

South Fremantle Power Station

AUTHOR City of Cockburn

PLACE NUMBER 03381

LOCATION

Robb St Coogee

LOCATION DETAILS

Formerly Hamilton Hill. Lot 3.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Cockburn

REGION

Metropolitan

CONSTRUCTION DATE

Constructed from 1946, Constructed from 1951

DEMOLITION YEAR

N/A

Statutory Heritage Listings

TYPE	STATUS	DATE	DOCUMENTS
Heritage List	Adopted	14 Jul 2011	
State Register	Registered	08 Jun 2021	HCWebsite.Listing+ListingDocument, HCWebsite.Listing+ListingDocument

Heritage Council Decisions and Deliberations

TYPE	STATUS	DATE	DOCUMENTS
(no listings)			

Other Heritage Listings and Surveys

TYPE	STATUS	DATE	GRADING/MANAGEMENT CATEGORY
Aboriginal Heritage Sites Register	Permanent		
Municipal Inventory	Adopted	10 Apr 2014	Category A

Statement of Significance

South Fremantle Power Station demonstrates the strong expression of a structure specifically designed for an industrial process. South Fremantle Power Station is a good example of an Art Deco industrial structure, being the largest one to be built in Western Australia. South Fremantle Power Station housed the first major power generating equipment in the State specifically designed to generate alternating current at the Australian and British Standard Frequency of 50 Hz.

Physical Description

South Fremantle Power Station is a high-volume, steel framed building, representing a late Art Deco industrial design. The external steel frame is clad in concrete rendered and painted with a predominantly vertical window treatment continuous between levels in the recessed bays between columns. Steel window frames throughout are clear glazed.

History

Construction of South Fremantle Power Station commenced in 1946. The Minister for Electricity, David Brand, officially opened it in June 1951. South Fremantle Power Station worked in conjunction with the East Perth Power Station to supply the Metropolitan area with power. Much of the machinery in the Power Station

was designed and manufactured in England. A major fire occurred at the power station in 1954. Though only structural damage occurred, the fire was the catalyst to the change from coal to oil fuel for the station. During the mid-1970s however, South Fremantle Power Station reverted back to coal. In the 1980s extensions to the Muja Power Station, located near the coal supplies at Collie, led to the closure of both the East Perth and South Fremantle Power Stations. As production of electricity had become uneconomical at these sites, East Perth closed in 1981 and South Fremantle in 1985. Since 1994 the Power Station has had its plant and equipment removed and the workshops, amenities building, canteen and ash pump chamber have been transferred or demolished. A part of the contract for readying the building for any future occupancy was the removal of all asbestos materials. Although a number of proposals have been made for the building, including hotel or marine museum, continued deterioration is the only prospect unless a useful tenancy can be achieved.

Integrity/Authenticity

INTEGRITY: Poor AUTHENTICITY: High

Condition

Fair

Associations

NAME	TYPE	YEAR FROM	YEAR TO
W.H. Taylor, General Manager of WA Government Electricity Supply	Architect	1946	-

References

REF ID NO	REF NAME	REF SOURCE	REF DATE
	HCWA assessment form for "South Fremantle Power Station".	State Heritage Office	

State Heritage Office library entries

LIBRARY ID	TITLE	MEDIUM	YEAR OF PUBLICATION
6641	South Fremantle Power Station : heritage assessment review.	Heritage Study {Other}	1997
8519	First light: The development of a State Government Electricity and Gas supply. Part one.	Book	0
877	South Fremantle Power Station heritage assessment.	Heritage Study {Other}	1994
6304	South Fremantle Power Station.	Brochure	0
6303	Souvenir program : closing ceremony : South Fremantle Power Station : September 27th 1985.	Brochure	1985
9147	Cockburn Coast: draft district structure plan	Book	2008
5832	Port Catherine environmental review summary.	Report	2001
2400	Industrial heritage schools competition 1990.	Report	1990
10036	The changing Cockburn Coast. Appendices - European Heritage	Electronic	2008
9846	East Perth Power Station proposed site redevelopment. A proposal to refurbish and modify a heritage power station complex to create a science and technology centre.	Heritage Study {Other}	1997
9101	Cockburn coast: reborn.	Report	2008
10272	South Fremantle Power Station: Master Plan	Heritage Study {Other}	2014
10273	South Fremantle Power Station: Master Plan Appendices	Heritage Study {Other}	2014
9935	Electricity generation, transmission and distribution in Western Australia: representation on the register of heritage places.	Report	2007
4948	Market research study of the South Fremantle Power House Project.	Report	1998
9148	The changing Cockburn coast: Aboriginal and European heritage in the Cockburn region.	Heritage Study {Other}	2008
9102	Cockburn coast: regional framework.	Report	2008
9529	South Fremantle power station: a heritage dilemma?	Journal article	2004

LIBRARY ID	TITLE	MEDIUM	YEAR OF PUBLICATION
9917	Survey of the Port Coogee development area.	Electronic	2006
3703	Integrated coastal management strategy City of Cockburn (draft).	Report	1998
553	South Fremantle Power Station : archive photographs.	Heritage Study {Other}	1994
3214	Proposal to Purchase the South Fremantle Power Station.	Report	1996
4476	Fremantle Studies: journal of the Fremantle History Society.	Serial	1999
6640	South Fremantle Power Station : conservation plan. Volumes 1 & 2.	Heritage Study {Cons'n Plan}	2003

Creation Date 20 Dec 1993 **Last Update** 18 Dec 2019 **Publish place record online (inHerit):** Approved

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