



**HERITAGE
COUNCIL**
OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

**REGISTER OF HERITAGE PLACES
PERMANENT ENTRY**

1. **DATA BASE No.** P25378
2. **NAME** *Railway Rock Catchment Dams Group, Yilgarn (1894, 1896-c.1911)*
FORMER NAME (or OTHER NAMES)
3. **LOCATION** Stephens Road, Bodallin &
Great Eastern Highway, Yellowdine
4. **DESCRIPTION OF PLACE INCLUDED IN THIS ENTRY**
 1. Portion of Lot 844 on Deposited Plan 214654 being part of Reserve 28291 and part of the land in Crown Land Title Volume 3061 Folio 92;
 2. Portion of Lot 500 on Deposited Plan 64413 being part of Reserve 3229 and part of the land in Crown Land Title Volume 3157 Folio 92;
 3. Lot 501 on Deposited Plan 64413 being Reserve 50460 and the whole of the land in Crown Land Title Volume 3157 Folio 93;
 4. Portion of Vacant Crown Land;
together as shown on HC Curtilage Map P25378-0
5. **LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA** Shire of Yilgarn
6. **OWNER AT PERMAMENT REGISTRATION**
 1. State of Western Australia
(Responsible Agency: Water Corporation);
 2. State of Western Australia
(Responsible Agency: Water Corporation, Management Order: Minister for Works);
 3. State of Western Australia
(Responsible Agency and Management Order Holder: Western Australian Land Information Authority);
 4. State of Western Australia
(Responsible Agency: Department of Lands)
7. **HERITAGE LISTINGS**
 - Register of Heritage Places: Permanent 30/08/2016
Interim 12/02/2016
 - National Trust Classification: -----
 - Town Planning Scheme: -----

- Municipal Inventory:
- Register of the National Estate:

16/5/1997

8. ORDERS UNDER SECTION 38 OR 59 OF THE ACT

9. HERITAGE AGREEMENT

10. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Railway Rock Railway Rock Catchment Dams Group, Yilgarn, consisting of masonry catchment walls and earth dams built around granite domes at Yellowdine (1894-1897) and Bodallin (1897), as well as a Stone Bread Oven at Bodallin (1897), and the structural remains of three Western Australian Government Railways (WAGR) Houses at Yellowdine established 1896-c.1911, has cultural heritage significance for the following reasons:¹

the group represents a significant technical achievement of the Public Works Department during the gold boom, being innovative and functional constructions at granite domes that continue to provide water in remote, arid environments;

the group represents a range of technical approaches to constructing catchment dams at granite domes for the provision of a high quality water source for steam trains; from small adjustments to the local environment to extensive construction designed to capture water from multiple areas;

the group demonstrates the development of state infrastructure during the gold boom that linked the goldfields with Perth, as well as the development and lifestyle of small settlements along the goldfields railway line where catchment dams were developed;

the group contains a very rare example of a stone bread oven, used to support the work crews who constructed the catchment dams; and,

the group demonstrates the ingenuity and work of Public Works Department engineers W H Shields and C Jobson, as well as the Engineer-in-Chief C Y O'Connor.

¹ Granite domes are here defined as conspicuous geomorphological features comprising large monoliths rising about their surrounding landscape, see Bayly, I A E, *Rock of ages; human use and natural history of granite outcrops*, Tuart House: Nedlands, 1999, in Harvey, M, 'Two new species of *Synsphyronus* (Pseudoscorpiones: Garypidae) from southern Western Australian granite landforms', *Records of the Western Australian Museum*, 2010, vol. 26, p. 11