



Address: Samichon Road, Karrakatta, WA 6010

Size: 61.50 hectares

Established in 1948 as a military training area, Irwin Barracks is located about 7km from Perth CBD.

Site Functions

This site serves as office space, logistics, live-in accommodation, Army Reserves and Cadet training facility.

Site Occupants¹

ADF²: 150–200

APS³: 10–50

ADF Reserves⁴: 1100–1150

Cadets⁵: 200–250

- ⦿ People are and will remain Defence's most important capability.
- ⦿ The Estate Audit recommendations will enhance Defence work environments, ensuring our estate is a key point of attraction for and is fit-for-purpose for both current and future members of our workforce. These improvements will strengthen the overall appeal of working for Defence.

Relocation Options

- ⦿ Irwin Barracks personnel will relocate to Palmer Barracks (21km).
- ⦿ Cadets will remain in the region and relocate to Palmer Barracks or a new lease at a community venue or school. Defence will engage with potential venues to facilitate this.

History and Heritage

- ⦿ The Australian Government is committed to preserving and enhancing public access to historically significant sites and collections, including museums.
- ⦿ Properties on the Commonwealth Heritage List have protections under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*. The Government has an obligation to protect the Commonwealth Heritage Value of a property as part of any sale. Alternative heritage management options will also be considered.
- ⦿ There is one Commonwealth Heritage Listing for Irwin Barracks, which comprises of two Army Magazine buildings.
- ⦿ The Royal Australian Artillery Historical Society of WA / Royal Australian Artillery Association of Western Australia exhibit a small collection on the site. Public access requires escort / visitor sign in.
- ⦿ A relocation option for the Royal Australian Artillery Historical Society of WA / Royal Australian Artillery Association of Western Australia collection is to move to the Army Museum of Western Australia (at Artillery Barracks, Fremantle) which is operated by the Australian Army History Unit.
- ⦿ Where feasible, collections will be retained and preserved on-site. The Government will also explore partnerships with heritage organisations and trusts to support heritage protection strategies.
- ⦿ Options will be explored with future owners to manage heritage obligations as a condition of sale.
- ⦿ By ensuring historically significant sites and collections are accessible to the community, we help foster understanding of Defence's history, recognise the service and sacrifice of our people, and strengthen connection between the Australian Defence Force, the nation it serves, and the local communities we work within.
- ⦿ Community engagement will inform decisions on preserving and enhancing heritage presentation and public access.

¹ Approximate figures as at 31 December 2025

² ADF = Permanent members.

³ APS = Australian Public Service staff.

⁴ Reserves = Part-time members.

⁵ Cadets = Youth development program participants aged 13 to 18 years.