



**HERITAGE
COUNCIL**
OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

REGISTER OF HERITAGE PLACES

Permanent Entry

1. **DATA BASE No.** 18402
2. **NAME** *Esperance RSL Building, Norfolk Island Pines and War Memorial* (RSL Building, 1896; Norfolk Island Pines, 1896-97, and 1920s; Esperance War Memorial, c. 1922, relocated 1974)

FORMER NAMES: Esperance Bay School (1896-97); Municipal Chambers (1897-1908); Roads Board Office (1908-66); Library (1966-70)
3. **LOCATION** 6 James Street, 84 and 86 Dempster Street, Esperance
4. **DESCRIPTION OF PLACE INCLUDED IN THIS ENTRY**
 1. Lot 307 on Deposited Plan 48799 being Reserve 6206 and the whole of the land contained in Certificate of Crown Land Title Volume 3149 Folio 819

Lot 308 on Deposited Plan 48799 being Reserve 48842 and the whole of the land contained in Certificate of Crown Land Title Volume 3149 Folio 820

Portion of the Dempster Street road reserve
 2. Lot 809 on Deposited Plan 183864 being the whole of the land contained in Certificate of Title Volume 1596 Folio 60

together as shown on Heritage Council of Western Australia Survey Drawing No. 18402 prepared by Midland Survey Services
5. **LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA** Shire of Esperance
6. **OWNER**
 1. State of Western Australia
(As to Reserves 6206 & 48842. Management Order to Shire of Esperance)
(As to road reserve. Responsible agency Shire of Esperance)
 2. The Returned Services League of Australia WA Branch Inc
7. **HERITAGE LISTINGS**

• Register of Heritage Places:	Interim	24/02/2009
	Permanent	15/12/2009
• National Trust Classification (RSL Building):		11/06/1973
• Town Planning Scheme (RSL Building)	Adopted	27/09/1991

- Municipal Inventory
- Register of the National Estate:

Adopted

23/07/1996

8. CONSERVATION ORDER

9. HERITAGE AGREEMENT

10. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Esperance RSL Building, Norfolk Island Pines and War Memorial, a single storey building of granite construction with an iron roof in the Federation Arts and Crafts style, Norfolk Island Pines (*Araucaria hetrophylla*), and an obelisk style War Memorial of stone and masonry construction, has cultural heritage significance for the following reasons:

the place contains a rare example of a stone school in the Federation Arts and Crafts style;

the place contains the State's earliest surviving row plantings of Norfolk Island Pines, which are among a small number of mature trees of the species planted before the species was popularised following propagation at Hamel Nursery in 1898, and contribute to the landmark plantings of Norfolk Island Pines that characterise Esperance town centre;

the place contains a War Memorial that is unique in this State for the draped flag atop the obelisk;

Esperance RSL Building, a fine and well-resolved example of the Federation Arts and Crafts style, was designed in accord with a standard plan evolved by George Temple Poole, Assistant Engineer-in-Chief and Architect-in-Charge (1891-96), a key practitioner of this style and is a fine albeit minor example of his work in it;

each of the major elements, and the place in its entirety, have high aesthetic value, together comprising a significant landmark in which the early plantings of Norfolk Island Pines and the distinctive War Memorial are most visually prominent; and,

the place is highly valued by the community for social, cultural, spiritual, aesthetic and educational reasons, and contributes much to its sense of place.

The car park east of Esperance RSL Building is of low significance, but is of some significance as the site of the tennis courts in the early 20th century and for its function as open space.