buildings. Each 'donga' comprises a standardised, fully self-contained single storey, prefabricated demountable building. The 'dongas' are accessible via concrete paths, which were also installed post-closure of the Detention Centre.

13.3 COMPARATIVE INFORMATION

There are five places that are either currently used as immigration detention centres in Western Australia (or adjacent excluded territories), or that have been used for this purpose. Only two of these are understood to remain in use as immigration detention centres:

- Perth Immigration Detention Centre (1981) – constructed as an administration facility for the Federal Police at the Perth Domestic Airport it

is used as a detention facility mainly for those who have over-stayed visas or had them cancelled, or those who have been detained at entry points.

- Curtin Immigration Detention Centre (1995) – built in the Kimberley region to accommodate ‘boat people’, in 2013 the place catered to single adult male maritime arrivals. The place was still in operation as an immigration detention centre in 2013 but is understood to have closed in 2014.
- Christmas Island Immigration Detention Centre (2001/08) – set up as a temporary facility in 2001. In 2008 a purpose-built facility was constructed for ‘boat people’ and ‘vulnerable clients’. The place was still in operation as an immigration detention centre in 2013 then was decommissioned for a period as an immigration detention facility in 2018 but it is again (in 2020) in use.
- Yongah Hill Immigration Detention Centre, Northam (2012) – originally the Holden Immigration centre, and prior to that the P6126 *Northam Army Camp* (c.1934) (State Register) the place was constructed to house unauthorised arrivals i.e. ‘boat people’. It is still in operation as an immigration detention centre. Some of the original army camp buildings remain on-site.
- P499 *Quarantine Station (fmr), Woodman Point* (1876 onwards) – constructed as a quarantine station, the Observation Ward was used as a detention block for people arriving in Australia with invalid passports. In the 1970s Vietnamese asylum seekers arriving in Australia were held here until cleared of any possible health problems.²⁰

Given the nature of these places there are few in number in any one State.

As immigration detention policy is largely a national issue, it is worth also providing some comparative analysis of other facilities across Australia:

- Maribyrnong Immigration Detention Centre (Vic) – initially serving as the Maribyrnong Migrant Hostel from 1966, the place became an immigration detention centre in 1983. The place was closed in 2018.
- Villawood Immigration Detention Centre (NSW) – originally the Westbridge Migrant Hostel from 1960, in 1976 the place was converted to use as an immigration detention centre, and is still in operation as such.
- Woomera Immigration Reception and Processing Centre (SA) – established in 1999, this was the largest immigration detention centre in Australia until its decommissioning in 2003. Purpose-built, the facility primarily served unauthorised arrivals. In 2006 it was handed back to the Department of Defence, which renamed it Camp Rapier, and now utilise the original structures for defence purposes.
- Baxter Immigration Detention Centre (SA) – established in 2002 as a facility for unauthorised arrivals who entered Australian waters. Decommissioned in 2007, the land reverted back to the Department of Defence. In 2013 the site retained U-shaped, purpose-built accommodation blocks. It is understood they have been out of use since 2008.

²⁰ *Quarantine Station (fmr), Woodman Point*, Register of Heritage Place: Assessment Documentation downloaded from <http://inherit.stateheritage.wa.gov.au/Admin/api/file/11d12eb4-ff3c-3bec-21bf-80efe912f15b> on 2 July 2020 p.11

- Northern Immigration Detention Centre (NT) – constructed in 2001 as a contingency centre within the Defence establishment the place was upgraded to mainly cater to unauthorised fishing crews found in Australian waters. It is still in operation as an immigration detention centre.
- Wickham Point Immigration Detention Centre (NT) – constructed in 2011 to house single adult male maritime arrivals. The place ceased being used as an immigration detention centre in 2016.
- Scherger Immigration Detention Centre (QLD) - constructed in 2010 to house single adult males. The place ceased operating as an immigration detention centre in 2014.
- Pontville Immigration Detention Centre (Tas) – established as a temporary detention facility in 2011 for low-risk single adult males. The place ceased operating as an immigration detention centre in 2013.

Conclusions

The above indicates that *Port Hedland Detention Centre (fmr)* is unique as an extant former immigration detention centre in Australia, specifically established to cater to the detention of unauthorised maritime arrivals ('boat people'). The place, apart from Block J, was refurbished for commercial accommodation in 2007 and has been vacant since 2013-2016. However, in 2020, its overall form and layout from its previous use as a detention centre remains intact.

13. 4 KEY REFERENCES

Historic Heritage Assessment, Former Port Hedland Immigration Detention Centre.
Prepared for the Department of Finance and Deregulation Jun 2013 by AECOM Australia Pty Ltd.

13. 5 FURTHER RESEARCH
