



REGISTER OF HERITAGE PLACES

Permanent Entry

1. **DATA BASE No.** 10062
2. **NAME** *Karalee Reservoir, Rock Catchment & Aqueduct* (1897)
3. **LOCATION** Karalee, about 50km eastwards of Southern Cross
4. **DESCRIPTION OF PLACE INCLUDED IN THIS ENTRY**
Yilgarn location 1589, being Crown Reserve 3531 and being the whole of the land comprised in Crown Land Record Volume 3108 Folio 309.
5. **LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA** Shire of Yilgarn
6. **OWNER** National Trust of Australia (WA)
7. **HERITAGE LISTINGS**
 - Register of Heritage Places: Interim Entry 13/07/2001
Permanent Entry 14/12/2001
 - National Trust Classification: -----
 - Town Planning Scheme: -----
 - Municipal Inventory: Adopted 16/05/97
 - Register of the National Estate: -----
8. **CONSERVATION ORDER**

9. **HERITAGE AGREEMENT**

10. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Karalee Reservoir, Rock Catchment & Aqueduct, a former railway water source comprising natural granite rock formations and stone retaining walls, trenches and stone sluices, a stone, timber and riveted iron aqueduct (in ruins) and an earth and stone water reservoir, has cultural heritage significance for the following reasons:

the place has importance for the region, and for Western Australia, generally, as a key component in the development of the railway between Southern Cross and Coolgardie and as such the place played an important role in the development of the Eastern Goldfields from its construction in 1897 to the introduction of Diesel locomotives in 1953-6;

the place is an excellent example of nineteenth century mastery of applied science and technical design. It is associated with the gigantic engineering task of supplying water to the Eastern Goldfields Railway

in arid country and so is representative of the high degree of technical innovation achieved in the catchment, storage and delivery of water to the railways.

the place is associated with the explorer C.C. Hunt (1860s) who first established a dam at Karalee, the entrepreneur W. N. Hedges (1890s) who built the catchment and the Public Works engineer, W.H. Shields (1890s) who designed the reservoir;

the place has aesthetic value as large scale visually powerful engineering structures; the catchment rocks, rock dam walls, aqueducts and channel earthworks combine to present a visually powerful ensemble in a bushland setting;

the place has potential, through interpretation, to inform and communicate its significance and thus improve public understanding of the history, technology and social development of the region, the railways and the Goldfields Water Supply Scheme; and

the place has potential to contribute through archaeological investigation to our knowledge of the history of development of the structures associated with the Goldfields Water Supply Scheme.