



**HERITAGE
COUNCIL**
OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

REGISTER OF HERITAGE PLACES

Permanent Entry

1. **DATA BASE No.** 7214
2. **NAME** *Derby Town Commonage* (1888, 1911, 1917, 1944, 1959/1960, c. 1986)
3. **LOCATION** Derby Highway, approximately 7km from Derby
4. **DESCRIPTION OF PLACE INCLUDED IN THIS ENTRY**

Lot 1440 on Deposited Plan 32959 being part of Reserve 1326 and the whole of the land contained in Crown Land Title Volume 3129 Folio 148, portion of Lot 1434 on Deposited Plan 32959 being part of Reserve 1326 and part of the land contained in Crown land Title Volume 3129 Folio 142, Lot 55 on Deposited Plan 194348 being Reserve 28439 and the whole of the land contained in Crown Land Title Volume 3059 Folio 350 and portions of closed roads being unallocated Crown land

together as shown on Heritage Council of Western Australia Survey Drawing No. 7214 prepared by Steffanoni Ewing & Cruickshank Pty Ltd.
5. **LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA** Shire of Derby/West Kimberley
6. **OWNER** State of Western Australia
(As to Reserves 1326 & 28439. Management Order to the Shire of Derby West Kimberley)
7. **HERITAGE LISTINGS**

• Register of Heritage Places:	Interim Entry	22/08/2006
	Permanent Entry	21/08/2007
• National Trust Classification:		-----
• Town Planning Scheme:		-----
• Municipal Inventory:	Adopted	01/12/1995
	(Prison Boab Tree	
	Myall's Bore)	
• Register of Aboriginal Sites	Registered (Kunamu	03/02/1999
	/Prison Boab Tree)	
• Register of the National Estate:		-----
8. **CONSERVATION ORDER**

9. **HERITAGE AGREEMENT**

10. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Derby Town Commonage, a culturally modified landscape containing pindan woodlands, Boab trees (*Adansonia gregorii*) including the Boab Prison Tree; bores including Myalls Bore; a 100m long concrete cattle trough; holding yards; a concrete pool known as Frosty Pool; a section of former highway; a relocated house; access roads; car park; visitor facilities including picnic shelters, an interpretive shelter and seating; and various fences, gates and other markers, has cultural heritage significance for the following reasons:

the Boab Prison Tree is a registered Aboriginal site and is highly valued by the Indigenous people for whom it has cultural and spiritual significance;

for more than a century, and despite reductions in its size, the place provided travellers and travelling livestock with a resting place and water within a day's travel of the port of Derby;

the place became the last overnight camp for the thousands of head of livestock that were shipped out of Derby each year, after a plentiful supply of artesian water was obtained from Myalls Bore in 1911;

the 100m long concrete trough constructed in 1917 is reputed to be the longest cattle trough in the Southern Hemisphere and represents a considerable technical achievement;

service personnel lived on the place, stored fuel there, and constructed Frosty Pool, thus leaving a physical reminder of the role of the armed services in the protection of Australia's north during World War Two; and,

the Boab Prison Tree and the adjacent cattle trough are well-known tourist attractions that contribute to the sense of place of West Kimberley residents and visitors.

The DCA bores have no heritage significance and are not included in the assessment. The car park, shelters, seating, and visitor information located between the Boab Prison Tree and the cattle trough have no heritage significance. The disused holding yards have moderate heritage significance but may need to be altered if brought back into use. Notwithstanding that it is a relocated place and its significance is reduced by its current position, Holman House retains significance relating to its original use