



two ways :: one outcome

Heritage Policy

Reference Number:	P37
Organisational Unit:	All
Responsible Position:	Director Corporate Services
Relevant Delegations:	NA
Date Adopted:	5 August 2016
Review Date:	Every three years

Objectives

To ensure sacred and heritage sites are treated in accordance with legislation and to inform stakeholders of the appropriate ways to deal with and approach sacred sites for service delivery.

Legislation and Reference

Northern Territory Aboriginal Sacred Sites Act 1989 (NT)
Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority¹
Heritage Conservation Act 1991 (NT)
Heritage Conservation Regulations - Reg 3
Heritage Register²

Scope

This policy applies to all council staff and stakeholders operating in the Central Desert Regional Council geographical area.

Heritage sites are registered on the Heritage Register established under the Heritage Conservation Regulations. The register contains interim conservation orders, conservation management plans and heritage agreements relating to heritage sites. There are six registered sites in the in the council region (see Attachment 1).

Policy

Any activity on listed heritage sites should be carried out in accordance with management plans on the register.

Some Aboriginal sites on the register are 'non-public' and should not be entered under any circumstances.

'Prescribed archaeological places' and objects as per Part 6 of the Act (see attachment 2) may not be on the register, but enjoy automatic protection.

Some heritage registered sites and objects are privately owned and the owner's permission should be sought before dealing with these sites and objects.

¹ www.aapant.org.au

² www.nt.gov.au/nreta/heritage

Identified sacred sites are registered and the information is kept by the Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority (AAPA). Although not all sacred sites are registered, the *Northern Territory Aboriginal Sacred Sites Act* also applies to unregistered sites.

Authority to carry out activities in sacred sites must be obtained from the AAPA. Authority certificates set out the conditions for use or carrying out works and indemnify the holder against prosecution under the Act if works have been carried out in accordance with the conditions of the authority certificate.

Any person undertaking works under an authority certificate is legally responsible to ensure that all contractors, sub-contractors and employees comply with the conditions on the certificate.

Identified Heritage Listed Sites

Government Battery and Cyanide Works, Arltunga

Description: No description available

Heritage value statement: The Government Battery and Cyanide Works Precinct has heritage significance as the finest example in the Northern Territory of one of the earliest and most remote mining settlements in Central Australia. The buildings in this area are of a construction and style that sets them apart from the more modest and basic structures found in other parts of the Arltunga Historical Reserve. Their original sound construction is the reason for their quite sound condition today. The stone is held in place by a lime-based (cement type) mortar whereas in the majority of miner's dwellings only mud or no mortar at all was used. The men employed at the battery lived more comfortably than the miners. They received good wages and ration allowances plus travelling expenses to and from Adelaide and obviously were much better housed.

Comments: Part of portion 1329, designated portion 4742(A). Building was established in 1898. About 110 km east of Alice Springs.

Aileron Homestead No 1

Description: The original homestead consists of 8 rooms surrounded by an enclosed verandah. It retains a high degree of architectural integrity with few alterations from its original construction. The original floor plan is unchanged apart from some partitioning up on the verandah area and modernisation of the bathroom. The homestead is constructed of patterned concrete blocks (rendered internally), timber framed windows and doors, a sawn-timber roof structure and galvanised iron roof sheeting.

Heritage Value Statement: The original Aileron Homestead is of architectural and historical significance to the NT. Constructed in 1933 by Fred Colson the homestead retains some of its original features including the masonry, majority of flooring and other timberwork, kitchen stove, verandah and windows. The scale of the building, high standard of workmanship, detailing and finishes distinguishes it from other homesteads of this era in Central Australia which were

generally of a more rudimentary and less expensive construction. The building has some historical significance owing to its associations with the development of the centralian pastoral industry during the 1930s and links with the Colson family for over 60 years.

Comments: No comments made.

Alcoota Fossil Beds

Description: The Alcoota Fossil Beds are one of only three known vertebrate fossil sites in the Northern Territory. The others are the Bullock Creek Fossil Site on Camfield Station and the Kangaroo Well Site on Deep Well Station. The Alcoota fauna has a rich concentration of vertebrate fossils dating to the late Miocene period (about 8 million years old) and contains an abundance of aquatic and stream-bank species. The fossil deposit consists of a series of bone-bearing lenses on a single horizon. The individual lenses are only about 1 metre across but extended for about 170 metres. Fossils from a wide range of marsupials, birds and crocodiles are present including anatids (duck), pheonicopterid (flamingo), diprotodontids (wombat-like marsupials), dasyurids, varanids (large goanna-like reptiles), thylacinid (thylacine-like animal) and crocodylids.

Heritage value statement: The Alcoota Fossil Beds are of particular importance in providing evidence for the evolution of the Northern Territory's fauna and climate. They are a unique occurrence of well-preserved, often rare, Tertiary vertebrate fossils, the study of which will furnish a better understanding of the modern Australian fauna. The Alcoota Fossil Beds are also significant as a research and teaching site for palaeontology students and for containing the type locality of the Waite Formation.

Comments: In 1962, a local collector took some bones he'd been given to a Geologist for identification. A comprehensive study of the palaeontology of the area was published in 1967. Further Reading Murray, P and Megiran, D. 1992. Continuity and Contrast in middle and late Miocene vertebrate communities from the Northern Territory. *The Beagle* 9 (1):195-218. Newsome, AE and Rochow, KA. 1964. Vertebrate fossils from Tertiary sediments in Central Australia. *Australian Journal of Science* 26:352. Woodburne, M.O. 1967. The Alcoota Fauna, Central Australia. Bureau of Mineral Resources, Geology

Anna's Reservoir Conservation Reserve

Description: The main historic elements within the Reserve are a rockhole (Anna's Reservoir) and the ruins of a station homestead comprising the remains of the rectangular three roomed plan of the original homestead building, three small isolated piles of stone, the remains of the blacksmith's hut and a fence or yard post about 90m south of the blacksmith's hut.

Heritage value statement: Anna's Reservoir Conservation Reserve has historical significance to the Territory. The rockhole, Anna's Reservoir, was of critical importance to the explorer John McDouall Stuart, who discovered, described and named it in April 1860. He visited it on the forward and return journeys of each of his three attempts to reach the north coast. On Stuart's return from his last, and successful, trip in September 1862, the availability of water and grass at Anna's Reservoir at a time when Stuart himself was critically ill and the surrounding area dry, enabled the successful

completion of the journey. The Reservoir once again played an important part in the epic overland journey from 1879-1880 by Alfred Giles, overlanding 8000 sheep and 4000 cattle to establish Springvale near Katherine. Giles took advantage of Stuart's description of the water at Anna's Reservoir and forced the sheep over a dry stage of 108 miles from Colyer's Creek (north of Alice Springs) to the Reservoir. This was the only reliable water source in that dry year between Colyer Creek and Tea Tree Well. The homestead ruins within the Reserve are also highly significant due to their association with the Barrow Creek Pastoral Company venture, the most ambitious enterprise of its kind in Central Australia. Billy Benstead, manager of the venture chose in early 1884 Anna's Reservoir as the site of the station homestead. This homestead was the venue for one of the few documented cases where Aboriginal resistance actually forced a withdrawal of white settlement. As such the ruins are important as evidence of that settlement.

Comments: Anna's Reservoir was first named on the 19 April 1860, by John McDouall Stuart.

Harts Range Mica Mines Complex

Description: The Harts Range Mica Mining Complex, comprises the Oolgarinna, Billy Hughes and Billy Hughes Extended, Stone Hut, Spotted Tiger and Kismet mines.

Heritage value statement: The Harts Range Mica Mining Complex is culturally significant and historically important to the NT because it represents some of the largest and most productive mica mines in the Territory, possibly Australia, and reflects the dominance of the mica industry by the NT during the period 1892-1960. The Harts Range Mica Mining Complex has high archaeological potential to provide further information on the timing and nature of occupation of the mica fields. The Complex as a whole contains a diverse range of features dating from the 1890s up to the late 1950s, including the remains of shafts, mullock heaps, camel pads, mica splitting areas, timber and stone structures and associated artefact scatters. These remains are representative of those found elsewhere in Harts Range and reflect both large scale attempts and small scale mining activity that characterised much of the mining on the field. The number and diversity of features at these sites combine to provide tangible evidence of a mining way of life, construction and design techniques that are no longer practiced. The remaining stone and timber structures are evocative of the harsh and primitive conditions in which the miners and their families lived and worked. The Harts Range Mica Mining Complex also derives some significance from its association with K. Johannsen and may have value to the Central Australian Italian community.

Comments: No comments made

Eldo Rocket Shelters

Description: These earth covered prefabricated iron Armco rocket shelters are a significant historical artefact left over from the European Launcher Development Organisation (ELDO) space program. The shelters, which varied in size according to the population at each station, were made of heavy gauge galvanised corrugated iron Armco sheeting and were assembled on a site selected by the property owner. The shelters were installed in trenches located on both sides and the roof of the building was covered with approximately 60cm of compacted soil. Wire netting was secured

over the compacted soil to help stabilise it. Access to the shelters was an Armco tunnel and the entrance was protected by a sandbag wall. The shelters consist of two triangular shaped side walls with 3 air vents, 11 metres wide at the base decreasing to two metres wide at the top. Each wall has an arched entrance which connects to 2m long tunnels that open into a room. The room inside is 6m wide, 7m long and 2m high with a ceiling of curved corrugated iron. On the outside, between the two walls, earth completely covers the tunnels and room. The physical dimensions and construction method of each shelter are the same and only their overall length varies.

Heritage value statement: The European Launcher Development Organisation (ELDO) rocket shelters, built 1966-67, are significant as a tangible reminder of Australia's involvement in a major program in the field of early space research and development. The ELDO consortium, which included Britain, France, West Germany, Belgium, Holland, Italy and Australia, turned a surplus intercontinental ballistic missile into the three stage Europa 1 satellite launch vehicle to be launched at Woomera in South Australia. ELDO's satellite launch program is considered to be the most spectacular and complex activity ever undertaken at Woomera. The nineteen earth covered, prefabricated, steel Armco rocket shelters located north of the Simpson Desert near the Queensland and Northern Territory border are a significant historical artefact from ELDO's space program. The shelters were produced in a way that they could be easily transported and assembled at the eleven remote Northern Territory pastoral stations. They were a simple and effective way to ensure the residents living within the Europa 1 northerly flight path and possible impact area were protected from debris should the 106 tonne rocket have to be destroyed in-flight.

Comments: Location The nineteen declared ELDO Rocket Shelters are located on the following eleven pastoral properties: Annitowa Station, NT Portion 581 Argadargada Station, NT Portion 370 Atula Station, NT Portion 4333 Austral Downs Station, NT Portion 1605 Burrumurra Station, NT Portion 3118 Jervois Station, NT Portion 366 Lucy Creek Station, NT Portion 686 Manners Creek Station, NT Portion 682 Marqua Station, NT Portion 368 Ooratippra Station, NT Portion 2981 Tarlton Downs Station, NT Portion 367

Old Mount Riddock Cemetery

Description: A small cemetery containing eight graves

Heritage value statement: The Mount Riddock Cemetery is significant to the heritage of the Territory as it provides a tangible reminder of the lives of an important family, the Webb's, who contributed to the development of the pastoral industry and the social history of Central Australia. All of the eight graves and headstones in the cemetery relate to Benjamin Mark Webb, one of the original owners of the Mount Riddock leases from 1910. Benjamin Webb was one of the pioneers who established the pastoral industry and contributed to its consolidation until his death in 1938. After his death, his family continued to build the station and ensure that the Harts Range area continued to develop. With ownership of the station moving out of the family in 1986, the cemetery is a continuing reminder of the contribution of the Webb family and the development in the pastoral industry during the first half of the twentieth century.

Comments: Further Reading Alford, R. 1990. The Douglas/Daly Region Heritage Sites Survey: Parts 1,11 and Extraneous Sites. Unpublished Report National Trust of Australia (NT), Darwin. Carment, D. 1991. History and the Landscape in Central Australia: A Study of the Material Evidence of European Culture and Settlement. NARU:Darwin. Pearce, H. 1985. Homesteads in Central Australia: Survey and Documentation for a Register, Unpublished Report to the National Trust, Darwin.

History

Date	Comment
5 August 2016	Revised OC145/2016
10 August 2012	Revised (379/2012)
5 October 2011	First adopted (194/22011)

Attachments

Extract from Heritage Conservation Regulations – Reg 3

Attachment 2

The following is an extract from Heritage Conservation Regulations - Reg 3:

3 Prescribed archaeological places and objects

- (1) *For the purposes of Part 6 of the Act, the following archaeological places are prescribed archaeological places:*
 - (a) *places containing rock paintings or rock carvings;*
 - (b) *prehistoric or protohistoric occupation places;*
 - (c) *places (not being cemeteries within the meaning of the Cemeteries Act) containing human remains or burial artifacts.*
- (2) *For the purposes of Part 6 of the Act, archaeological objects which are Aboriginal portable cultural objects (including but not limited to secret and ceremonial objects, log or bark coffins, human remains, portable rock or wood carvings or engravings or stone tools) are prescribed archaeological objects.*
- (3) *Without limiting the generality of subregulations (1) and (2), the Minister may, by instrument in writing, prescribe for the purposes of Part 6 of the Act a particular archaeological place or archaeological object.*