



## 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

#### 11.1 AESTHETIC VALUE\*

With its concrete lighthouse tower, quarters and outbuildings, the place forms a picturesque composition of built elements. With its unified construction system, striking geometry and mellow earthy colours, *Cape Inscription Lighthouse and Quarters* is valued by the community for its aesthetic characteristics. (Criterion 1.1)

By reason of elevated position and the combination of built elements, culturally modified and natural landscape, Cape Inscription has high aesthetic qualities as a significant cultural environment. (Criterion 1.3)

#### 11.2 HISTORIC VALUE

*Cape Inscription Lighthouse and Quarters* resulted from a 1907 recommendation to build four new lightstations: Cape Inscription, Point Cloates, Bedout Island and Cape Leveque. It was designed and constructed by the Public Works Department and completed in February 1910 at a cost £8,228. (Criteria 2.1 & 2.3)

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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.

Cape Inscription Lighthouse has provided a navigational aid to shipping from the time of its construction in 1910 and as such, has contributed to the safety of sea transportation in the area from that time. (Criterion 2.1)

Cape Inscription is associated with the first landing by a European in Australia, Dirk Hartog in 1616, and exploration by De Vlamingh in 1697 and by King in 1822. (Criterion 2.2)

*Cape Inscription Lighthouse and Quarters* is substantial evidence of the development and improvement of navigational aids that were made in the first quarter of the twentieth century. (Criterion 2.2)

*Cape Inscription Lighthouse and Quarters* was designed and constructed by the Public Works Department. (Criterion 2.3)

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

Portions of Lots 1 and 2 are considered to have the potential to be archaeologically sensitive, including the former keeper's quarters and outhouse, a stone-edged pathway, possible water cistern and the foundations of what may be a stable block. These structures may have cultural deposits associated with them. As a whole, this evidence combined with that of the standing structures has the capacity to yield information on the operations and existence on a remote lightstation. (Criterion 3.2)

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

The whole of Dirk Hartog Island, part of the Shark Bay World Heritage listing, is included on the Register of the National Estate, and *Cape Inscription Lighthouse* and buildings has been placed on the Shire of Shark Bay Municipal Inventory (Place No. 36). The place has been assessed as having a high historic and scientific heritage value. (Criterion 4.1)

Dirk Hartog Island is widely known to Western Australians for its place in early European history in Australia. It is one of those places that contributes to the community's sense of place. (Criterion 4.2)

## **12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE**

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

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

### **12. 2 REPRESENTATIVENESS**

*Cape Inscription Lighthouse and Quarters* is a very fine representative example of an off-form concrete lightstation constructed in the first quarter of the twentieth century. (Criterion 6.1)

### **12. 3 CONDITION**

The lighthouse has a small number of areas where spalling has occurred, but is otherwise in good condition. The framed shed is also in good repair. The remaining historic structures have had their roofs removed and all vulnerable materials are in a poor state of repair. The basic structures have stood up to time very well and are in a reasonable state of repair.

This portion of the Island was in very good condition, with minor rabbit and weed problems.

#### **12.4 INTEGRITY**

The original intention of the lightstation remains clear, notwithstanding the fabric losses. Some interpretation would be required to reveal the whole story. The integrity of the site as whole is high. The lighthouse is currently in use.

#### **12.5 AUTHENTICITY**

There is very little introduced fabric. The place retains a very high degree of authenticity and the main changes have been the result of fabric loss.

### **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, 'Cape Inscription, Dirk Hartog Island, Western Australia: Lighthouse Conservation Assessment', for 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, 'Cape Inscription, Dirk Hartog Island, Western Australia: Lighthouse Conservation Assessment', prepared for 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, 'Cape Inscription, Dirk Hartog Island, Western Australia: Lighthouse Conservation Assessment', for Australian Maritime Safety Authority, May 2000.

#### **13.3 COMPARATIVE INFORMATION**

For a discussion of the Comparative Evidence refer to Considine and Griffiths Architects Pty Ltd, McDonald Hales and Associates, Muir Environmental, 'Cape Inscription, Dirk Hartog Island, Western Australia: Lighthouse Conservation Assessment', for Australian Maritime Safety Authority, May 2000.

#### **13.4 REFERENCES**

Considine and Griffiths Architects Pty Ltd, McDonald Hales and Associates, Muir Environmental, 'Cape Inscription, Dirk Hartog Island, Western Australia: Lighthouse Conservation Assessment', for Australian Maritime Safety Authority, May 2000.

National Trust Assessment, 'Cape Inscription Lightkeepers Quarters', May 1997.

### 13.5 FURTHER RESEARCH

There were no archaeological deposits within lease back and balance areas of Lot 1 to suggest an Aboriginal presence at Cape Inscription, though historic Aboriginal presence remains a possibility.

Owing to the high archaeological potential of the proposed lease back area, staff, contractors and sub-contracts associated with any proposed changes in land-use or development should be briefed with respect to Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal heritage issues. This should include, but not be limited to, the following:

Obligations under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act (1972 – as amended)* and *Heritage of Western Australia Act (1990)*;

Identification of Aboriginal heritage sites; and

Protocols to be observed should archaeological material be encountered during the course of development.

Two overlapping Native Title Claims encompass Dirk Hartog Island: WC98\_047 (Malgana 2) and WC98\_061 (Malgana 3). The key claimants involved in these claims, along with the local representative body, were contacted regarding Aboriginal community concerns over Point Inscription. As yet, no response has been generated from these inquiries. However, the existence of the Native Title Claims indicates a degree of Aboriginal community interest in this area.