

Local Heritage Survey





Shire of Mundaring Local Heritage Survey (2025)

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*Cover page: Goldfields Weir Hotel (now known as the Mundaring Weir Hotel) c.1917
(Source: Mundaring and Hills Historical Society)*

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1.0 Executive Summary

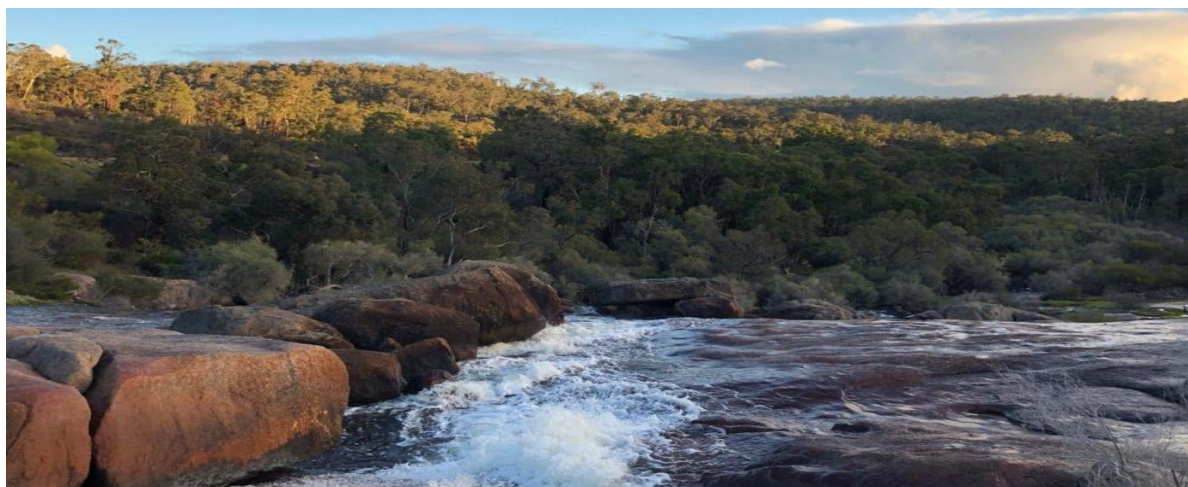
The rich history of the Shire of Mundaring is embedded in the fabric of the Shire's many heritage buildings and places. The Shire's vision is for these buildings and places to be protected, enhanced and celebrated. The Shire of Mundaring is committed to conserving and promoting its local heritage to ensure that its history is preserved for generations to come.

Identifying the heritage values of a place is the first step in the process of heritage management, which aims to respect and retain those qualities and characteristics that contribute to a place's significance.

The Shire's current Local Heritage Survey (LHS) was adopted over 27 years ago. Up until recently a major review of the Shire's LHS had not been undertaken since its adoption.

During the recent review of the LHS, the inclusion or removal of a place from the LHS, or the amendment of an existing place record in the LHS, have all been considered in accordance with the Guidelines for Local Heritage Surveys prepared by the Heritage Council of Western Australia (HCWA). All places were assessed for their cultural heritage significance.

The Shire's Local Heritage Survey Review Working Group played an important role in providing advice and information on those nominated places which were added to the LHS. The Working Group included Shire Officers, and representatives from Hocking Heritage and Architecture, Mundaring and Hills Historical Society, Darlington History Group, Lost Mundaring and Surroundings, Friends of the Chidlow WWII Army Camps, and Midland and Districts Historical Society.



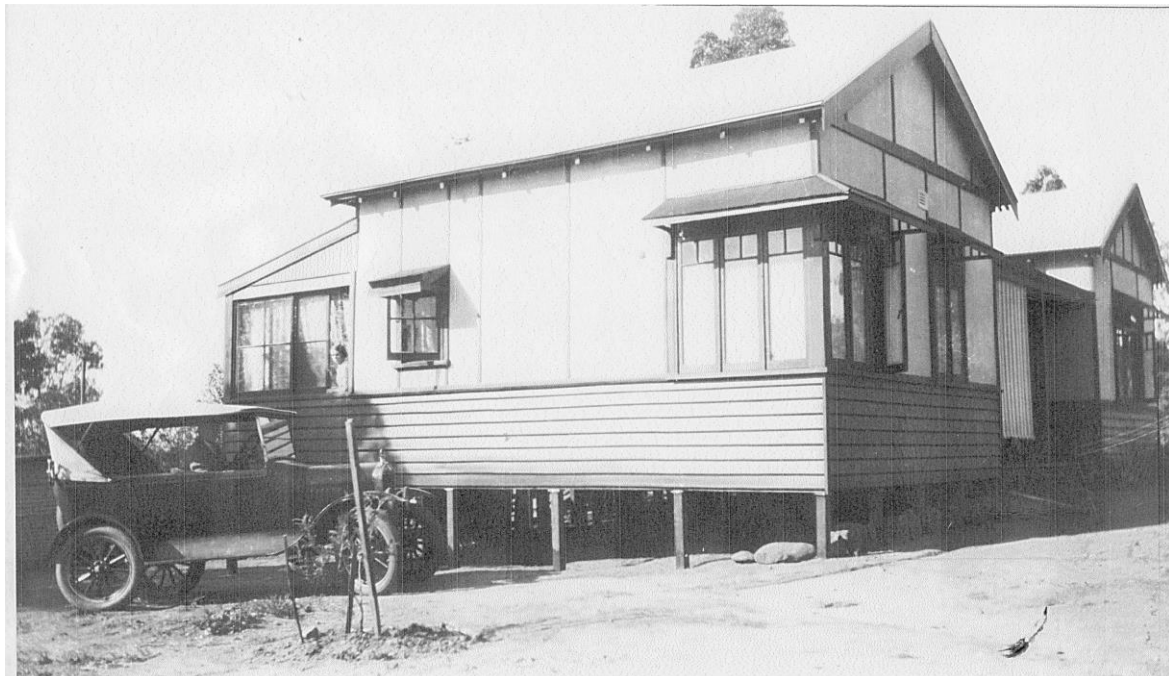
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2.0 Acknowledgements

In preparing this Local Heritage Survey the Shire gratefully acknowledges the contribution and the assistance of:

- Hocking Heritage and Architecture;
- Mundaring and Hills Historical Society;
- Darlington History Group;
- Lost Mundaring and Surroundings;
- Friends of the Chidlow WWII Army Camps;
- Midland and Districts Historical Society;
- The local community;
- Rail Heritage WA;
- Heritage Council of Western Australia;
- The State Library of Western Australia;
- The City of Swan; and
- The Signalling Interest Group of Western Australia.

It is acknowledged that the Heritage Council of Western Australia owns the copyright of the photographs the Shire has obtained from it, and has been given permission to use in this Local Heritage Survey.



*York Road, Greenmount 1935 (property address unknown)
(Source: Mundaring and Hills Historical Society)*

3.0 Introduction

The heritage value of a place lies in its cultural heritage significance. This is defined in The Burra Charter (*The Australia Charter for Places of Cultural Significance 1999*) as ‘the aesthetic, historic, scientific or social value for past, present or future generations’.

The *Heritage Act 2018* (the Act) commenced operation in July 2019, replacing the *Heritage of Western Australia Act 1990*.

The Act requires each local government to prepare a survey of places in its district that in its opinion are, or may become, of cultural heritage significance.

The Act identifies that the purpose of a Local Heritage Survey (LHS) includes:

- a) *identifying and recording places that are, or may become, of cultural heritage significance in its district; and*
- b) *assisting the local government in making and implementing decisions that are in harmony with cultural heritage values; and*
- c) *providing a cultural and historical record of its district; and*
- d) *providing an accessible public record of places of cultural heritage significance to its district; and*
- e) *assisting the local government in preparing a heritage list.”*

In 1997, the Shire of Mundaring’s Municipal Heritage Inventory was adopted. Consistent with Part 8 of the Act, the Municipal Heritage Inventory is now known as a ‘Local Heritage Survey’ (LHS).

The LHS is important as a first point of identification of heritage places and is used, among other functions, to inform the preparation of a Heritage List. However, the LHS itself has little specific planning or legal weight. In contrast, a Heritage List is an instrument that is afforded powers under the *Planning and Development Act 2005* and therefore carries more statutory weight when determining planning outcomes for heritage places.

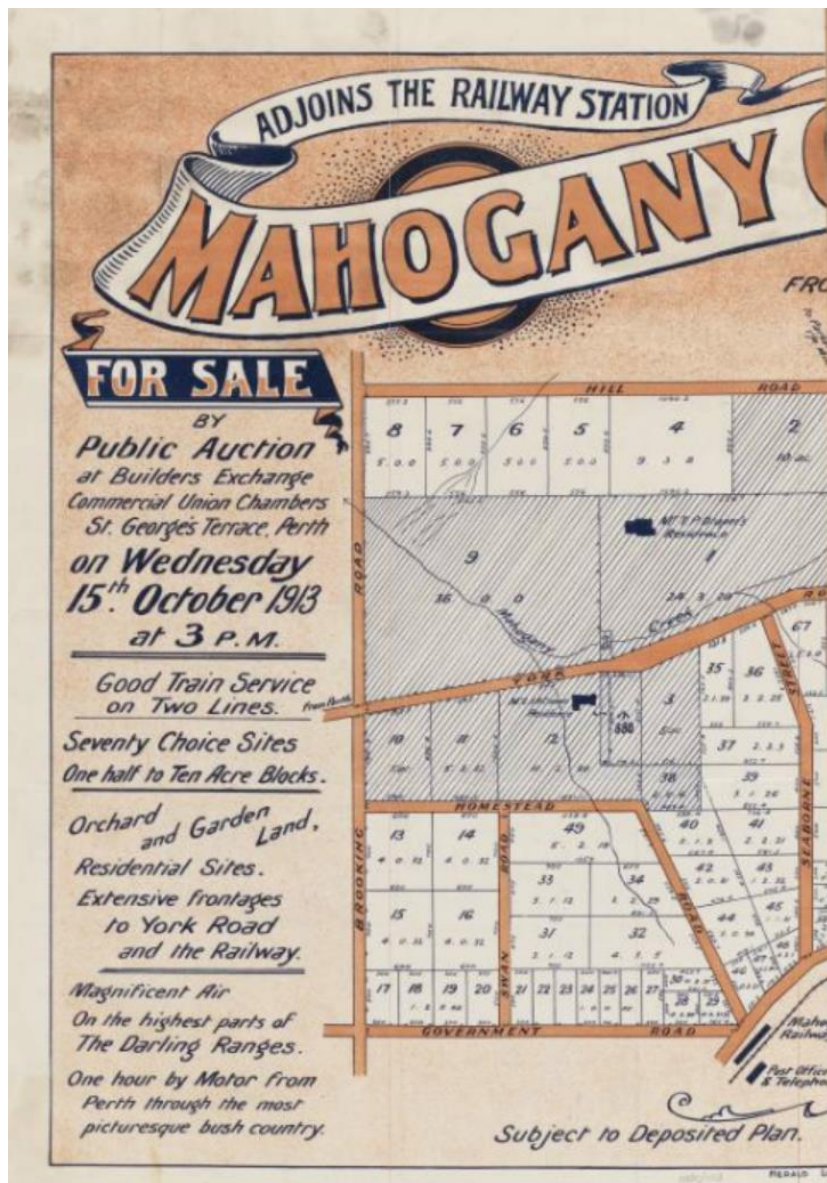
In accordance with the Guidelines for Local Heritage Surveys prepared by the HCWA, the rate of a review of heritage places (e.g. in a LHS and a Heritage List) should reflect the rate of change within the local area, in relation to overall development and population. As an indication, the Guidelines state that the LHS of a local government with few major development projects is likely to remain relevant for up to 15 years, or possibly more.

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A minor review of the Shire’s LHS was conducted in 2015 to identify and elevate key local heritage sites into a ‘Heritage List’. The Shire adopted a Heritage List in March 2016.

In the future, Shire Officers will consider elevating into the Shire’s Heritage List those places in the LHS which have a management category of 1 or 2, being places considered to have the most cultural heritage significance.

A major review of the Shire’s LHS has not occurred since its adoption in 1997, and it is a recommendation of the Shire’s Heritage Strategy that the LHS be updated. This has now been undertaken.



Real Estate Plan 1913
(Source Mundaring and Hills Historical Society)

4.0 Terminology

In accordance with the *Heritage Act 2018*, the following terms have the meanings stated:

“Cultural heritage significance” means aesthetic, historic, scientific, social or spiritual value for individuals or groups within Western Australia.

“Place” means:

- (1) A defined or readily identifiable area of land and may include any of the following things that are in, on or over the land —
 - (a) archaeological remains;
 - (b) buildings, structures, other built forms, and their surrounds;
 - (c) equipment, furniture, fittings and other objects (whether fixed or not) that are historically or physically associated or connected with the land;
 - (d) gardens and man-made parks or sites;
 - (e) a tree or group of trees (whether planted or naturally occurring) in, or adjacent to, a man-made setting.

- (2) For the purposes of the definition of place in subsection (1) —
 - (a) the area of land may include any number of contiguous or non-contiguous parts; and
 - (b) the area of land may be included in any number of lots, in separate titles and in different ownerships; and
 - (c) the area of land includes as much of the land beneath the surface as is required for the purposes of conservation; and
 - (d) it is immaterial that water covers the area of land at any particular time or at all times.

The following definitions are taken from The Burra Charter (*The Australia Charter for Places of Cultural Significance 1999*):

‘Aesthetic Value’

Aesthetic value includes aspects of sensory perception for which criteria can and should be stated. Such criteria may include consideration of the form, scale, colour, texture and material of the fabric; the smells and sounds associated with the place and its use; and also the aesthetic values commonly assessed in the analysis of landscape and townscape.

‘Authenticity’

Refers to the extent to which the fabric is in its original state.

'Condition'

Refers to the current state of the place in relation to each of the values for which that place has been assessed. Condition reflects the cumulative effects of management and environmental events.

'Historic Value'

Historic value encompasses the history of aesthetics, science and society and therefore to a large extent underlies all of the terms set out in this section. A place may have historic value because it has influenced, or has been influenced by, an historic figure, event, phase or activity. It may also have historic value as the site of an important event. Places in which evidence of the association or event survives in situ, or in which the settings are substantially intact, are of greater significance than those which are much changed or in which evidence does not survive. However, some events or associations may be so important that the place retains its significance regardless of subsequent treatment.

'Integrity'

Integrity is a measure of the likely long-term viability or sustainability of the values identified, or the ability of the place to restore itself or be restored, and the time frame for any restorative process.

'Scientific Value'

The scientific value or research value of a place will depend upon the importance of the data involved, on its rarity, quality or representativeness, and on the degree to which the place may contribute further substantial information.

'Social Value'

Social value embraces the qualities for which a place has become a focus of spiritual, political, national or other cultural sentiment to a majority or minority group.

5.0 Methodology

The preparation of this Local Heritage Survey (LHS) was undertaken with reference to the Guidelines for Local Heritage Surveys (Guidelines) prepared by the HCWA.

The inclusion or removal of a place, or the amendment of an existing place data sheet, have all been considered in accordance with the Guidelines.

Preliminary Consultation

To ensure that the LHS reflects the views of the Shire and its community about its heritage, in accordance with the HCWA Guidelines the opportunity was given for the community to nominate new places to be considered, advise of any details in the 1997 Shire LHS which needed amending, and nominate any places which should be removed. This was undertaken between 25 August and 22 September 2023, and involved notification:

- in the local newspaper;
- on the Shire's website, social media page and Engage Mundaring website;
- at the Shire's libraries and Administration centre; and
- being sent to the local ratepayer groups, Mundaring and Hills Historical Society, Darlington History Group, Lost Mundaring and Surroundings, Midland and Districts Historical Society, the Whadjuk Aboriginal Corporation, local Aboriginal Knowledge Holders, and the Department of Planning Lands and Heritage (Heritage Council of Western Australia).

Prior to the above being undertaken, the community already had the opportunity to provide place nominations to the Shire via its Engage Mundaring website.

A working group (named the Local Heritage Survey Review Working Group) was established by the Shire's Executive Leadership Team (ELT) in accordance with Council Policy 2.8 – Committees, Advisory Groups, Representatives Meetings and Working Groups, to enable members of the local community with an interest in local heritage related matters the opportunity to assist the Shire with reviewing the places nominated for inclusion in the LHS.

The Working Group included Shire Officers, the Shire appointed Heritage Consultant (Hocking Heritage and Architecture), as well as representatives from Mundaring and Hills Historical Society, Darlington History Group, Lost Mundaring and Surroundings, Friends of the Chidlow WWII Army Camps, and Midland and Districts Historical Society.

The LHS reflects the nominated places discussed, and the feedback received on them, during the working group meetings.

Updating Place Data Sheets

The place data sheets have been updated to include the following details, amongst others:

- A statement of significance - A summary of the key values that contribute to the cultural heritage significance of the place.

In the local heritage survey adopted in 1997 numerous place data sheets did not include a statement of significance. With assistance from the Shire appointed Heritage Consultant (Hocking Heritage and Architecture) these have now been included.

- History details of the place - Historical evidence providing background context and relating to the significance of the place.

In the local heritage survey adopted in 1997 numerous place data sheets did not include historical details. With assistance from the Shire appointed Heritage Consultant (Hocking Heritage and Architecture) these have now been included.

With assistance from local heritage groups additional historical details have also been included, and some of the existing historical details have been amended.

- An image(s) of the place – In the LHS adopted in 1997 numerous place data sheets had no images of the place. With assistance from local heritage groups, Rail Heritage WA, the Heritage Council of Western Australia, and landowners, photographs for the majority of these places were able to be obtained.
- Management categories – These are now included in the LHS. Refer to **section 7.0** (Management Categories).

6.0 Thematic Framework

The aim of the thematic framework is to provide a context for the review of the Shire of Mundaring's LHS. This framework is essential to understanding and recognising the cultural heritage significance of places within the Shire and ensuring the LHS is as representative as possible.

This section looks specifically at the establishment and growth of the Shire, dating from 1829 up to the present day (2024). Its purpose is to provide a broad overview of the evolution of the Shire in order to identify turning points in its history, the main periods of its development, and key stories, themes and influential factors that have all shaped the Shire's distinctive character.

Eight themes have been followed in preparing the thematic history based upon overarching themes outlined in the Heritage Council of Western Australia publication 'A Thematic History of Western Australia' prepared in 2022. These themes are a method to establish where a place fits within these themes.

- Environment
- Peopling WA
 - Colonisation
 - Demographic Development
- Economy
 - Rural Occupations
 - Natural Resources
 - Mining and Mineral Resources
 - Manufacturing and Secondary Industry
 - Commerce
 - Workers and Working
- Infrastructure
 - Development of Settlements and Services
 - Transport and Communications
- Social Services
 - General Social Services
 - Education
 - Health
- Governing
 - Government and Politics
 - Law, Order and Defence
- Cultural Life
 - Religion
 - Recreation – Arts, Culture and Entertainment
 - Recreation – Sport
 - Domestic Life
- International Links

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In addition to these above themes, key stories related to individuals or events that have are well known or influential to the development of the Shire of Mundaring have been included.

The historical material in this section has been compiled primarily from the Shire’s earlier Local Heritage Survey (formerly known as the Municipal Heritage Inventory), prepared by Bruce Callow and Associates Pty Ltd and Ian Elliot (Historian) in 1997. Also, with assistance from the Shire appointed Heritage Consultant (Hocking Heritage and Architecture).

6.1 Geography

The Shire of Mundaring (the Shire) is an outer-metropolitan local government covering an area of approximately 644 square kilometres, bound by the Cities of Swan and Kalamunda and the Shires of Toodyay, Northam and York (refer to **figure 1**).

Figure 1 – Shire of Mundaring Context Map



The Shire is divided into four Wards:

- West ward – covering Midvale, Swan View, Greenmount, Bellevue and a portion of Hovea;
- South ward – covering Helena Valley, Boya, Darlington and a portion of Glen Forrest;

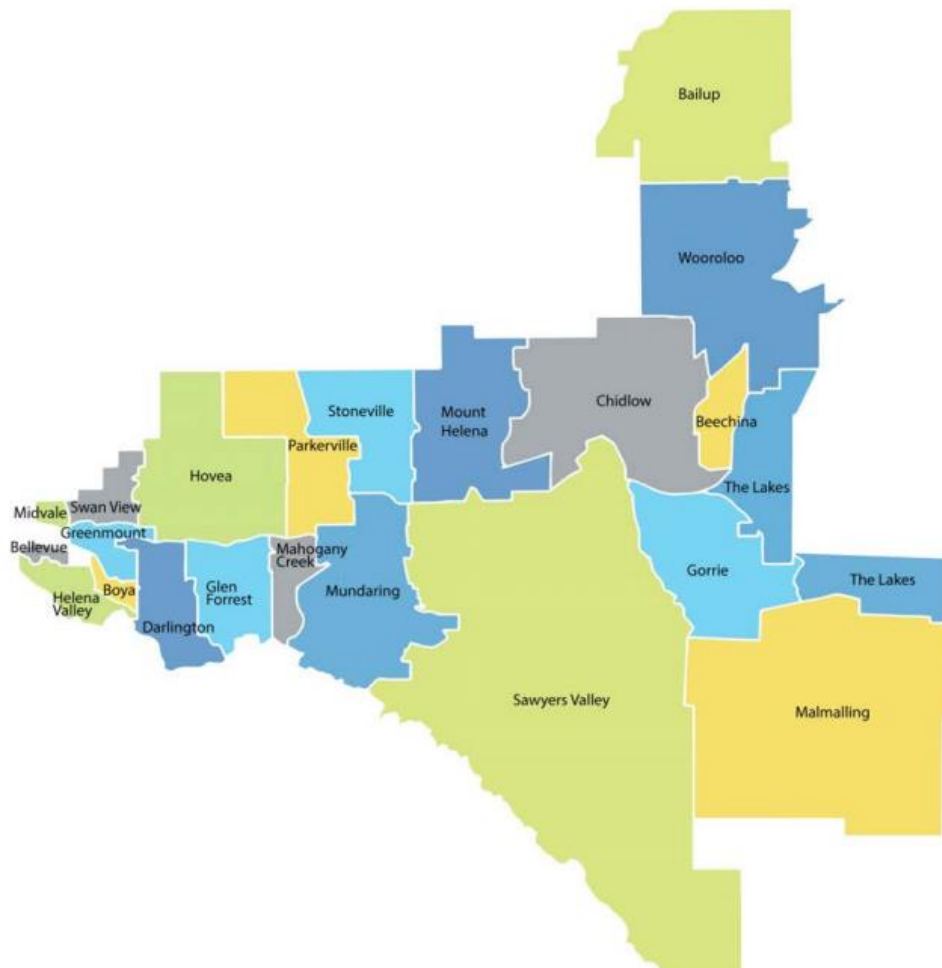
Shire of Mundaring Local Heritage Survey (2025)

- Central ward – covering the balance of Hovea, Parkerville, the balance of Glen Forrest, Mahogany Creek and Mundaring; and
- East ward – covering Stoneville, Mount Helena, Chidlow, Wooroloo, Beechina, The Lakes, Gorrie and Malmalling

Refer to **figure 2** below.

The Shire’s population is 39,166 persons (source: 2021 census) which is forecast to grow to 56,920 by 2050 (source: North-East Sub-Regional Planning Framework). The rate and amount of growth is considered modest compared to other outer-metropolitan local governments but shares similarities in its demographic profile, especially in relation to the ageing population.

Figure 2 - Localities within the Shire of Mundaring



The settlement pattern in the ‘hills’ portion of the Shire is defined by a series of discrete villages surrounded by predominantly heavily vegetated rural-residential lifestyle lots.

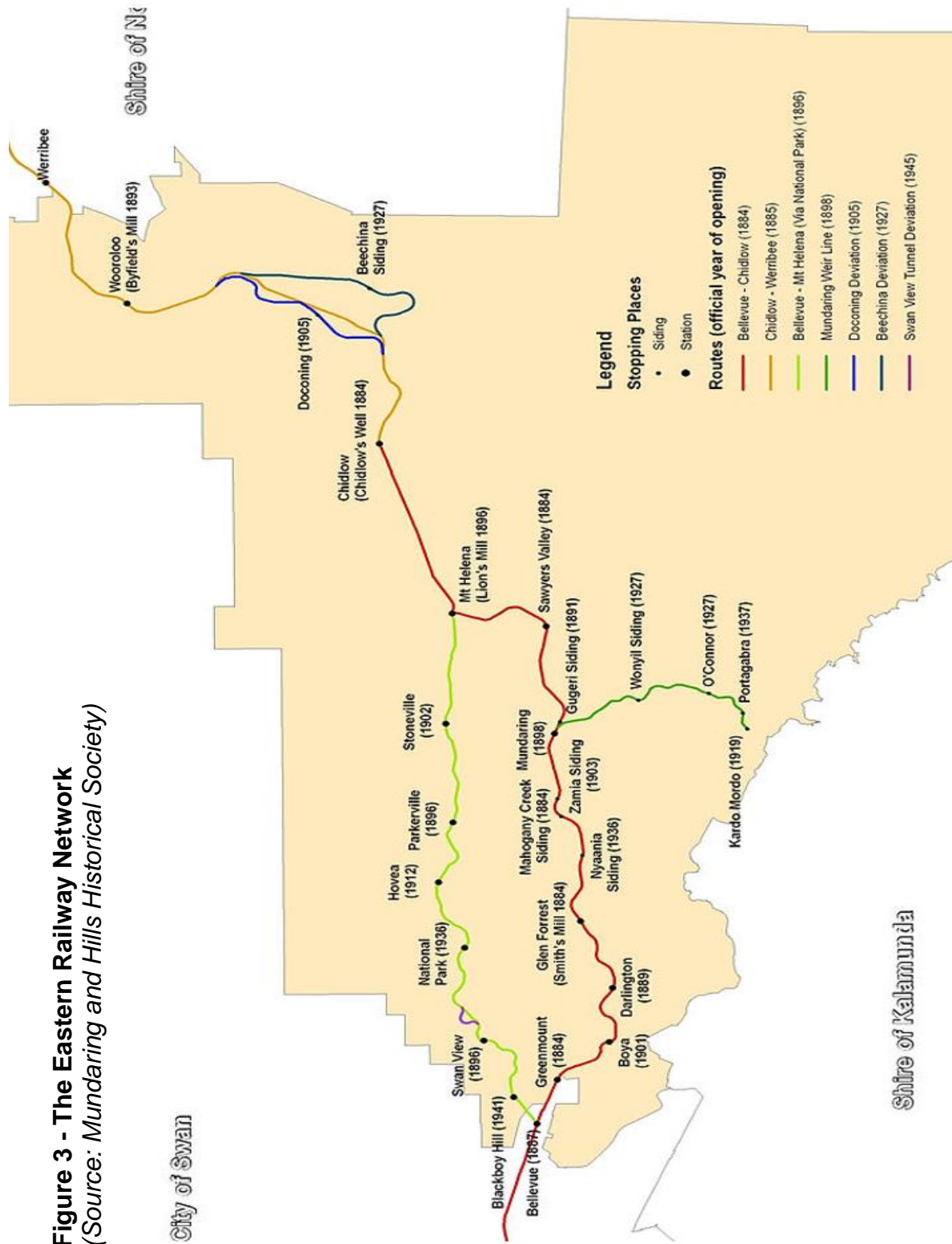


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These villages first formed around a series of train stations which once served historic railway lines (refer to **figure 3** on the following page) running approximately parallel to modern-day Great Eastern Highway. This growth pattern has been reinforced by the State and local planning framework.

Settlement on the Swan Coastal Plain has progressed in a manner common to other areas of suburban Perth i.e. the rezoning and subdivision of orchards and vineyards into residential lots.

Future growth is mainly focussed on the Swan Coastal Plain portion of the Shire in Midvale, Bellevue and Helena Valley due to its proximity to the Midland Strategic Metropolitan Centre and connection to essential services. The central feature of growth in Bellevue and Helena Valley is the Helena River which is intended to be further protected and restored as development proceeds under the Shire's Foothills Growth Strategy.



Incremental expansion of the Shire's more dispersed settlements is outlined by its Local Planning Strategy and there is expected to be residual development in the Hills portion of the Shire conferred by zones first established by former Town Planning Scheme No. 3.

Mundaring has a rich and colourful history. Local heritage is a defining characteristic of the Shire and needs to be understood, protected, sustained and celebrated.

Heritage is a key objective of the Shire's Build Environment Strategic Theme and as outlined within the Shire's Corporate Business Plan, there is *"Very strong support from respondents for the Shire to maintain the heritage of the local area."*

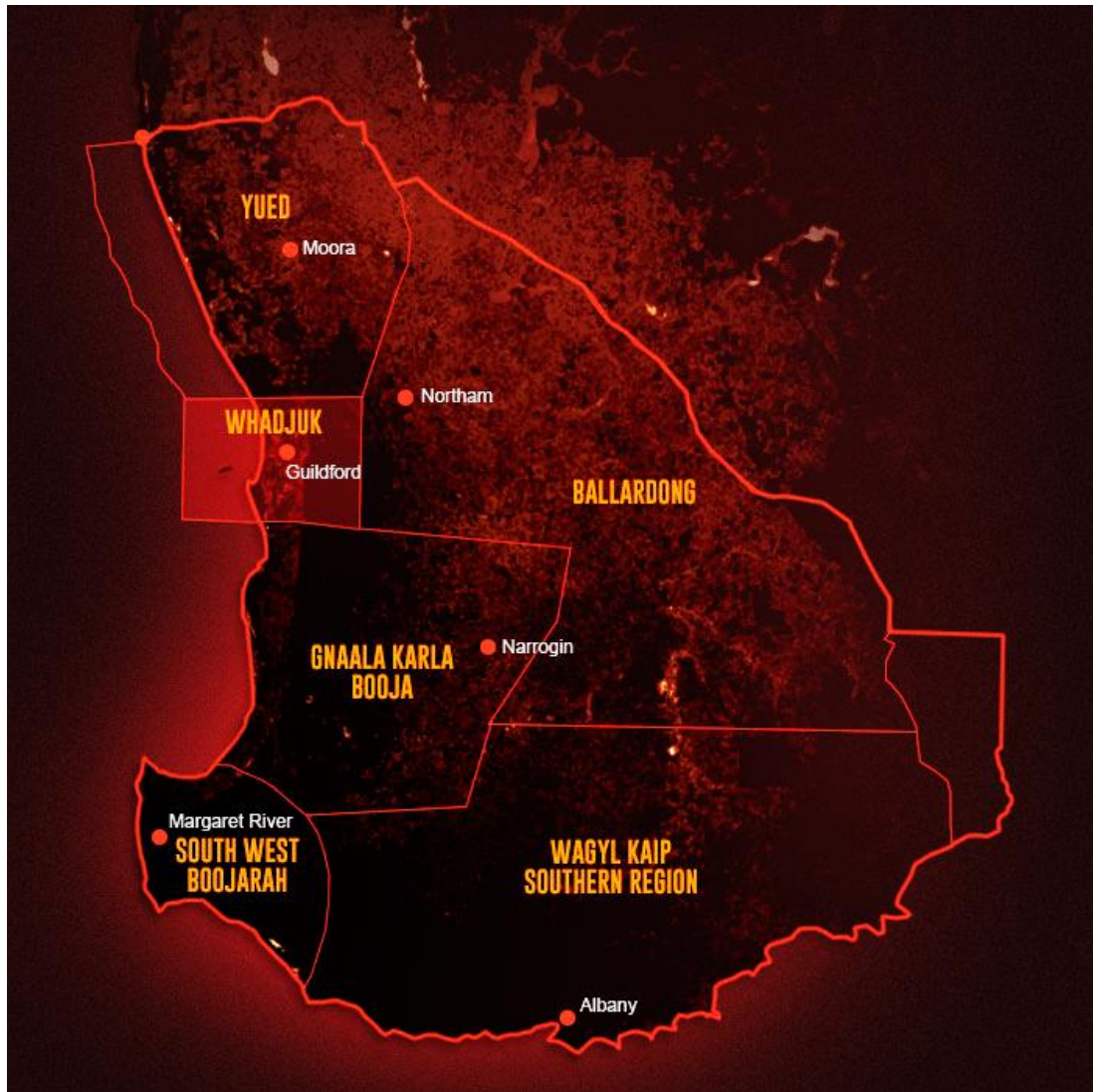
Heritage is vital to the community's sense of place and wellbeing. It holds historical, and cultural value, and is an element of the visual built form strongly associated with the area's local character.

6.2 Aboriginal Histories (Pre and Post European History)

The histories of Aboriginal people in what is now the local government area of the Shire of Mundaring cannot be defined as neatly and easily as boundaries. Instead, local Aboriginal people's histories relate to social organisation, land relationships, events and experiences in the area.

The aboriginal peoples who occupied the lands in the south west corner of Western Australia are collectively known as the Noongar peoples. Whadjuk is the name of the dialectal group from the Perth area (refer to **figure 4** on the following page).

Figure 4 - Plan Showing Approximate Boundary of the Whadjuk Dialectical Group (Courtesy <http://www.noongarculture.org.au/whadjuk/>)

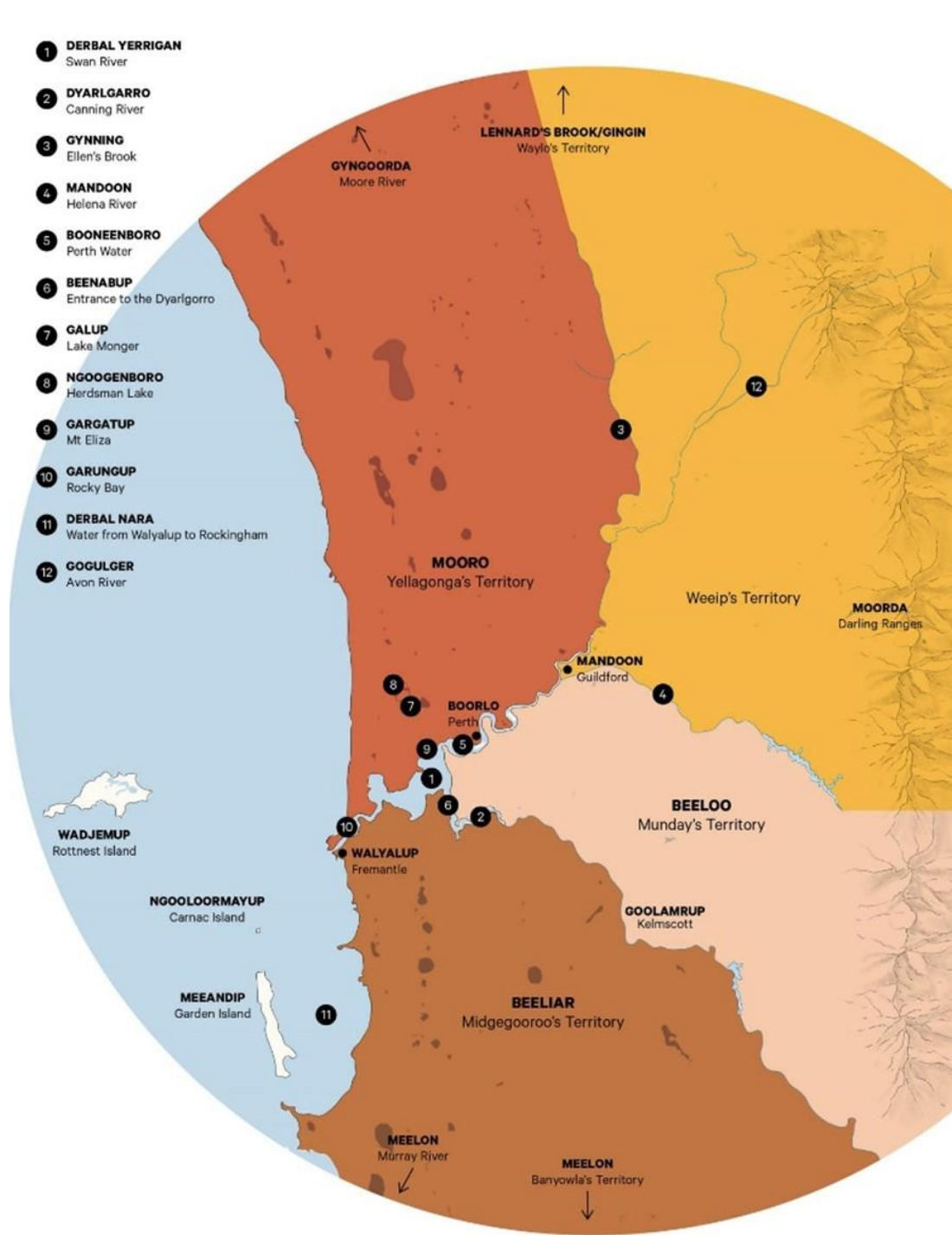


Prior to European settlement of the area, the east of the Canning River (roughly occupying the region which would in the future include the Shire of Mundaring) was occupied for thousands of years by the Beeloo or Beelu people, part of the Whadjuk language group (refer to **figure 5** on the following page). The connection between the land and members of the Aboriginal community continues today.

The name Mundaring is believed to originate with the word 'Mundar-ing', with the first syllable emphasised. This meant 'a high place on a high place'. Over time pronunciation has changed to emphasise the second syllable, 'air'.

Figure 5 - Place names and territories as told to Robert Lyon by Yagan in 1832

Source: Courtesy Carmel Given, element.



- 1 DERBAL YERRIGAN
Swan River
- 2 DYARLGARRO
Canning River
- 3 GYNNING
Ellen's Brook
- 4 MANDOON
Helena River
- 5 BOONEENBORO
Porth Water
- 6 BEENABUP
Entrance to the Dyarlgorro
- 7 GALUP
Lake Monger
- 8 NGOOGENBORO
Herdsman Lake
- 9 GARGATUP
Mt Eliza
- 10 GARUNGUP
Rocky Bay
- 11 DERBAL NARA
Water from Walyalup to Rockingham
- 12 GOGULGER
Avon River

Patrilineal territories of Whadjuk Nyoongar bands in 1832
(derived from a series of articles in *The Perth Gazette* and *Western Australian Journal* in April 1833)

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As was common with all Noongar peoples, the Belloo travelled the land in search of seasonal food resources, congregating at times for economic or social purposes. The waterways were essential to people's survival; providing freshwater, plenty of crabs, shellfish, frogs, turtles and fowl in the lakes and swamps, and bush food and animals such as wild roots and fruits, edible gum, and lizards and snakes.

Sites associated with aboriginal occupation within the Shire of Mundaring can be assumed to be numerous although not all are recorded. The Department of Aboriginal Affairs maintains a register of such sites on their online database, the Aboriginal Heritage Inquiry System (AHIS).

According to the ACHIS website (in 2023), the following Aboriginal sites exist within the Shire:

- ACH Historic places 50 sites
- Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Directory 69 sites

A widespread program of restriction and segregation of Aboriginal people was implemented by the government in the early decades of the 20th century. Led by the Chief Protector of Aborigines, A. O. Neville, legislation for the control of Aborigines was passed and implemented. Native settlements were established for the training of children and all aspects of Aboriginal life were controlled. In the south west of the state many Noongar people were relocated to settlements, or moved to less populated districts as settlement encroached on their lands.

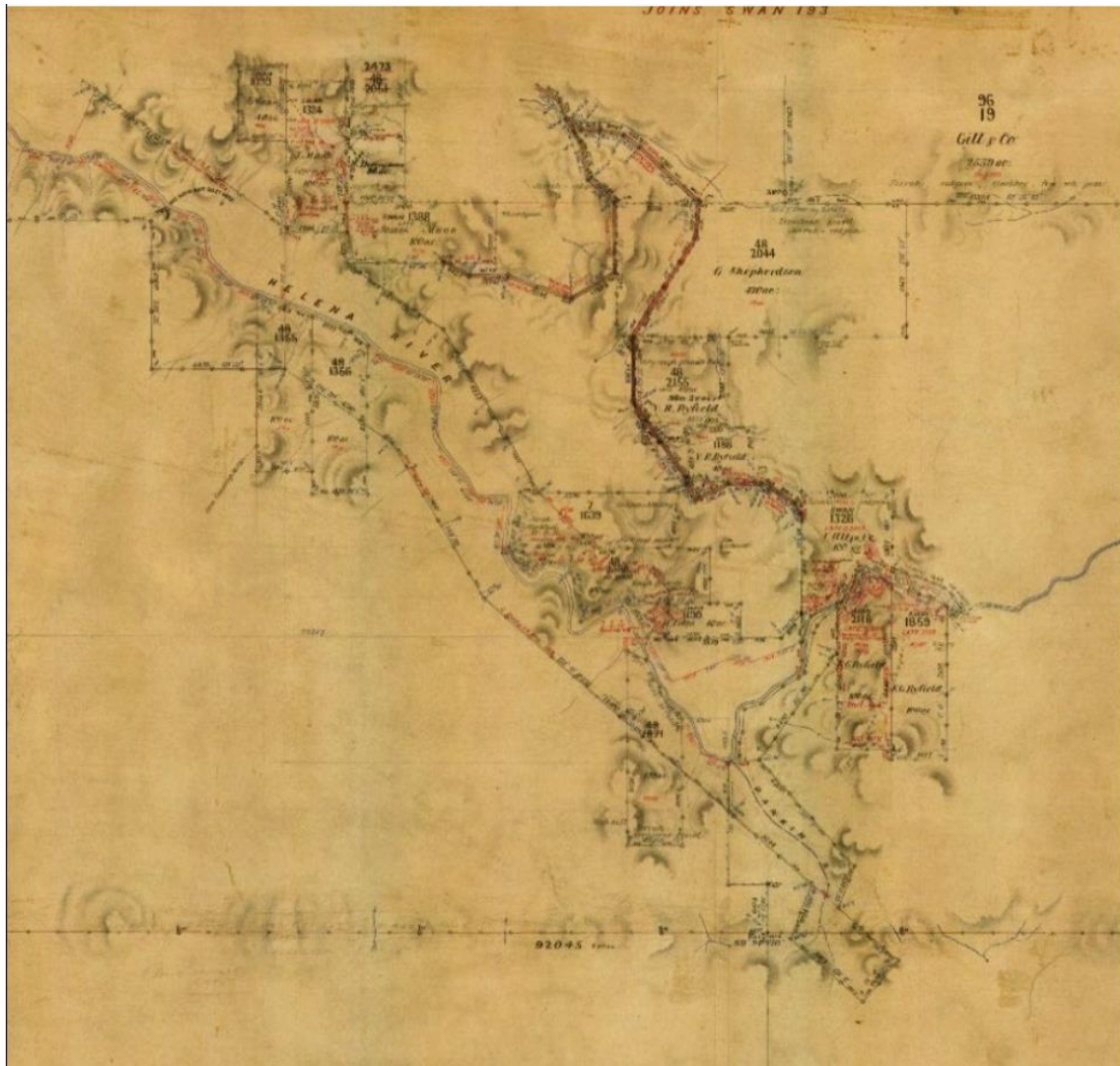
As a result of the Depression in the 1920s and 1930s, fringe camps increased with Aboriginal people returning to Perth in order to try and find work to support their families. The high visibility of these camps led to their surveillance by government officials and, in 1937, the Department of Native Affairs carried out an inspection of these places. As a consequence, people were removed back to Moore River and to regional areas.

The Noongar who remained on the fringes of settlements are believed to have been able to do so by building relationships with European settlers. They often worked for these families as servants and manual labourers whilst being 'permitted' to live on what remained of earlier camping places and food sources at the edges of rivers and swamps.

By the late 20th century, the Aboriginal population of the south-west had recovered so that (in 1984) they were again one of the largest identifiable Aboriginal populations in Australia, with an estimated 12,000 men, women and children claiming Noongar descent (*source: Green, Broken Spears*).

6.3 1829 to 1849, First Settlers

Exploration of the range of hills to the east of the Swan River plain began shortly after the British Government established the Swan River Colony in 1829. This was largely because of the pressing need to find suitable land for flocks and crops. These explorations led to the settlers finding the broad valley of the Avon River where several towns were laid out.



*Item Swan 138 – Vicinity of Helena River and Mundaring Area
(Source: Shire of Mundaring Heritage Strategy. Courtesy of AU WA S236-cons3869 Swan 138)*

In 1829, the first exploration to the base of Greenmount was undertaken by Governor Stirling and party. Stirling takes up his Woodbridge grant, Swan Loc. 16, which originally stretched from near the top of Greenmount westwards down to the Swan River. The southern boundary is approximated today by an east-west continuation of Frederic Street, Koongamia, the northern boundary was along the alignment of present-day Morrison Road, originally named 'Boundary Road'.

A road (today's Great Eastern Highway), connecting York with Guildford was soon surveyed and traffic was soon passing backwards and forwards between the two settlements.

A wayside inn, The Prince of Wales, was established at Mahogany Creek in 1844, providing a welcome stopping point for travellers.

6.4 1850 to 1869, Convict Period

Throughout the 1850s and 1860s maintenance of the York Road was undertaken by convict labour. The series of convict road camps that were established at that period meant that the greater part of the hill's population were convict road workers. This led to the beginning of real settlement in the hills when ex-convict ticket of leave men established their camps at Sawyers Valley to exploit the surrounding forest. The ruins of some of the convict road stations are still visible and several sawpits can be found in the bush near Sawyers Valley.

Pit sawyers, shingle splitters and charcoal burners, mostly ex-convicts, are operating at Sawyers Valley from about this time.

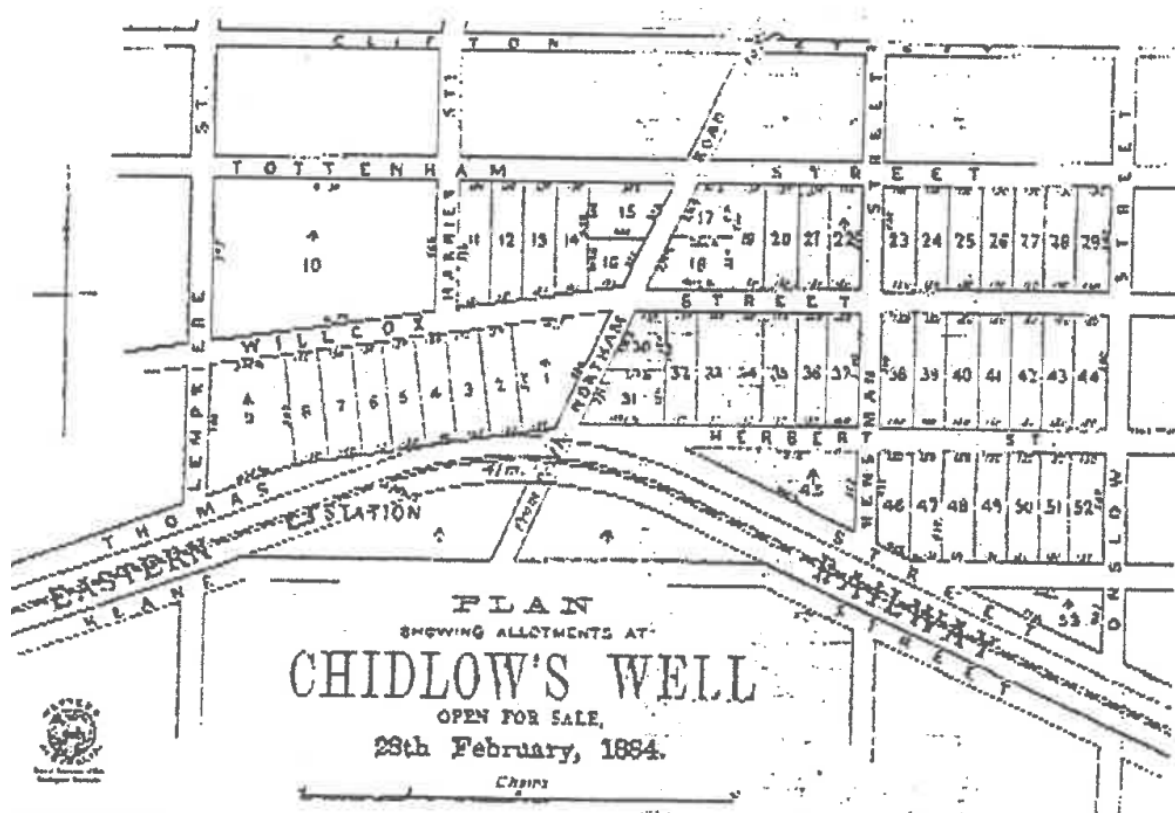
The first York Road convict station is established at Greenmount in 1854.

6.5 1870 to 1889

In 1870, a granite quarry at Greenmount is worked by convicts during the subsequent decade.

The discovery of gold in the eastern district of Yilgarn in the late 1880s led to a large influx of prospectors hoping to strike it rich in this new area. It also provided Western Australia with some much needed capital to commence building infrastructure.

The construction of the Eastern Railway line, which ran between Guildford and eventually to Kalgoorlie passed directly through the district of Mundaring. The first section of this line was constructed in 1884 and small settlements began to spring up along this line.



Early plan of Chidlow's Well townsite (Government Gazette, 28 February 1884)

6.6 1890 to 1900, The Boom Period

Western Australia became self-governing in 1890, and the State joined the Federal Commonwealth in 1901. The first attempt to achieve a more representative local government in the hills resulted in the formation of the Darling Range Road Board in 1898.

The impact of the Gold Discoveries was most clearly evident in the 1890s with the state government investing in government services

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Chidlow Proclamation Train Sculpture (Source: Shire of Mundaring) – Marks the 175th anniversary of Western Australia and Proclamation Day 2004. Chidlow was the last stopping point, prior to entering Perth, for the WA Governor's train carrying WA's first constitution in 1890.

The Eastern Railway line had some steep curves and gradients in places, which often led to trains leaving the tracks. To solve this problem, an additional line was built to the north of this original line. This new track, which was opened in 1896, also boasted the state's first railway tunnel. As with the southern track, settlements were also established along this route which also served timber mills and claypits. Lake Leschenaultia was constructed c1898 to serve as a reservoir for the Eastern Railway line.

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Western side of the Swan View Tunnel (Source: Rail Heritage WA, P10927)



Railway Bridge in John Forrest National Park, 2023 (Source: Shire of Mundaring)

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By 1896 there were a dozen or so sawmills of various sizes operating in the region. Besides plant managers and foremen, these establishments employed sawyers to fell and lop trees, teamsters to drag the logs to the mill site, engine drivers to operate the stationary steam engines powering the saws, benchmen to guide the logs under the saw blades, a blacksmith and fitters to maintain the plant and labourers to stack sawn timber. Granite, gravel and clay were the objects of quarrymen.

6.7 1901 to 1929, First World War and Expansion of Primary Industries

The district received an important boost when the Goldfields Water Supply Scheme was completed in 1903 (refer to **figure 6**). The dam that was constructed across the Helena River, known today as Mundaring Weir, became the primary water supply to the dry eastern goldfields and later the eastern agricultural district.



*Humphreys Store, Mundaring Weir construction camp c.1900
(Source: Shire of Mundaring Heritage Strategy. Courtesy of State Library of WA, ref: b2267271_1)*

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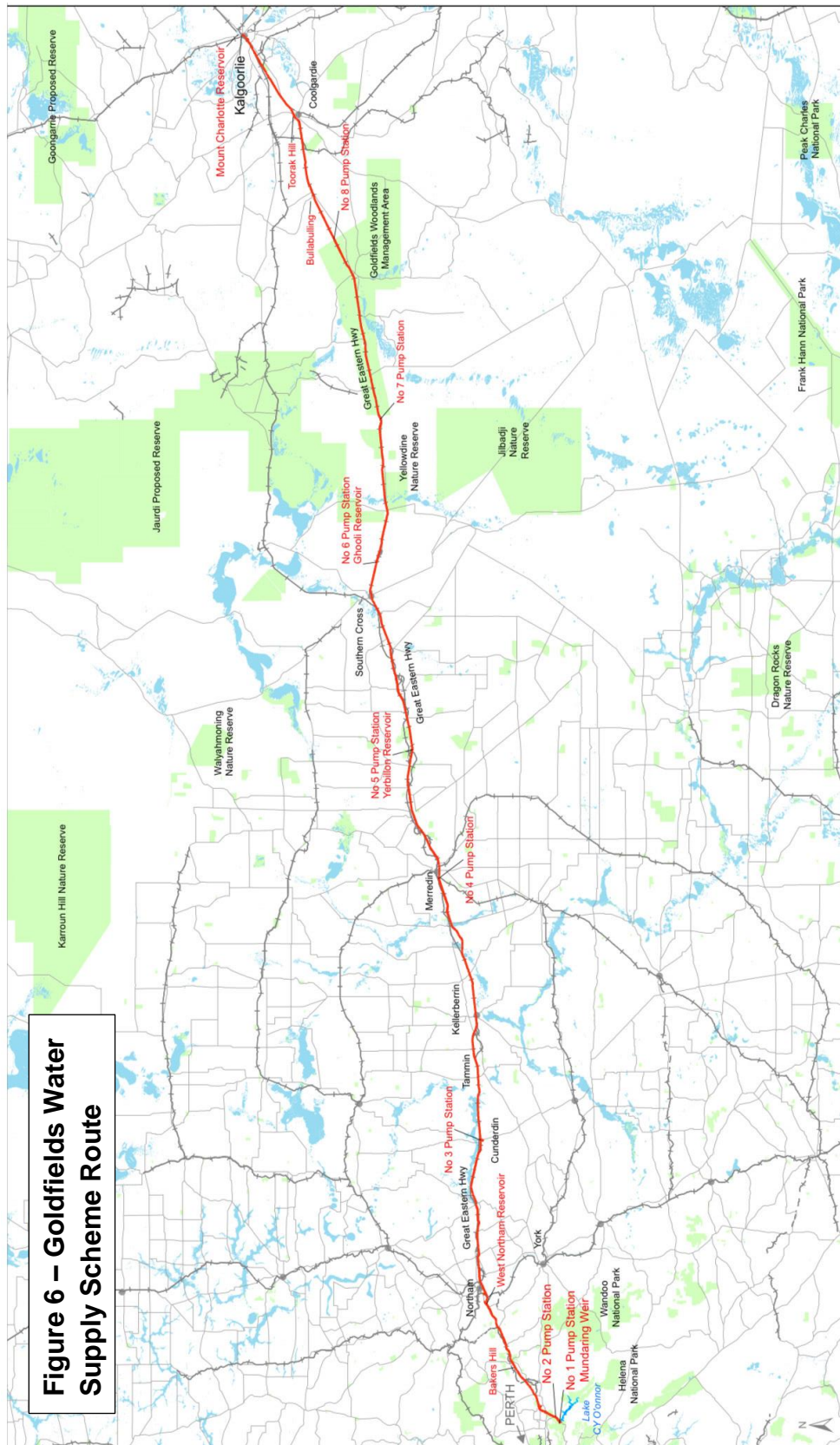


Figure 6 – Goldfields Water Supply Scheme Route

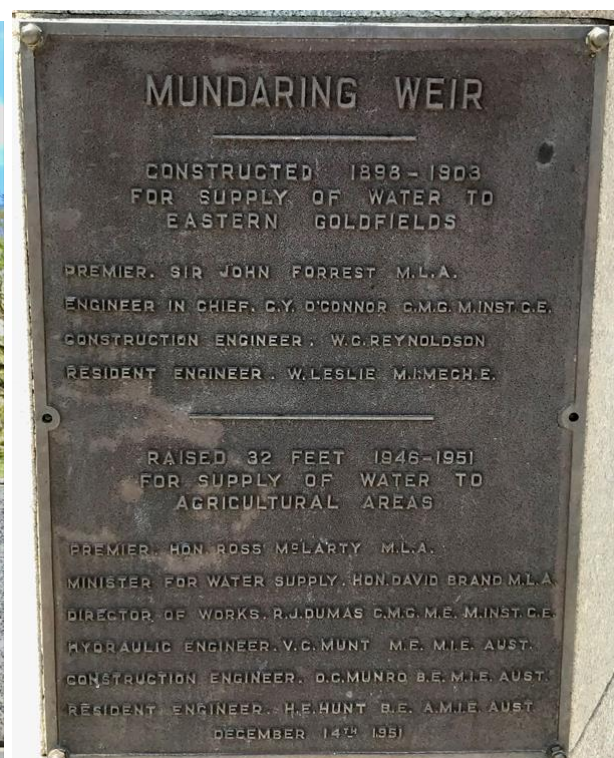
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Mundaring Weir, the source of the Goldfields Water Supply, 8 July 1917.

(Source: Shire of Mundaring Heritage Strategy. Courtesy of State Library of WA, ref: b2990185_6)

Below: C.Y. O'Connor Memorial (December 2024) (*Photographs taken by Andrew Bratley*)



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The commercial success of hills enterprises during the early 1900s ensured rapid growth in land alienation as more and more orchard country was taken up and market gardens, apiaries and poultry farms made their appearance. Growing demand for residential blocks for workers led to the survey and auction of townsite lots in the various centres.

A belief in the restorative qualities of hills' air brought about the establishment of guest houses, cottages for rent and weekender bungalows as well as a few impressive mansions of the well to do. From there it was only a short step to the concept of commuting for those who worked in Midland or the city. Examples of buildings from this period can still be found within the shire.

Agriculture was the primary occupation in the district during the 19th and early 20th century with dairying, market gardens, vineyards, orchards and plant nurseries common pursuits. In time, the hills became a popular resort with holidaymakers, and some residents had cottages in the hills which were seasonally occupied. Train travel eventually made it feasible for commuters to live in the hills and work in Perth.

In 1903, the Mundaring region is transferred from the Darling Range Road Board to the newly created Greenmount Road Board.

In 1914, the world plunged into a war that would decimate the manhood of the Mundaring region, as it did everywhere. The main training camp for Western Australian volunteers in the Australian Infantry Forces was at Blackboy Hill. Of those soldiers who survived the four-year conflict, many died from the pneumonic influenza epidemic that swept the world after the war. The Blackboy Hill camp was used as a hospital during the epidemic.

Shire of Mundaring Local Heritage Survey (2025)



Blackboy Hill (Source: Mundaring and Hills Historical Society)

Labour shortages during the war, a problem alleviated in the short term by an increase of females in the work force, were followed by the adverse effects of inflation, a drop in public works expenditure and the spread of the fruit fly pest.

After World War One the service men returned and the economy slowly regained some growth although the 1920s were characterised by a period of stability in contrast to the war years.

The first few decades of the twentieth century saw market gardening, bee keeping and poultry farming added to the occupations of those on the land. Nursing staff were employed at the Woorloo Sanatorium. Guest houses were introduced at several centres to cater for those who wished to holiday in the rarified hills' air while the train service and life style helped to influence many city workers and Midland Workshops employees to make their home in the Darling Range.

As good quality timber became scarcer, the big sawmills gradually closed down. For many years the supply of firewood to Perth and its suburbs was met from the depleted forests around Mundaring. But there was barely enough millable timber remaining for the manufacture of fruit cases and the demand for these decreased annually as orchardists and vigneronns gave up the unequal battle against fruit fly and depressed markets. Forestry employment began to increase as reforestation commenced with the planting of pine forests around the weir in 1922.

6.8 1930 to 1946, The Depression and Second World War

The Great Depression, in addition to its impact upon local families, saw single men's camps established at Blackboy Hill and John Forrest National Park. Sustenance work available in the district included the development of the national park and firewood cutting throughout the surrounding forest.

In 1934 the local road board changed its name from Greenmount Road Board to Mundaring Road Board.



*Innamincka Road, Greenmount, looking towards Blackboy Hill in 1928
(Source: Mundaring and Hills Historical Society)*

By the 1940s most major roads were sealed, others had been macadamised and were graded regularly. Roadside motor garages had been established and bus and road transport services were beginning to affect the dominance of the railways.

Blackboy Hill was again used as a military training camp during the Second World War with additional camps being set up near Chidlow.

6.9 1947 to 1959, Post War Economic and Population growth

In the period following World War Two the population and economic growth of Western Australia was experienced in the Shire of Mundaring through the subdivision of former farming land for residential developments. State Government housing programs in Midvale and Koongamia lead to significant developments in this region and influenced private investment in subdivision.

Shire of Mundaring Local Heritage Survey (2025)

Immediately following World War Two migration from continental Europe led to a change in the diversity of the population in Western Australia although the Shire of Mundaring was less affected by this change than other local governments. Assisted migration for British citizens (Ten Pound Poms) continued until the 1980s.

In the mid-20th century, the railway lines were gradually closed as car travel became commonplace and new subdivisions were undertaken in the district to support the growth in the population of Perth.

6.10 1960 to 1972 – A period of Prosperity and Urbanisation.

In 1961 the Mundaring Road Board became the Shire of Mundaring.

Urbanisation continued with new subdivisions of many larger farming properties. Widespread prosperity in the Western Australian community as a result of the mineral boom and economic growth. Several new halls and sporting facilities were constructed for the community.

As part of the economic development, industry expanded for example in Bellevue and Swan View.

6.11 1973 to 1993

The local population within the district grew significantly in the post-war years, particularly during the 1970s and 1980s. The population grew from about 9,000 in 1966 to 26,000 in 1986 (*source: profile ID*).

The effect of this population growth was further subdivision of farms and the loss of farming as a major employer in the district. It was also a period in community activism with causes such as the environment, feminism and Aboriginal self-determination.

It was also the beginning in the changes brought about in technology. Mobile phones became more widespread and the internet led to changing methods of working and communicating.

The Shire of Mundaring invested in the construction of new facilities for the growing community including new halls at Mahogany Creek, Glen Forrest and new recreation centres in Mount Helena and Swan View. In the same period new libraries were built in Greenmount and Mundaring.

6.12 1994 to Present (2024), Change in Demographics

The Shire of Mundaring is still predominantly a rural area, with residential areas in numerous townships. The bulk of the population live in the townships. Tourism is an important industry. Rural land is used mainly for farming, with some wineries in more recent years.

The increased adoption of the internet lead to the changes in the workplace and in the home.

The Shire of Mundaring is served by the Great Eastern Highway and the Great Southern Highway.

The Mundaring town centre acts as the civic, commercial and community hub of the Shire, particularly for residents of the hills portion of the Shire. With two light industrial areas existing, one being 1km east of Mundaring town centre and the other being in Midvale.

The Mundaring Wastewater Treatment Plant was constructed in 1996 to serve the Mundaring Town Centre, Mundaring Christian School and Mundaring Primary School.

Tourism within the Shire is a significant contributor to the local economy. Major tourist attractions in the Shire include:

- John Forrest National Park;
- Mundaring Weir;
- Lake Leschenaultia; and
- Walking and cycling trails - the Railway Reserves Heritage Trail, Bibbulmun Track and Munda Biddi Trail.

The following data is drawn from the 2021 census:

- From 1996 to 2021, the Shire of Mundaring's population increased by 6,265 people (19.9%). This represents an average annual population change of 0.73% per year over the period.
- Analysis of the service age groups of the Shire of Mundaring in 2021 compared to Greater Perth shows that there was a lower proportion of people in the younger age groups (0 to 17 years) and a higher proportion of people in the older age groups (60+ years).
- Between 2006 and 2021 (there being no earlier data available), the number of people employed in the Shire of Mundaring showed an increase of 1,606, and the number unemployed showed an increase of 299. In the same period, the number of people in the labour force showed an increase of 1,905 or 10.9%.

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- The number of households in Shire of Mundaring increased by 3,120 between 1996 and 2021.
- Based upon the 2021 census, 13,015 (70.6%) working residents of the Shire of Mundaring travelled outside the area to work. Of the 9,312 people who work in the Shire of Mundaring, 4,406 or 47.3% also lived in the area.
- The three most popular occupations were Professionals (3,891 people or 21.1%), Technicians and Trades Workers (3,161 people or 17.1%), and Clerical and Administrative Workers (2,385 people or 12.9%).

Numerous bushfire events have taken place over this period which have had a significant impact on the community, most notably at Parkerville in 2014 and at Wooroloo in 2021. In the aftermath of these events and in recognition of the impact on the community a series of public art installations were made in those areas most affected.

Other notable events during this period which have impacted the district are the Economic recession (2007-09) and the COVID epidemic (2020 to 2022). The COVID epidemic accelerated a change in workplace habits, with many choosing to regularly work from home.



Mundaring Town Centre (Source: Shire of Mundaring)

6.13 History Matrix

The history matrix (refer to **Appendix 1**) is a brief summary of information contained in the previous sections divided into seven time frames as follows:

4.4 billion BP – 50,000BP - Western Australia formed over more than four billion years for most of that time as part of the Gondwana super-continent. Physical traces of the ancient formation processes remain, including the oldest known minerals on earth and earliest signs of life on the planet. By the time humans arrived, varied and intricate ecosystems had emerged.

50000 BP to 1829 – Archaeologists over the past 40 years have found evidence to push the date of Aboriginal occupancy of the State earlier and earlier, with 50,000 years now widely accepted and 70,000 years considered possible. Aboriginal people lived in response to their environment, developing diverse and complex cultures centred on land, kin, spirituality and community. Their story continues to the present.

1829 to 1849 - The period from the colonisation of Western Australia by the British to the commencement of the transportation of convicts.

1850 to 1869 – The period of Convict Transportation during which convicts maintained the York Road and exploitation of the district's timber began.

1870 to 1889 – With the cessation of the transportation of convicts, many men were still in the system and continued to work off their sentences as Ticket-of-leave workers.

1890 to 1900 - The Gold Boom period when development accelerated sharply and contributed to the escalation of services and cultural life.

1901 to 1929 - A period when continued expansion in primary industries was evident alongside a growth in tourism.

1930 to 1946 - A period when industrial growth slowed, affected by the depression and the Second World War, and commuter based residential settlement began to increase.

1947 to 1959 - A period of great change with the emphasis switching markedly from primary industry to rapidly escalating urbanisation.

1960 to 1972 -Urbanisation continued with new subdivisions of many larger farming properties. Widespread prosperity in the Western Australian community as a result of the mineral boom and economic growth.

1973 to 1993 – A period of significant population growth in the shire with new subdivisions. It is also characterised as a period of greater community activism.

Shire of Mundaring Local Heritage Survey (2025)

1994 to present day – A period when local demographics have changed, resulting in an ageing population and greater demand for affordable housing.



Mundaring Weir (December 2024) (*Photograph taken by Andrew Bratley*)

7.0 Management Categories

Management categories are used to reflect the value of each place in the Shire’s LHS. When assigning a management category a place’s heritage significance is considered as well as its rarity, condition and integrity.

The Guidelines for Local Heritage Surveys prepared by the HCWA identifies four management (significance) categories, as outlined in **figure 7**.

Figure 7 - Classification of Significance

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE TO THE LOCAL AREA	CLASSIFICATION	DESCRIPTION
Exceptional	Category 1	Essential to the heritage of the locality. Rare or outstanding example.
Considerable	Category 2	Very important to the heritage of the locality.
Some/moderate	Category 3	Contributes to the heritage of the locality.
Little	Category 4	Has elements or values worth noting for community interest but otherwise makes little contribution.

Source: HCWA Guidelines for Local Heritage Surveys

Significance categories are also outlined in the Shire’s Heritage Requirements for Planning Proposals Local Planning Policy (refer to **figure 8**). These being largely based upon the HCWA Guidelines.

Figure 8 - Significance categories from Shire’s Heritage Requirements for Planning Proposals Local Planning Policy

Significance Category	Description	Shire Expectations
1 - Exceptional significance (Heritage List and State Heritage Listed places)	Rare or outstanding example; essential to the heritage of the locality	The place should be retained and conserved. Any alterations or extensions should reinforce the significance of the place and be in accordance with a Conservation Plan if one is in place.

Shire of Mundaring Local Heritage Survey (2025)

2 - Considerable significance (Heritage List places)	High degree of integrity/ authenticity; very important to the heritage of the locality	Conservation of the place is highly desirable. Any alterations or extensions should minimise impacts on the original site or building and reinforce the significance of the place.
3 - Moderate significance (Local Heritage Survey places)	May have some altered or modified elements, not necessarily detracting from the overall significance; contributes to the heritage of the locality	Conservation of the place is desirable. Any alterations or extensions should reinforce the significance of the place and retain original fabric where feasible.
4 - Little significance (Local Heritage Survey places)	Has elements or values worth noting for community interest but otherwise makes little contribution.	Retain elements of the place where feasible. Photographically record prior to major development or demolition.
5 - Historic Site	Site relevant to a past event, group or individual which contributes to the understanding of the history of the Shire of Mundaring.	Recognise and interpret the site if possible.

The level of significance, is one of the matters that the Shire will consider in making a decision on a planning proposal involving a local heritage place, and which applicants need to consider when preparing a planning proposal.

The Shire’s 1997 LHS did not include significance categories. It is one of the minimum requirements under the HCWA Guidelines for Local Heritage Surveys that a LHS includes the category of the place.

Significance categories based upon the above (**figure 8**) are now stated in the Shire’s LHS.

8.0 Place Nominations

In accordance with the HCWA Guidelines for Local Heritage Surveys, the Shire invited nominations from the community (including local heritage groups, and aboriginal knowledge holders and groups) for new places to be considered for inclusion in the Local Heritage Survey.

The Shire's Local Heritage Survey Review Working Group was established to enable members of the local community, with an interest in local heritage related matters, the opportunity to assist the Shire with reviewing the places nominated for inclusion in the LHS.

All nominated places were assessed for their cultural heritage significance.

Following the review and assessment of the places nominated, 52 additional places have been included in the Local Heritage Survey. These being site numbers 121 to 172 under **section 10.0** (Place Data Sheets).

The owners of these properties were invited to provide comment on their property's proposed inclusion.

In accordance with the HCWA Guidelines for Local Heritage Surveys, the assessment and inclusion of these additional places was not conditional on owner support.

9.0 Places Removed

In accordance with the HCWA Guidelines for Local Heritage Surveys, as part of the review consideration is to be given as to whether any of the existing places in the LHS should be removed.

As part of the review process properties already in the Shire’s 1997 LHS were re-assessed having regard to the following:

- a) Any changes that may have occurred to the site since the LHS was adopted in 1997.
- b) The current characteristics of the place (whether it has been lost, degraded or compromised).
- c) Whether it retains any physical trace of an event or activity.
- d) Whether it makes a positive contribution to the local ‘sense of place’ and local identity.
- e) Whether it provides evidence of a defunct custom, way of life or process.
- f) The authenticity of the place (extent to which the structure and/or site is in its original state).

Considering the above, the following places have been removed from the LHS due to the reasons given.

Mundaring Playgroup Building

1997 Local Heritage Survey Site No.	Name of Place	Location of Place
44	Mundaring playgroup building (first post office in Mundaring)	Jacoby Street cnr Mundaring Weir Road, Mundaring

Reason

The building subject of this record was demolished in the early 2000s. The site is currently vacant.

Shire of Mundaring Local Heritage Survey (2025)



*Mundaring playgroup building 1995
(Source: Bruce Callow and Associates Pty Ltd)*



*Location of former Mundaring playgroup building
(Aerial image from the Shire's GIS)*

Shire of Mundaring Local Heritage Survey (2025)

Portagabra

1997 Local Heritage Survey Site No.	Name of Place	Location of Place
60	Portagabra - Former CALM Headquarters (now known as the DBCA)	517 Mundaring Weir Road, Mundaring

Reason

The building subject of this record was demolished when a water treatment plant was constructed on the site circa 2012. There is no indication of what once existed on the site.



CALM Headquarters 1996 (Source: Bruce Callow and Associates Pty Ltd)

Shire of Mundaring Local Heritage Survey (2025)



The site where the building existed (aerial image from the Shire's GIS)

Byfield Farm

1997 Local Heritage Survey Site No.	Name of Place	Location of Place
161	Byfield Farm	520, 620, 680 and 800 Charles Road, Mahogany Creek

Reason

The cottage and orchard subject of this record no longer exist. What exists is considered by the Shire's Local Heritage Survey Review Working Group as having no historical significance.

Shire of Mundaring Local Heritage Survey (2025)



Photograph of the site taken in 2024

Greystone

1997 Local Heritage Survey Site No.	Name of Place	Location of Place
186	Greystone	Reserve 6203 (State Forrest). The place was situated 3 kilometres east on the north bank of the Helena River, east of Mundaring Weir.

Reason

The ruins which are the subject of this record are no longer apparent. The property was purchased by the State Government and was planted with pines in an attempt to reduce the increasing salinity of the Helena Reservoir. No statement of significance exists for this place in the Shire's 1997 LHS.

Shire of Mundaring Local Heritage Survey (2025)

Victor Byfield Cellars

1997 Local Heritage Survey Site No.	Name of Place	Location of Place
188	Victor Byfield Cellars, also known as Helena Homestead	Reserve 6203 (State Forrest). The place was situated on the north bank of the Helena River.

Reason

The foundations of Victor’s cellar and house which are the subject of this record are no longer apparent. The property was purchased by the State Government and was planted with pines in an attempt to reduce the increasing salinity of the Helena Reservoir. No statement of significance exists for this place in the Shire’s 1997 LHS.

Toodyay Route Well

1997 Local Heritage Survey Site No.	Name of Place	Location of Place
225	Toodyay Route Well	675 Bunning Road, Mount Helena

Reason

What remains of the well is in very poor condition and appears to have been mostly filled in at some point in the past. It is considered by the Shire’s Local Heritage Survey Review Working Group as having no historical significance. No statement of significance exists for this place in the Shire’s 1997 LHS.

Shire of Mundaring Local Heritage Survey (2025)



Photograph of the site taken in 2024

Stoneville Road Bridge

1997 Local Heritage Survey Site No.	Name of Place	Location of Place
234	Stoneville road bridge	Jane Brook and Bugle Tree Gully Junction (adjacent to 2170 Seaborne Street)

Reason

What exists is considered by the Shire’s Local Heritage Survey Review Working Group as having no historical significance. No statement of significance exists for this place in the Shire’s 1997 LHS.

Shire of Mundaring Local Heritage Survey (2025)



Photograph of the site taken in 2023

Stone Tank

1997 Local Heritage Survey Site No.	Name of Place	Location of Place
239	Stone tank	Richardson Road, off Falls Road, Hovea

Reason

No record exists of this place having any historical significance, having referred to the Shire’s records and the online State Heritage Council database, and also having liaised with local heritage groups. No statement of significance exists for this place in the Shire’s 1997 LHS.



*North elevation of the tank, 1995
(Source: Bruce Callow and Associates Pty Ltd)*

Gorries - Malmalling

1997 Local Heritage Survey Site No.	Name of Place	Location of Place
277	Gorries - Malmalling	Reserve 6203, Gorrie Road, Chidlow

Reason

This record exists in the 1997 LHS due to the historical significance of the Malmalling Homestead. What remained of the building, the subject of this record, no longer exists. According to the State Heritage Council's inherit database, and details from when the Shire's Heritage List was being compiled in 2015, the building has been demolished.

Shire of Mundaring Local Heritage Survey (2025)



*Stone ruins 1996
(Source: Bruce Callow and Associates Pty Ltd)*



*Subject site in 2017
(Photo taken by Shire of Mundaring)*

Shire of Mundaring Local Heritage Survey (2025)

Old Well

1997 Local Heritage Survey Site No.	Name of Place	Location of Place
279	Old well	10955 Great Eastern Highway, Sawyers Valley

Reason

The well, the subject of this record, was on a portion of the property which was resumed in the past for highway widening.

The description of the site in the 1997 LHS states:

“Old timber lined well in road reserve, approximately 3-4 metres deep and which will be in the way of proposed road works to Great Eastern Highway '95 '96. Well has been covered with sleepers and become over grown with kikuyu grass and is in a dangerous condition”.

Evidence of the well is no longer apparent.



*Overgrown well in road reserve adjacent to Lot 10955, October 1995
(Source: Bruce Callow and Associates Pty Ltd)*