



REGISTER OF HERITAGE PLACES

Permanent Entry

1. **DATA BASE No.** 16785
2. **NAME** *RAAF Headquarters Bunker (fmr), Belmont (1943)*
SES Bunker
3. **LOCATION** 81 – 91 Leake Street, Belmont
4. **DESCRIPTION OF PLACE INCLUDED IN THIS ENTRY**
That portion of Lot 8231 on Diagram 12370 being portion of Reserve 28749 and being part of the land contained in Crown Land Title Volume 3119 Folio 56 as is defined on Heritage Council of Western Australia Survey Drawing No. 16785 prepared by Warren King & Company & Midland Survey Services.
5. **LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA** Shire of Belmont
6. **OWNER** State of Western Australia
(Management Order to: Fire and Emergency Services
Authority of Western Australia)
7. **HERITAGE LISTINGS**

• Register of Heritage Places:	Interim Entry	18/03/2005
	Permanent Entry	28/02/2006
• National Trust Classification:		-----
• Town Planning Scheme:		-----
• Municipal Inventory:	Adopted	August 2002
• Register of the National Estate:		-----
8. **CONSERVATION ORDER**

9. **HERITAGE AGREEMENT**

10. **STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

RAAF Headquarters Bunker (fmr), Belmont, a partially subterranean two storey concrete building (1943) designed and constructed by the Allied Works Council, has cultural significance for the following reasons:

the place played an important role as the RAAF Fighter Sector Headquarters, from March 1945 to August 1945, as the centre for the transfer of information from radar station regarding aircraft movements towards the end of World War Two which resulted in the decision to intercept unidentified or suspicious aircraft;

the place was built in response to the bombing of Broome (3rd March 1942) to provide a better secured facility for the Fighter Sector Headquarters against a possible air raid attacks on Western Australia;

the place played an important role for the Civil Defence and Emergency Department as an available operational headquarters in case of national emergency from 1967 to 2003, and particularly during the Cold War period (1948 to 1989);

the place is a rare example of a partially subterranean concrete bunker;

the place is a good example of a building designed by the Allied Works Division and demonstrates an exceptionally high level of technical achievement required to construct a partially subterranean bunker for the purposes of military defence; and

the place is valued by the past and present military community and the wider community for its historic and military associations with World War Two.

The three other buildings on the premises were constructed post 1967 by the State Emergency Service (SES) and are considered as having low significance.