



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.

11.1 AESTHETIC VALUE

Jarrah Tree, Armadale is significant for its landmark quality. (Criterion 1.3)

11.2. HISTORIC VALUE

Jarrah Tree, Armadale reflects the great age of this species and is a significant remnant of the period prior to European colonisation. (Criterion 2.1)

Jarrah Tree, Armadale was associated with Thomas Saw, one of the earliest settlers in the district, a major property owner and local benefactor, who sold the land on which the tree stands to the Minister for Education to be used as a school site. (Criterion 2.3)

11.3. SCIENTIFIC VALUE

The girth and age of this *Eucalyptus marginata* makes it valuable as a benchmark site with the potential to contribute to future research on the natural history of Western Australia. (Criterion 3.1)

11.4. SOCIAL VALUE

Jarrah Tree, Armadale has played a significant role in the playground activities of Armadale schoolchildren from 1904 to 1987 and is highly valued by the local community. This high public regard is illustrated by the efforts of community groups to prevent its destruction in 1987 and 1997. (Criterion 4.1)

Jarrah Tree, Armadale was the subject of a Conservation Order issued on 14 November 1997 after the Minister for Heritage had received 1,147 submissions in favour of conservation. (Criterion 4.1)

Jarrah Tree, Armadale contributes to the community's sense of place by providing a physical link with the history of the development of Armadale. (Criterion 4.2)

Jarrah Tree, Armadale forms an integral part of the Bicentennial Heritage Tree Trail and is included on the Tree Register of the National Trust of Australia (WA). (Criterion 4.2)

12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE

12.1. RARITY

Jarrah Tree, Armadale is variously estimated to be from 400 to 800 years old; a sign tacked to the tree states it is 1,500 years old. Surviving trees of equivalent age and girth are rare in the metropolitan area. (Criterion 5.1)

12.2 REPRESENTATIVENESS

Jarrah Tree, Armadale illustrates the girth of some jarrah forest trees before European settlement and subsequent clearing and timber felling. (Criterion 6.1)

12.3 CONDITION

The tree is less than half its normal height (because of lopping). It was ring-barked by vandals in 1997 and this incident had a direct impact on the tree's health.

Approximately 75% of the canopy of *Jarrah Tree, Armadale* is dead or non-existent. Approximately 80% of existing vegetation on the lower north side consists of mainly epicormic growth (water shoots formed as a response to the ring-bark injury and a variety of stress components).

The canopy area indicates that *Jarrah Tree, Armadale* is in a stable condition.

12.4 INTEGRITY

Not applicable.

12.5 AUTHENTICITY

Not applicable.

13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

13.1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

For a discussion of the documentary evidence refer to Burke, Maggie and Weir, Patrick: 'Old Jarrah Tree Armadale' (material prepared to accompany Section 9 Referral to HCWA Register Committee, File PD 9009, June 1997).

13.2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

Not applicable.

13.3 REFERENCES

No key references.

Experts consulted include:

- Landscape and Conservation Committee of the National Trust of Australia (WA)
- Tree Society of Western Australia
- John Goldsmith, Alan Tingay and Associates
- Charles Adlous-Ball, Arboricultural Consultant
- Arbor Centre Pty Ltd
- E M Davison, School of Environmental Biology, Curtin University of Technology

13.4 FURTHER RESEARCH

Establish age of tree.