



# REGISTER OF HERITAGE PLACES

## Permanent Entry

1. **DATA BASE No.** 04859
2. **NAME** *Flying Boat Wreckage Site* (1942)
3. **LOCATION** Roebuck Bay, Broome
4. **DESCRIPTION OF PLACE INCLUDED IN THIS ENTRY**  
That portion of seabed land located in Roebuck Bay, Broome as is defined by Heritage Council of Western Australia survey drawing No 4859 as prepared by Fugro Spatial Solutions Pty Ltd.
5. **LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA** Shire of Broome
6. **OWNER** State of Western Australia  
(Vested in the Broome Port Authority)
7. **HERITAGE LISTINGS**
  - Register of Heritage Places: Interim Entry 20/12/2002  
Permanent Entry 17/04/2003
  - National Trust Classification: -----
  - Town Planning Scheme: -----
  - Municipal Inventory: -----
  - Register of the National Estate: -----
8. **CONSERVATION ORDER**  
A Conservation Order under Section 59 (4) of the *Heritage of Western Australia Act 1990*, was issued by the Minister for the Environment and Heritage on 20 December 2002.
9. **HERITAGE AGREEMENT**  
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10. **STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**  
*Flying Boat Wreckage Site*, the site of a World War Two 1942 Japanese aerial attack on fifteen moored flying boats, known to contain aircraft wreckage and other archaeological material relating to the attack and to the evacuation of Java, has cultural heritage significance for the following reasons:
  - the place is a physical memorial to those 70 to 100 people who lost their lives in 1942 when Japanese aircraft attacked fifteen moored flying boats moored at Broome carrying refugees from Indonesia;
  - the place is associated with the evacuation of approximately 8000 civilians from Java to Australia in 1942, and has national importance as a unique site encompassing abundant and rare archaeological evidence

of an aerial attack on the Australian mainland which resulted in a considerable loss of life and aircraft;

the place is exceptionally rare as no other ravaged structure or war-torn assemblage is left visible as a reminder of wartime attacks on Australia;

each aircraft has the potential to yield information that will contribute to the understanding of technical aspects of the operation and construction of the Flying Boat type;

the aircraft add to the rich cultural and natural heritage mix at Roebuck Bay. The site has become an important element in Broome's tourism industry; and,

the place is important to community, service and ex-service groups, for its cultural and historical associations. The trauma of the refugees, especially those killed in the raid, is starkly reflected in the remains.