

## Place Details

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### Cape Peron Battery Complex, Point Peron Rd, Peron, WA, Australia

#### Photographs



<b>List</b>	Register of the National Estate (Non-statutory archive)
<b>Class</b>	Historic
<b>Legal Status</b>	<a href="#">Registered</a> (30/05/1995)
<b>Place ID</b>	18515
<b>Place File No</b>	5/12/022/0020

#### Statement of Significance

Cape Peron Battery is the extant remains of an artillery battery constructed in 1942. It is important as a component of Australia's coastal defence system erected in response to external threats during World War Two. The Battery formed part of the chain of gun emplacements erected in the west during the war, stretching from Rottnest Island along the coast near Fremantle, Woodman Point, Cape Peron and Garden Island (Criterion A.3). The Battery demonstrates technical achievement in its design: the guns were placed to enable them to cover any shipping approaching within range south of Rockingham and Safety Bay and the western approaches to Garden Island, as well as providing cover for the boom defence which was laid across South Channel, separating the mainland at Cape Peron from Garden Island (Criterion B.2).

#### Official Values Not Available

#### Description

Utilising the natural terrain, the battery was installed on hills on a landmass projecting into the sea. Cape Peron battery was commenced in 1942 as part of the coast defence network of World War Two and was the most southerly artillery battery of the Perth/Fremantle defences. The battery consisted of: two gun emplacements with gun floor shelters; two observation posts; an engine room with generator; and 90cm searchlights located at John Point and Mushroom Rocks. The observation post situated on the highest part of Point Peron provided extensive views of the coast for surveillance. The battery was decommissioned in late 1944. Cape Peron is a popular recreation area and provides scenic views of the coast from Mandurah to Kwinana. The site has potential for interpreting the extensive coastal defence system of the State and continent.

#### History Not Available

#### Condition and Integrity

Gun Emplacement No 1 is almost completely covered by sand and vegetation. Gun Emplacement No 2 has suffered major structural damage due to erosion undermining its base. The Observation Post (OP) located on the highest point of Cape Peron, has for many years been a prominent vantage point. Continued pedestrian activity around the OP has, coupled with wind erosion, contributed to a serious undermining of the base of its foundation. Vandals have also defaced walls inside and outside the building.

#### Location

Point Peron Road, Peron, Rockingham, comprising gun emplacements No 1 and No 2, the observation post located on the highest point of Cape Peron and the remains of the other structures and buildings associated with the battery on the headland, including the searchlights at John Point and Mushroom Rocks.

#### Bibliography

GLYDE, R. K. THE COAST DEFENCES OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA, 1991.

APPLICATION FOR ASSISTANCE UNDER THE NATIONAL ESTATE PROGRAMME

1990/1991. RESTORATION OF GUN EMPLACEMENTS - CAPE PERON, ROCKINGHAM,

W.A.

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