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# CITY OF SOUTH PERTH LOCAL HERITAGE INVENTORY

Management  
Category

**B**

## PLACE RECORD FORM

Prepared by *Heritage Today*, March 2000  
Most recent update by City of South Perth, November 2015

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Place No: C 1

Department of Parks and Wildlife Complex

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*(Heritage Today, 1999)*

### LOCATION

<b>Name of Place</b>	<i>Department of Parks and Wildlife Complex</i>
<b>Other / former names</b>	Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) Complex; Department of Conservation and Land Management (CALM) State Headquarters; Forestry Department.
<b>Address</b>	17 Dick Perry Avenue (corner Hayman Road / Kent Street)
<b>Suburb</b>	Kensington
<b>Local Government Authority</b>	City of South Perth
<b>Scope of listing</b>	This heritage listing applies to all buildings on the site. Management Category 'B' will continue to apply to all buildings until individual elements of the site have been assessed and an appropriate Management Category allocated to each building or element.

**LISTINGS BY OTHER BODIES**

Name of Body	Reference No.	Grade of Listing	Date
Heritage Council of Western Australia	4824	Data base only - not listed	-

**LAND DESCRIPTION**

Reserve No.	Lot	Location No.	Plan/Diagram	Vol/Folio
Res 26916	-	Canning 1875	26916	

<b>PERIOD</b>	Late Twentieth Century
<b>Design Style</b>	Late Twentieth Century Perth Regional 1960s Style
<b>Construction Date</b>	1965
<b>Source/Details</b>	Assessment by David Kelsall, Heritage Architect, 1999.

**USE(S) OF PLACE**

<b>Original</b>	Pine Plantation
<b>Present</b>	State Government parks and wildlife conservation offices
<b>Other / former</b>	State Government forestry and conservation offices

**HISTORICAL NOTES**

Before the arrival of Europeans, forests covered about 2% of Western Australia's land area; only about half of that remains.<sup>1</sup> Evidence that forests were being over-exploited first emerged in 1874 when forested areas were considered as farmland-in-waiting, and the State government decided against a policy of forest conservation. However, in 1916, with the appointment of professional forester, Charles Lane-Poole, as Conservator of Forests, action was taken towards legislation for a 'Forests Act' through which to manage and protect the State's timber resources.

The first formal protection and the establishment of State forests were partly the work of Lane-Poole, Stephen Kessell, and the state's 14th Premier, Philip Collier, who later also concurrently held the position of Minister for Forests. Without Lane-Poole, it is likely that the *Forests Act of 1918*, which formalised forest conservation and management, would have been delayed due to lack of priority. The Act established the permanent reservation of all prime timber for forestry purposes, set sustained yield principals for timber mills, described the silvicultural principals and frameworks<sup>2</sup>, and recommended the establishment of plantations for ongoing timber production. It also established the state's first professional forestry agency, the Forests Department.

The first of the Forestry Department buildings on this site were constructed in 1965 in a clearing surrounded by pine trees. These were the first of the terracotta roofed buildings, built towards the southern end of the site. Over the years, the number of buildings expanded considerably. In 1981, a cluster of twelve and a separate group of two such buildings were constructed towards the northern side of the site. A commemorative plaque near the upper floor main entrance indicates that the complex was opened by Sir Charles Court, AK KCMG OBE, the then Premier of Western Australia, on 30 October 1981. The Architectural Division of the then Public Works Department of Western Australia designed the buildings. The number of plantation trees on the site was further reduced by the need for extensive car parking areas.

<sup>1</sup> Information for Action ('The Forests of Western Australia') web site:  
[http://www.informaction.org/newIFA/index.php?main=for\\_wa&subject=Forests/WA](http://www.informaction.org/newIFA/index.php?main=for_wa&subject=Forests/WA)

**HISTORICAL NOTES (cont'd)**

In 1985, the Western Australian Government amalgamated the National Parks Authority of Western Australia, the Wildlife Branch of the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife and the Forests Department, to form the Department of Conservation and Land Management (CALM). In July 2006, the Department of Environment merged with CALM to form the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC).

In 2008, the large Western Australian Conservation Science Centre building of a more contemporary design was constructed on the site immediately south of the existing cluster of twelve terracotta tiled buildings. The Centre was officially opened in 2010. On 5 November 2013, the Premier, Colin Barnett renamed the centre the 'Keiran McNamara Conservation Science Centre', in honour of the former Director General of the Department of Environment and Conservation who had died that year. Keiran McNamara, a strong defender of the biodiversity of the state's plants and animals, had joined CALM in 1985 and became Director General of DEC in 2006. The \$31 million centre comprises the relocated Western Australian Herbarium, Threatened Flora Seed Centre, Conservation Library and genetics laboratories. It houses 750,000 plant specimens, including some historical specimens collected by Joseph Banks during Captain James Cook's first great voyage of 1768–1771, during which they visited Brazil, Tahiti, New Zealand and Australia. It is the largest integrated botanical research facility in the state and works with Kings Park to preserve the DNA of Western Australian plants. The centre has also been involved in the Millennium Seed Bank partnership with Kew Gardens in London, which aims to protect the seeds from plants that are in danger of becoming extinct, and stores some 24 million seeds of rare or endangered plants.<sup>3</sup> In addition to these, new species are still being discovered and are housed at the Herbarium. For example, seventeen new species of spider orchid have recently been discovered in the South-West of the State between Geraldton and Esperance, bringing the total number of known spider orchid species to 158. More than 50 new plants are found in Western Australia every year, reinforcing the important role played by the Herbarium.<sup>4</sup>

With further governmental reorganisation, DEC ceased operations on 30 June 2013 and was divided into two departments, the Department of Parks and Wildlife (DPaW) and the Department of Environment Regulation (DER). While DPaW remained on this site, DER was relocated to an office in the Perth CBD.

February 2001 saw a turning point in managing Western Australia's south-west native forests, with an end to timber harvesting in all old-growth forests vested in the Conservation Commission of Western Australia. Since 2001, more than 500,000 hectares have been added to the system of national parks, conservation parks and nature reserves managed by DPaW, including twelve national parks promised under the *Regional Forest Agreement for the South-West Forest Region of Western Australia*.<sup>5</sup>

At 30 June 2014, the total area of land within Western Australia under the care of DPaW was 28,543,064ha, representing a net increase of 11,077ha during 2013–14. The land area managed by the Department is about 10.3 per cent of the land area of Western Australia.<sup>6</sup>

<sup>2</sup> Silviculture is the art and science of controlling the establishment, growth, composition and quality, health, protection and utilization of stands of trees or forests to meet the diverse needs and values of forest owners and society on a sustainable basis.

<sup>3</sup> *Southern Gazette* newspaper, 26 November 2013, page 16 'Inside Our Treasure Chest of Plants'; and web site; <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2013-11-05/centre-renamed-to-honour-conservationist/5071246>.

<sup>4</sup> *The West Australian* newspaper, 21 August 2015, page 26, article: 'New Orchids Add To Our Status'.

<sup>5</sup> Department of Parks and Wildlife web site: <http://www.dpaw.wa.gov.au/management/forests>

<sup>6</sup> Department of Parks and Wildlife Annual Report 2013-14 on the web site: [http://www.dpaw.wa.gov.au/images/document/about/annual-report/2014/DPaW\\_Annual\\_Report\\_FULL\\_WEB\\_.pdf](http://www.dpaw.wa.gov.au/images/document/about/annual-report/2014/DPaW_Annual_Report_FULL_WEB_.pdf)

**DESCRIPTION**

The site of the *Department of Parks and Wildlife Complex* is on land which was formerly part of the Collier Pine Plantation which extended along the southern side of Jarrah Road (later renamed Baron-Hay Court) to Manning Road. Some of the mature pines have been retained on the site. The most significant buildings within the complex comprise a series of 1965 – 1981 single storey modules surrounding double storey modules, and a 2008-2010 large contemporary building, all set in this remnant pine plantation.

**1965 – 1981 Modules**

The modules are separated by flat roofed elements which are arranged to form covered ways and courtyards. The modules are square on plan, reflected by the hipped terra cotta tiled roofs in the Roman profile, all capped with metal ventilating boxes. The soffits are spaced pine battens clouted up on the rake of the roof.

The structure of the modules is white, off-form reinforced concrete columns with a matching ring beam virtually completely in-filled with commercial grade aluminium framed tinted glazing. The windows are protected in places by retractable vertical blinds. Paving between the modules is red brick.

The stairs are external, formed in white, off-form concrete with brick treads and bright stainless steel tubular handrails framing clear glazed balustrading. Internally the building appears fairly conventional with carpeted concrete floors and standard type office partitions and furnishings.

**2008-2010 Keiran McNamara Conservation Science Centre**

This large contemporary building has major scientific importance due to the functions carried out within the building. The external predominantly concrete and glazed appearance contrasts with the 'softer' appearance of the smaller and older brick and terracotta module buildings, reflecting the more contemporary scientific nature of the building. (*A professional architectural description of the building is not currently available.*)

**Significant design features of the Complex**

The buildings comprising the *Department of Parks and Wildlife Complex* are very well finished and reflect a high standard of architectural design. The ambience created by the buildings set among the mature trees, so very rare in Western Australia, extends into the interesting courtyard spaces and joining alleyways between the building modules, resulting in a development of enduring qualities.

**ASSOCIATIONS****ASSOCIATION TYPE**

Sir Joseph Banks, 1st Baronet, GCB, PRS, English naturalist, botanist and patron of the natural sciences	1768–1771 botanic collection housed here
Sir Charles Court, AK KCMG OBE, Premier of Western Australia	Opened the Complex (1981)
Keiran McNamara, former Director General of the Department of Environment and Conservation	Conservation Science Centre renamed in his honour (2013)

**HISTORIC THEME / Sub-theme****CATEGORIES OF SIGNIFICANCE**

Demographic Settlement	Aesthetic
	Scientific
	Representative
	Rarity

**RATING AND ASSESSMENT****High****Low**

Aesthetic value (streetscape, setting)	1 ✓	2	3	4	5
Architectural merit (design features)	1 ✓	2	3	4	5
Rarity value	1 ✓	2	3	4	5
Value as part of a group/precinct	1 ✓	2	3	4	5
Condition	1 ✓	2	3	4	5
Integrity	1 ✓	2	3	4	5

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

Although set in an exotic former pine plantation, the *Department of Parks and Wildlife Complex* also accrues qualities of timelessness and mellowness through its understated appearance, interesting access and interconnecting spaces, simple materials well used, its attention to scale and the massing of its major elements. The site combines traditional, relatively small-scale buildings, with more contemporary architecture and larger scale buildings which reflect the ongoing nature of science and investigation. The overall development has very high architectural merit and streetscape values. As there are not many well designed and built structures in this style, the development is rare.

The complex houses a State Government Department contributing to the research and management of parks, reserves and forests, thereby extending scientific associations to the place.

**MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS****Management Category B : Considerable significance**

Conservation essential. Reflects the highest level of local cultural heritage significance. Very important to the heritage of the locality. High degree of integrity and authenticity. Demolition or significant alteration to a place in Management Category B of the Heritage List is not permitted. Any alterations or additions are to be guided by a Conservation Plan, if any, and reinforce the heritage values of the place.

**SUPPORTING INFORMATION / BIBLIOGRAPHY**

- Assessment by David Kelsall, Heritage Architect, 1999.
- Reviews of Municipal Heritage Inventory by *Heritage Today* in 2000 and 2006.
- Various web sites and newspaper articles, as identified throughout this Place Record Form.

**HISTORY OF HERITAGE LISTING BY CITY OF SOUTH PERTH**

	<b>Date Adopted by Council</b>
Initial listing in MHI	December 1994
Update of MHI	February 1996
Update of MHI	December 1996
Update of MHI	December 1997
Review of MHI by <i>Heritage Today</i>	June 2000
Update of MHI	June 2002
Update of MHI	March 2003
Review of MHI by <i>Heritage Today</i>	February 2006
Interim Heritage List – Policy P313 ‘Local Heritage Listing’	April 2013
Updated in renamed LHI	November 2015

## Managed lands and waters (ha) by region at 30 June 2014

Tenure Classification	Goldfields	Kimberley	Midwest	Pilbara	South Coast	South West	Swan	Warren	Wheatbelt	Total
National park	153,177	1,406,089	568,869	2,432,132	861,419	143,987	117,219	562,459	1,292	6,246,643
Conservation park	183,020	459,942	15,755	149,348	677	13,560	24,407	76	1,559	848,344
Nature reserve	6,299,182	174,653	740,140	251,019	1,569,486	12,967	53,278	87,267	1,057,862	10,245,854
State forest	781	-	-	-	4,055	542,367	466,498	262,642	28,066	1,304,409
Timber reserve	28,509	-	26,224	-	5,231	26,474	28,501	8,215	-	123,154
Marine park	-	866,700	868,860	330,215	-	123,000	16,391	1,446	-	2,206,612
Marine nature reserve	-	-	132,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	132,000
Marine management area	-	-	-	143,385	-	-	-	-	-	143,385
Sections 5(1) (G) & 5(1)(H) reserve	81,566	281,376	1,976	7,810	644	31,203	28,497	1,600	1,448	436,120
Miscellaneous reserve	<1	568,010	508	1,779	3,767	124	6,006	244	15	580,453
Freehold (CALM Exec Body)	-	<1	1,550	<1	91	20,822	50	4,658	<1	27,171
Leasehold (CALM Exec Body)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
Former leasehold	1,846,091	80,748	3,287,128	786,503	-	-	-	-	41,623	6,042,093
Section 33(2) managed land	28,514	-	90,118	-	-	-	-	-	-	118,632
Sections 8 & 8A managed land	-	-	-	4,851	-	-	-	-	-	4,851
Sections 16 & 16A managed land	-	37,941	-	-	-	121	7,903	40	-	46,005
Freehold land acquired for conservation	-	-	10,354	-	6,201	3,629	12,091	1,662	3,401	37,338
<b>Totals</b>	<b>8,620,840</b>	<b>3,875,459</b>	<b>5,743,482</b>	<b>4,107,042</b>	<b>2,451,571</b>	<b>918,254</b>	<b>760,841</b>	<b>930,309</b>	<b>1,135,266</b>	<b>28,543,064</b>

**Extract from the Department of Parks and Wildlife Annual Report 2013-14, listing all of the land within the care of that Department, as at 30 June 2014.**

(Department of Parks and Wildlife web site: [http://www.dpaw.wa.gov.au/images/documents/about/annual-report/2014/DPaW\\_Annual\\_Report\\_FULL\\_WEB\\_.pdf](http://www.dpaw.wa.gov.au/images/documents/about/annual-report/2014/DPaW_Annual_Report_FULL_WEB_.pdf))



Two views of the 1980s building modules within the *Department of Parks and Wildlife Complex*.  
(*Heritage Today*, 1999)



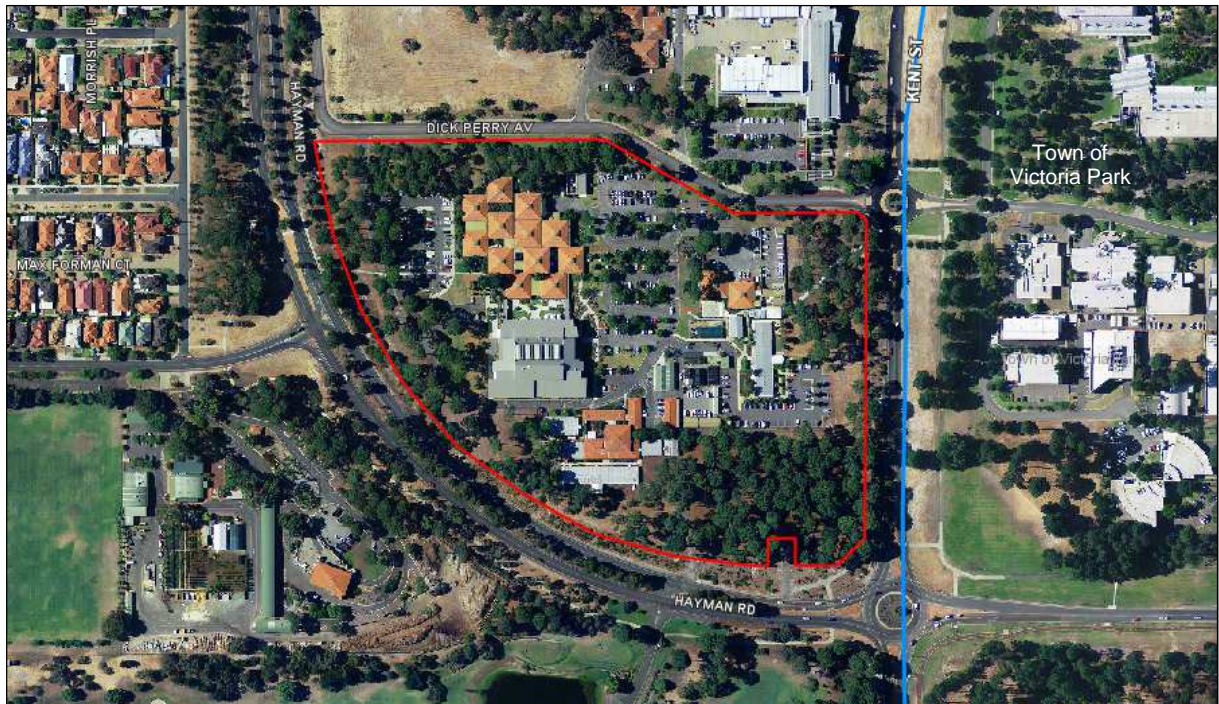


**One of the buildings in the *Department of Parks and Wildlife Complex*.  
This building is located towards the eastern side of the site.  
(*Heritage Today*, 1999)**



**The *Department of Parks and Wildlife Complex*, showing some of the  
remnant pine trees from the former Collier Pine Plantation.  
(*Jenny Dans, City of South Perth*, 1994)**



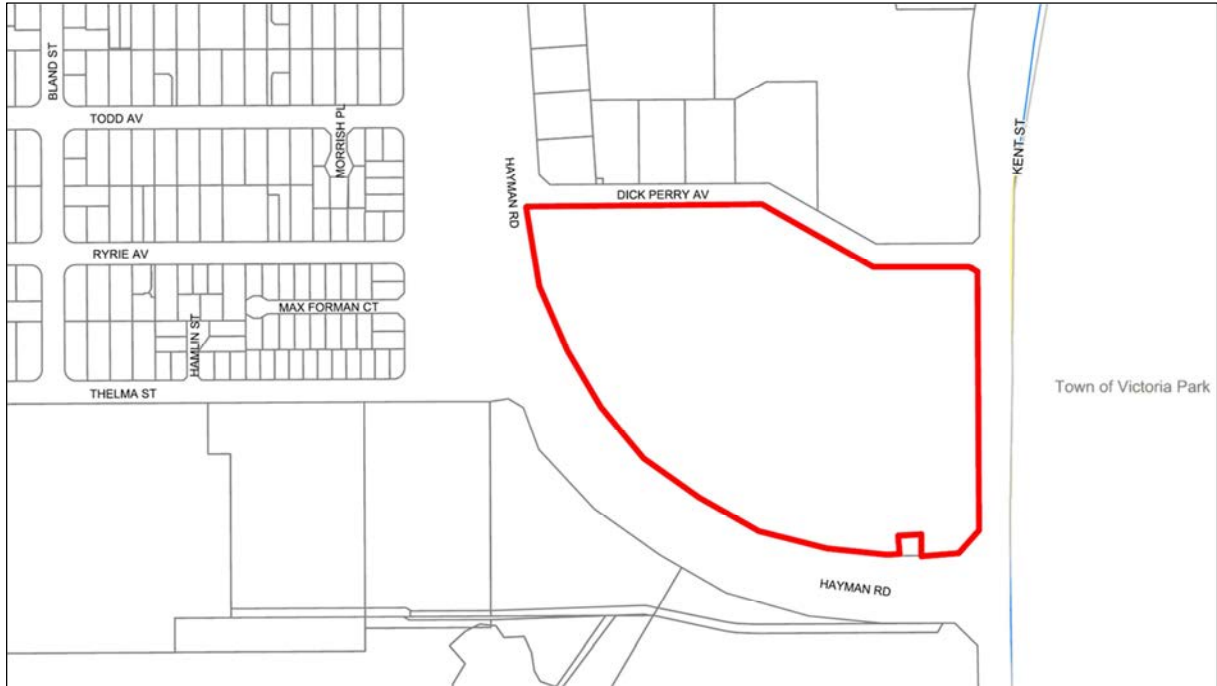


2014 aerial view of the *Department of Parks and Wildlife Complex*, showing the expansion of development over 50 years. (City records)



1969 aerial view of the *Department of Parks and Wildlife Complex* site, showing the first buildings on the site surrounded by the Collier Pine Plantation. Construction commenced in 1965. (City records)

LOCATION MAP



(Digital Cadastral Data supplied by Landgate, WA. P295)