

Wedge & Grey

Western Australia's largest remaining living heritage settlements

Evolution

Indigenous Heritage

Prior to European settlement, Indigenous Australians visited many sites along the Midwest coast of Western Australia. Sites of cultural significance have been identified and protected by law and contribute to part of the overall heritage value of the communities.



1930s Wedge and Grey were established by fisherman and farmers in the 1930s.



1950s Shacks were later developed for low cost family holidays. Travelers too were invited to camp alongside the shacks. The shacks were grouped in small clusters as friends and relatives built near those they knew.



Today A strong sense of community exists as family groups come together to enjoy and nurture these coastal settlements.

Heritage assessment

A report commissioned by the National Trust of Australia (WA) in 2012 concluded Wedge and Grey have aesthetic, historical and social significance at State-level.

Significance was evident in the following ways:

1. Layout
2. Buildings
3. Community spaces and structures
4. Traditions, cultures and social networks
5. People's relationship with place.

The parliamentary Shack Enquiry of 2010, stating that the social heritage of the settlements could be maintained despite removal of the shacks, could not be substantiated.

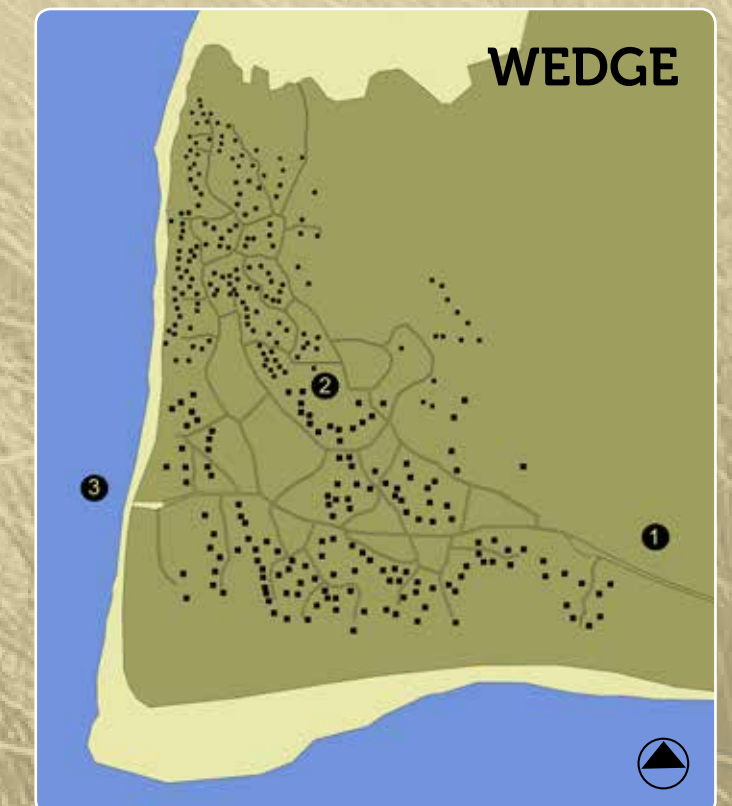
The settlements are considered to be rare due to their size and particular characteristics.

The WA Heritage Council determined that the settlements will be placed on their assessment program.

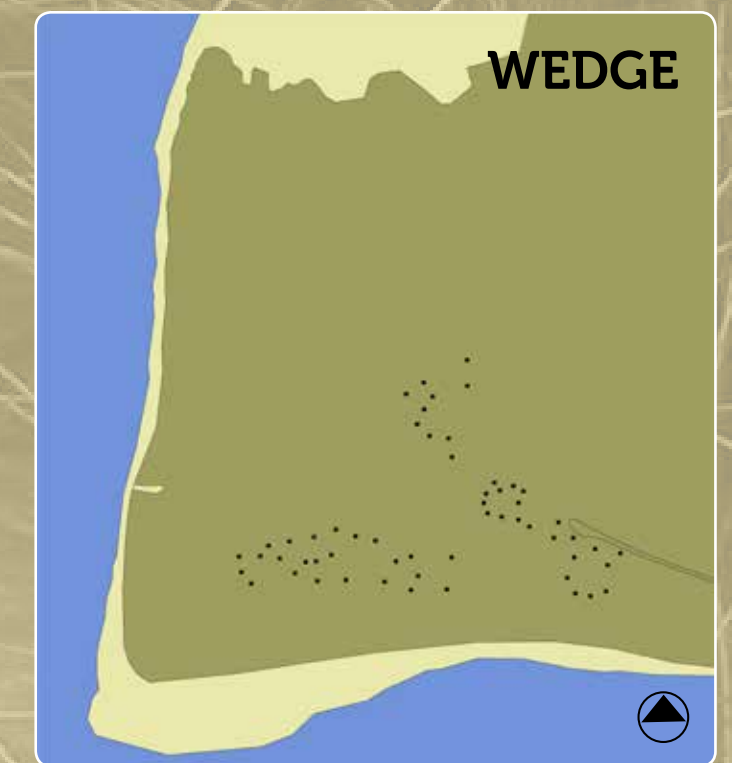
Concern for the future



- 1 Indian Ocean Drive
- 2 Grey Spur Road
- 3 Existing shacks and access roads
- 4 Beach access point



- 1 Wedge Spur Road
- 2 Existing shacks and access roads
- 3 Beach access point



Remnants under DPaW proposals - Over 300 family holiday homes will be lost.

Many of the significant shack places around which the settlements were founded would be removed under the DPaW proposal resulting in major impacts on heritage values.

Heritage experts recommend retention of these settlements in their entirety

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Necessary changes to current DPaW approach

1. European heritage value to be recognised and conserved
2. Shacks sites to be retained in-situ or in suitable alternative locations in order to preserve community heritage
3. Long-term shack leases to be equitable and viable
4. Coastal planning policies to be properly applied with coastal processes being the only criterion for shack removal

Our overall objective

To ensure the long-term existence of both settlements' unique qualities for all to experience by developing a management model and plans which are sustainable socially, economically and environmentally. This can be done through development and application of the following management framework suggested by the Wedge and Grey communities.



Existing Character

OBJECTIVE

To preserve and conserve the current physical and social character of the two last major shack settlements in WA.

APPROACH

1. Conserve the existing shack settlement.
2. Agree a fit-for-purpose approach to make shacks safe for use without losing the existing character.
3. Retain existing shack footprints.
4. Rationalise a vehicular and pedestrian track network incorporating rehabilitation and conservation of disturbed areas.
5. Finalise European heritage listing and incorporate protection of identified European and Aboriginal cultural values.

Equity

OBJECTIVE

To broaden the opportunity for the general public to share and experience the unique shack culture.

APPROACH

1. Develop a plan to enable a cohesively integrated relationship between visitors and the shack community.
2. Develop a plan to recognise significant tourism potential and enable a range of short-stay visitation options such as camping, caravanning, integrated short-term shack-stay, and for day-users.
3. Develop an acceptable shack lease system which ensures long-term viability and equity for lease holders.

Environmental Management

OBJECTIVE

To enhance the symbiotic relationship between the communities and the environment.

APPROACH

1. Develop and implement an environmental management and ecological restoration plan (EMER Plan).
2. Mitigate the environmental and health risks associated with human habitation, via the EMER Plan.
3. Create a planned, orderly and equitable shack relocation program, to be implemented when the threat from coastal processes is imminent.

Governance

OBJECTIVE

To encourage a collaborative approach to management between the communities and the relevant land managers.

APPROACH

1. Ensure the settlements are contained within the existing footprint.
2. Ensure no net increase in environmental impacts.
3. Establish a suitable management model which addresses and mitigates public liability risk.
4. Support the independent financial operations of the community.



An holistic approach is needed to equally address social, environmental and economic objectives