

Media Statement

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Fremantle Prison successful in nomination for World Heritage Listing

Fremantle Prison has today been inscribed on the World Heritage List along with ten other Australian convict sites.

Fremantle Prison Executive Manager Bevan Beaver said he welcomed the announcement made as part of a serial nomination of Australian convict sites under the theme of *Convictism – Forced Migration*.

“It is particularly exciting news as Fremantle Prison is the first built environment in Western Australia to be inscribed on to the World Heritage List as it already holds a significant place in the history of Western Australia,” Mr Beaver said.

“Fremantle Prison is a monument to the development of Western Australia. It was built between 1852 and 1859 by convicts as a place to house them on their arrival from England.

“It is the most intact convict-built cell range in the nation and was the last convict establishment constructed in Australia.”

The announcement came from a meeting of World Heritage Committee, which had convened in Brasilia.

Some of the other Convict-related sites included in the serial nomination for World Heritage Listing included Sydney’s Hyde Park Barracks and Cockatoo Island Convict Station, Port Arthur in Tasmania and the Kingston and Arthur’s Vale Historic Area on Norfolk Island.

Fremantle Prison marks the place where the practice of forced migration through transportation ceased with the arrival of the convict ship *Hougoumont* in January 1868, and is an essential part of the Australian convict story.

From 1850 to 1868 almost 10,000 Convicts were transported to Western Australia.

Convict labour was used in the construction of roads, bridges, buildings such as the Perth Town Hall and Government House, and provided much-needed labour to the farming community.

Fremantle Prison is now one of Western Australia’s major heritage tourist attractions, winning numerous national tourism awards, and is considered a ‘must-see’ attraction. The Prison offers a variety of guided tours to enable visitors to see and learn about the prison and its history.