

# Mon Repos Cable Station Remains

<b>Other Names</b>	New Caledonia Cable	
<b>Street Address</b>	159 Mon Repos Road	Mon Repos
<b>Title Details/ GPS Coordinates</b>	(E: 443775 N: 7257157), (E: 443780 N: 7257155), (E: 443787 N: 7257196), (E: 443791 N: 7257192)	

**Historical Context**

Bundaberg, being the closest point on the Australian Coast to New Caledonia, was selected by the French, Queensland and New South Wales Governments in the 1890s as the site for a cable connection. The undersea cable, which was opened in October 1893, was the first stage of a telegraph link that eventually connected Australia with Britain and Europe via New Caledonia, Fiji, Samoa, Hawaii and North America. The cable came ashore at Mon Repos and was connected to the Bundaberg Post Office. The Post and Telegraph Department annexed 50 acres (20.2 hectares) from the Pasturage Reserve for the station. Undersea cable communication was replaced in the 1920s by a radio service through Sydney and the building (former cable house) was subsequently demolished. In July 1945, the cable was used by divers in midget submarines to practise cable severance before operations to cut underwater telephone cables to Tokyo. The midget submarines operated from the Bonadventure, which was anchored off the mouth of the Burnett River. Two lieutenants, Lt Bruce Enzer and Lt Bruce Carey, died during this practice.

**Physical Description**

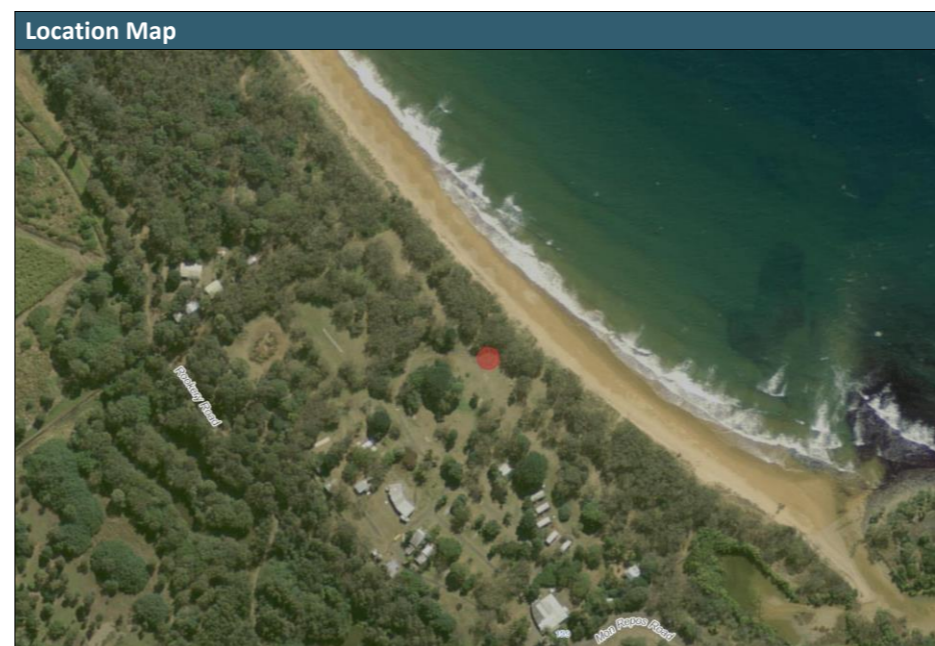
The Mon Repos Cable Station Remains contains remnants of the former cable house and radio tower c. 1893. There is a depression in the ground where the former cable house was situated and foundations of the two buildings are still visible near the foreshore. Large pits containing cables and other technical equipment on the site were filled in c. 1970. Partial remains of the main cable and anchors are still located beneath the surface of the ground, albeit stripped of their copper mountings.

<b>Integrity</b>	Good	<b>Condition</b>	Poor
<b>Statutory Listings</b>	No statutory listings		
<b>Non-Statutory Listings</b>	No non-statutory listings		
<b>Inspection Date</b>	30/7/2013		

**References**

Bundaberg Historical Society 'The history of Bundaberg and Districts'- Area Histories, vol 6.  
 Lynette Costigan, History of the Pasturage Reserve - Pasturage Reserve Management Plan - Supporting Information, 1995.  
 Woods Bagot Pty Ltd, Burnett Shire Cultural Heritage Study, Volume 3 - Schedule of Places Ref BUR 42, 1996.

Heritage Significance	
Criteria	Definition
<b>A</b>	<i>The place is important in demonstrating the evolution or pattern of the region's history.</i>
<b>Statement</b>	The Mon Repos Cable Station Remains are important in demonstrating the evolution of Queensland history, insofar that it marks the Australian terminal of the New Caledonia Cable, Australia's first telegraph link with New Caledonia and the first section of the Pacific cable to connect Queensland with Vancouver. Its remains bear testament of the contribution of the Bundaberg Region as the landing station of one of the oldest cable stations on the Australian eastern coastline.
<b>C</b>	<i>The place has potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of the region's history.</i>
<b>Statement</b>	The Mon Repos Cable Station Remains are important in that they have the potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of the Bundaberg Region's contribution to submarine cable telegraph operations both in Queensland and Australia.



Mon Repos Cable Station remains, view to north.



Mon Repos Cable Station remains setting, old footings visible in ground.



Mon Repos Beach, approximate location of cable position entry point to foreshore, view to south.