



REGISTER OF HERITAGE PLACES

Register Entry

1. **DATA BASE No.** P26494
2. **NAME** Main Roads Western Australia Building (Don Aitken Centre),
East Perth (1970)
Main Roads Building (Don Aitken Centre) East Perth
3. **LOCATION** 132 Plain Street, East Perth
4. **DESCRIPTION OF PLACE INCLUDED IN THIS ENTRY**
Reserve 28712, Lot 773 on Deposited Plan 156902 being the land contained in Crown
Land Record Volume 3062 Folio 585
5. **LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA** City of Perth
6. **OWNER AT REGISTRATION**
State of Western Australia
(Responsible Agency: Main Roads WA; Management Order: Commissioner of Main
Roads)
7. **HERITAGE LISTINGS**
 - Register of Heritage Places: 09/05/2022
 - National Trust Classification: -----
 - Local Planning Scheme – Heritage List: -----
 - Local Heritage Survey: -----
 - Register of the National Estate: -----
 - Aboriginal Sites Register: -----
8. **ORDERS UNDER SECTION OF THE ACT**

9. **HERITAGE AGREEMENT**

10. **STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**
Main Roads Western Australia Building (Don Aitken Centre), East Perth, a ten-storey
plus basement, concrete government office building (1970), designed in the Late
Twentieth Century International style, with elements of the Brutalist style, that includes

a sculpture by Perth artist Margaret Priest (1970), and associated entry piazza and landscaped forecourt has cultural heritage significance for the following reasons:

the place illustrates the expanding role of State Government in the development of road-based infrastructure in the Late Twentieth Century in response to the post-war mineral boom, and the increased need for new office accommodation at that time;

the place is a good, substantial and intact representative example of a Late Twentieth Century International style building, with elements of the Brutalist style, which is a landmark in East Perth;

the place is a good representative example of the work of prominent Perth architectural firm Oldham, Boas, Ednie-Brown & Partners in the Late Twentieth century period;

the place is associated with Don Aitken, Commissioner of Main Roads for 22 years, and the youngest ever appointed at the age of 40;

the place is associated with Master Builder H A Doust and his son John Doust whose company specialised in the new forms of concrete construction being developed in Perth from the 1960s, including the use of pre-stressed and reinforced concrete, and slip-form construction; and,

the place is associated with Perth artist Margaret Priest, one of the foremost figures in post-war art in Western Australia, whose bronze sculpture adorns the building's foyer, the design of which remains the emblem for Main Roads at the time of assessment in 2022.

The level 9 additions, open carpark areas, exterior lighting, recent office fitouts on the ground floor level and levels 1 to 8 inclusive, recent café fitout on level 1, and recent fitout to the Health and Wellbeing facility on level 9 are of little significance. Private telecommunication installations mounted externally on the tower roof deck are intrusive.