

= Cullacabardee , Western Australia =

Cullacabardee is a northeastern rural suburb of Perth , the capital city of Western Australia , located 21 km (13 mi) from Perth 's central business district via Alexander Drive or Beechboro Road . It is in the City of Swan local government area . Most of the suburb is covered in native sheoak and banksia forest . A small Noongar Aboriginal community is based on Baal Street , a drug rehabilitation retreat is located off Gnangara Road in the suburb 's northeast , and the Perth International Telecommunications Centre facility is based in the suburb 's northwest .

= = Geography = =

Cullacabardee is 21 kilometres (13 mi) north of Perth 's central business district , beyond the residential suburb of Ballajura . It covers approximately 13 square kilometres (5 sq mi) and its borders are Gnangara Road to the north , Alexander Drive to the west , Beechboro Road to the east and Hepburn Avenue to the south . Only one public road , Baal Street , enters the locality .

Much of the suburb 's area , formerly owned by the Western Australian Planning Commission and known as " IP8 West " , became part of Whiteman Park on 31 March 2000 and contains about 5 square kilometres (2 sq mi) of regionally significant bushland . The remaining sections are zoned General Rural under the City of Swan 's 1993 Cullacabardee Rural Plan .

Cullacabardee is located over an unconfined aquifer known as the Gnangara Mound , a major supplier of scheme groundwater to the Perth Metropolitan Area . The area is classified as an underground Water Pollution Control Area under the Water Authority Act 1984 and a Priority 1 drinking water source by the Department of Water . A survey of soils in the area in April 1999 indicated that Cullacabardee 's soil is located in the Bassendean Sand soil association , and is a leached white siliceous sand of mineral quartz , with negligible phosphorus retention capability . Vegetation is mainly low woodland forests of sheoak and banksia , with scattered jarrah .

= = Cullacabardee Aboriginal Community = =

The community at Cullacabardee consisting of 30 units set in 40 hectares of bushland has existed since about 1980 , and was designed for four different groups who the Western Australian Government perceived to be " having difficulty surviving in suburbia " and who would otherwise be homeless . Families were first moved into the homes on 8 October 1980 and the Cullacabardee Aboriginal Corporation was registered and incorporated on 21 March 1984 under paragraph 45 (1) of the Aboriginal Councils and Associations Act 1976 , and is vested in the Aboriginal Lands Trust . The community 's housing is managed by the state 's Department of Housing , but local programs and maintenance are managed by the Aboriginal Corporation and funded by federal and state governments .

= = = Alleged problems = = =

Some discussion in local media has focussed on alleged problems within the community . In 1999 , The Australian reported that many of Cullacabardee 's residents were unemployed , had no public transport despite 20 years of State Government management and no access to jobs , shops , education or health services . The article noted that " residents have to walk up to 6 km (4 mi) along a dangerously busy road or through a bush track to reach a shop or bus stop " , and that the nearest primary school is 8 km (5 mi) away . Nine derelict homes in the community were being refurbished under a training scheme to assist young community members to gain skills , although the community claimed that funding was only available for 12 @-@ month periods , making apprenticeships (which run for several years) impossible to offer . A review report into the community in 2000 identified these and other issues such as the land being zoned General Rural , effectively prohibiting residential development , and the illegal dumping of concrete demolition rubble and other refuse near the community .

In 2003 , a series of articles in The West Australian newspaper claimed that gun violence , threats to women and children and other social problems were widespread at Cullacabardee and at similar camps at Gnangara and at Saunders Street , Henley Brook , and reported some residents ' criticism of the community 's long @-@ time manager , Ivy Quartermaine . Reporting to a government select committee into the operation of the reserves later the same year , Homeswest director Greg Joyce defended Quartermaine : " She has done her best over a long time to run the place . One of the dilemmas we always get involved with is that when families are dysfunctional in the normal community , the tendency is for the system to ask Mrs Quartermaine to take them . " He said the department were " legitimately ambivalent " towards the future of the camp .

A press report in The Australian newspaper in August 2006 , which also noted the passing of Mrs Quartermaine , suggested that following the withdrawal of funding by the Federal Government , which had provided most of the Corporation 's income since 1997 , the state 's Department of Housing and Works intended to close the camp down and relocate the 15 families still resident in the village to " better housing in suburban Perth " . However , there has been no mention of the community in Hansard since 2004 , and the Department of Housing and Works 's website does not mention any impending action .

= = Perth International Telecommunications Centre = =

The 133 @.@ 5 @-@ hectare (330 @-@ acre) site was originally home to a radio station which was used until 1986 by the Overseas Telecommunications Commission (OTC) , one of two entities which later merged and formed the Telstra telecommunications company . Most government agencies refer to the site 's location as Landsdale or Landsdale @-@ Gnangara . In July 1984 , an international meeting agreed to construct an undersea cable between Jakarta , Singapore and Perth , spanning 4 @, @ 473 kilometres (2 @, @ 415 nmi) and connecting with cable systems in Malaysia , the Philippines , the Middle East and Eastern Europe . The Perth International Telecommunications Centre (PITC) commenced operations in November 1986 . To this day , it handles a large percentage of Telstra 's satellite communications .

Recent debate in the community and in State and Federal parliaments has focussed on residential development near the previously isolated site . The PITC had maintained for many years that there should be a 1 km (0 @.@ 6 mi) buffer surrounding its land in which no residential development should occur , and from the mid @-@ 1990s onwards , several members of parliament for the area tried to resolve this issue on behalf of neighbouring landowners . Some Landsdale residents in the already @-@ developed section had also complained that the PITC facility interfered with their domestic appliances .

In October 2005 , the WA Planning Commission presented Metropolitan Region Scheme Amendment 1089 / 33 to the Western Australian parliament , which was approved and took effect from 2 April 2006 . The amendment rezoned an area known as East Landsdale Precinct 64 , west of Alexander Drive , from rural to urban . In August 2006 , Wanneroo City Council , the local government area responsible for Landsdale , submitted corresponding changes to the District Plan for approval . It is unknown at this time whether PITC will eventually have to relocate as a medium @-@ to @-@ long @-@ term result of the rezoning .

= = Other facilities = =

= = = Cyrenian House Residential Program = = =

Cyrenian House , the trading arm of WA Council on Addictions Inc , is a non @-@ government , not @-@ for @-@ profit organisation specialising in treatment of drug and alcohol addictions and is based in North Perth . They operate two facilities off Gnangara Road in Cullacabardee , both of which were established in 1991 - the Rick Hammersley Centre , a therapeutic community where residents spend 10 weeks , followed by a two @-@ week community re @-@ entry skills

development program , and the Saranna Women 's Program , a residential village for women affected by addictive or compulsive behaviour and their children , where residents spend a minimum of three months and also receive assistance for re @-@ entry into the general community .

= = = Transport = = =

Cullacabardee is not served by public transport . The nearest stop is at Kingfisher Avenue , Ballajura , about a 6 km (4 mi) walk from the Cullacabardee Aboriginal community through regional bushland .