

Area: Greenough	Place Number: 170	Category: 4
Assessment Date: 09/12/1997	Last Revision Date: 24/02/2015	
HCWA Number: 13936	Asset ID: MCH127005	

PLACE DETAILS

Name:	Coal Shafts
Other Names:	Eradu North Road
Type of Place:	Mine Shafts
Address:	Eradu North Road
Suburb:	Eradu

LOCATION

Map Reference:	Eradu S.W.	GPS Northing:	6824246.00	GPS Easting:	308694.000
			0000		000



Photo Description:

5/04/2005

Martin

View of mine site

SITE DETAILS

Lot No.:	CG 2205	Assess No.:	61042
Reserv No.:		Vol/Fol:	
Dia/Plan:			

USE OF PLACE

Original Use:	Mine Shafts		
Current Use:	Not in use		
Ownership:			
Public Access:	No	Occupied:	Not Occupied

DESCRIPTION

Walls:	Not applicable	Roof:	Not applicable
Condition:	Good	Integrity:	
Original fabric:			
Modifications:			

Situated approximately 50 metres north-east of Cream's House are the remnants of two coal mine shafts. One shaft is marked by the remains of a large timber poppet head which sits over a pit now used for rubbish. Immediately to the east are the concrete footings which mark the location of the second shaft.

2004/5 review: The timber poppet head has been removed since the last review.

HISTORY

Construction Date:	1946	Source:	Geraldton Guardian 19/01/1909
Architect:	Not available		
Builder:	Not available		

HOPES were riding high in 1946 when exploration work began on what was believed to be a major coal field at Eradu, 45kms east of Geraldton. With supplies of firewood for household or industrial use dwindling as the region's population increased, coal was seen as the only economical alternative. The Eradu coalfield had been discovered in 1906 and a small amount of exploratory work done over the years seemed to confirm its economic possibilities. When it was realised that a major effort would be needed to exploit the resource, a new company was established – Eradu

Coal Limited – and exploration got under way in earnest. Under the direction of the Mines Department, the area was drilled in order to determine just how much coal was there and whether it could be economically developed.

Eradu's chances of becoming another Collie did not last long though, because a report in The Guardian of January 17, 1948, spelled out the bad news.

It had been revealed that the overburden, or soil over the coal deposit, outweighed the coal "in the proportion of seven to one, which was rather considerable", and it could only be mined economically on a grand scale. That would mean open-cut mining for coal that was considered of borderline quality – "With suitable fireboxes, Eradu coal could be used for railway locomotive purposes".

Since that was a long cry from what was needed, The Guardian reported that all the plant used in the exploration was being dismantled.

(Source: Gary Warner)

HISTORIC THEMES

HCWA:	303 Mining (including mineral processing) 301 Grazing, pastoralism and dairying 602 Early settlers
AHC:	3.4.3 Mining 3.5 Developing primary production 3.5.1 Grazing stock

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The two coal mine shafts at Eradu have some local historic significance only as evidence of the mining venture which has since ceased.

MANAGEMENT CATEGORY

Management Category:	4
Level of Significance:	SOME SIGNIFICANCE: Contributes to the heritage and/or historical development of the locality.
Management Recommendation:	Conservation of the place is desirable. Any proposed change to the place should be in sympathy with the heritage values of the place.

OTHER LISTINGS

No other listings

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Bibliography:

HCWA Database No. 13936.

The Geraldton Guardian, 17 January 1948.

Halley, E.M. & Wilson, H.H., "Roundabout Geraldton and the Victoria District", reprinted 1978.

Photographs:

GHS3331 men & truck (1946), GHS3332 man (1946), GHS3333 winching gear (1946), GHS3334 men (1946), GHS3335 winching gear (1946), GHS3336 truck (1946), GHS3337 men & winching gear (1946), GHS3338 winching gear (1946).

OTHER PHOTOS



Photo Description:

9/12/1997

Suba, Callow and Grundy

Timber structure over shaft, now removed



Photo Description:

9/12/1997

Suba, Callow and Grundy

Concrete remains