



HERITAGE  
COUNCIL



## DE GREY – MULLEWA STOCK ROUTE No. 9701

OUR HERITAGE – WHAT MAKES US WESTERN AUSTRALIAN

The Heritage Council of Western Australia (the Heritage Council) is considering whether to recommend the Minister for Heritage include the *De Grey – Mullewa Stock Route No. 9701* in the State Register of Heritage Places. The Department has developed this information sheet to answer some commonly asked questions.

### What is the role of the Heritage Council of WA?

The Heritage Council of Western Australia is the State Government advisory body on heritage matters. It is vested with functions and powers under the *Heritage Act 2018*. The Heritage Council is charged with the compilation of the State's Register of Heritage Places.

The Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage supports the Heritage Council and the Minister for Heritage.

### What is the State Register?

The State Register of Heritage Places is a statutory list of places that represent the story of Western Australia's history and development. Entry in the Register is reserved for places that the Heritage Council has assessed as being of State cultural heritage significance. The Register's primary focus is on places dating from and after European contact and Colonial settlement and includes places to which both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Australians retain a connection. The Register acknowledges the value and importance of a place and helps promote its conservation into the future. At present, there are 1,378 places in the State Register.

**COVER:** Waterfall Watering Point, Mullewa

### Who decides what should be entered in the State Register?

The role of the Heritage Council is to determine the State significance of a place and make a recommendation to the Minister for Heritage, who makes the final decision on whether a place is entered in the State Register.



**ABOVE:** Well 3, De Grey - Mullewa Stock Route



## What is the heritage significance of De Grey – Mullewa Stock Route No. 9701?

The *De Grey – Mullewa Stock Route No. 9701* is a 1,500 kilometre stock route from Mullewa, to just east of the De Grey River, near Port Hedland. It was first pioneered in 1866 by Edward Timothy (E.T.) Hooley and then formally defined by survey in 1893, before being defined as an A Class Reserve as part of a wider network of stock routes in 1905.

A series of 55 government wells are located along the stock route, sunk approximately 12 miles (19.3 kilometres) apart, which was roughly a day's journey for pastoralists using the route at the time. Several other features are found along the route, including privately dug wells, homesteads, natural bodies of water and stock yards. These other elements are also included in the area for the proposed registration.

The stock route likely includes watering points that were important to Aboriginal peoples. Opening the area up as a stock

route impacted sites of cultural significance to Aboriginal peoples and disrupted their traditional way of life.

The stock route played a significant role in opening up and sustaining the development of the northern districts for pastoralism from the late 1860s. It demonstrates the great number of stock that were being driven to Mullewa and taken from there either as livestock or meat to the Metropolitan Region and the Eastern Goldfields, and how important this was to the State.

The *De Grey – Mullewa Stock Route No. 9701* exists mostly as a surveyed route through the vast, open landscapes of low-lying scrubland, rich red soils and waterways, which are distinctive of the Mid West, Pilbara and Gascoyne regions. The limited development along much the route means there is still a profound sense of isolation, which helps to understand the ambitious and impressive nature of the journey. Although there is no track visible, it is likely there is important archaeological material remaining that may shed light on the lives and activities of early drovers and those who settled along the route.

**BELOW:** Well 49, De Grey - Mullewa Stock Route



There are several notable figures associated with the route including pastoralists:

- E. T. Hooley – who established the earliest version of the stock route
- George Gooch – who provided advice to the State Government, which informed developing the initial gazetted route in 1891
- Walter Padbury – a pastoralist, merchant and philanthropist, who established the first pastoral lease and station in the State's north-west on the De Grey River in 1863
- Charles Straker – who was responsible for sinking the series of government wells from 1895.

### **What does entry in the State Register mean for De Grey – Mullewa Stock Route No. 9701?**

Entry in the Register will recognise and celebrate the distinctive heritage values of the stock route and the features along it. It will also offer protection under the *Heritage Act 2018*, ensuring any major changes proposed are in keeping with its cultural heritage significance.

### **Can I still make changes to my property if De Grey – Mullewa Stock Route No. 9701 is entered in the State Register?**

Yes. Inclusion on the State Register of Heritage Places does not prevent an owner or leaseholder from making changes to their property. Owners or leaseholders should discuss any potential development ideas



**BELOW:** Well 34, De Grey - Mullewa Stock Route

with the relevant decision maker, which in many cases may be the local government authority (LGA) and apply to the Local Government for development approval under the relevant Local Planning Scheme. The Local Government will refer proposals that might impact the stock route to the Heritage Council for advice as part of its standard assessment process. The Heritage Council will advise the decision maker on the heritage aspects of the proposal in light of the cultural heritage values of the *De Grey – Mullewa Stock Route No. 9701*.

The Heritage Council responds to referrals like this within the timeframe set out by the Local Government, so referrals do not create any delay in the development application decision-making process. Owners can also discuss their projects with the Department's Heritage Development team while preparing their plans.

**Why does the Heritage Council want to register this place given the stock route is no longer in use or very visible in some areas?**

While the stock route is no longer in use, it still tells an important story about the State and its development. It continues to be recognised in the form of Reserve 9701 that was surveyed as an A Class reserve with the designation of stock route in 1905.

The stock route is also visible in the landscape through the many features associated with its historic use including wells, homesteads and natural water sources.

**How was the area for the proposed registration decided?**

The area proposed for the State Register is based on the land that was reserved for the stock route in the 1905 gazette notice, as shown on historical maps and in land tenure today. This route followed much of the original 1866 stock route pioneered by E.T. Hooley and the later gazetted route of 1893. However, in some areas, the original route now passes through areas of residential or commercial development. As a result, these areas have not been included in the area proposed for registration.

**BELOW:** Well 9, De Grey - Mullewa Stock Route





## What are the benefits of registration?

Registration recognises the place and its significance to the story of Western Australia and will ensure that story will continue to be recognised into the future. Registration also provides the opportunity for those eligible to apply to the [Heritage Grants Program](#) for funding for physical conservation works or the preparation of conservation management planning documents for important elements along the route.

## Does registration affect ownership/public access?

No. Registration does not affect ownership or require owners to give public access to their property.

## How can I comment on the proposed registration of De Grey – Mullewa Stock Route No. 9701 Stock Route?

Comments on the proposed registration can be made online through the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage's [Consultation Hub](#) or by email to [HCWAregistration@dplh.wa.gov.au](mailto:HCWAregistration@dplh.wa.gov.au).

The comment period closes Friday 29 July 2022.

## What happens next?

Once consultation period has closed, the Heritage Council will consider whether to recommend registration to the Minister for Heritage, who will make the final decision on whether the place is entered in the State Register.

**BELOW:** Well 35, De Grey - Mullewa Stock Route

