

Lighthouse records in Tasmania

The first lighthouse in Tasmania was erected on Iron Pot Islet at the mouth of the Derwent River in 1832 to guide ships to the port of Hobart. Construction of lights around the Tasmanian coast and nearby islands to mark hazards and assist navigation continued through the rest of the nineteenth century. The administration of coastal lighthouses became a Commonwealth responsibility with Federation in 1901, but the transfer of control did not occur until 1915 when the *Lighthouses Act 1911* came into effect.

Records held

The Hobart Office holds records relating to the operation of manned Tasmanian lighthouses dating from the 1850s to the 1960s. These include records of individual lighthouses, such as logbooks, weather reports and visitors' books, as well as more general records, including correspondence files of lighthouse and coastal navigation administration in Tasmania. Details of major record holdings are listed below. A more complete list of holdings is available from the Hobart Office.

General records relating to Tasmanian lighthouses

Title or description of record	Date range	Series number
<u>Drawings of Commonwealth buildings – Tasmania</u>	1903–32	P1715
<u>Correspondence files of Tasmanian lighthouse administration</u>	1922–61	P1129
<u>Correspondence files of Tasmanian lighthouse administration</u>	1916–62	P1130
<u>Files and papers relating to particular Tasmanian lighthouses</u>	1919–62	P1131

Examples of record holdings of individual Tasmanian lighthouses

Title or description of record	Date range	Series number
<u>Cape Bruny – Lightstation log books</u>	1882–1996	P783
<u>Cape Bruny – Visitors books</u>	1957–96	P1191
<u>Cape Bruny – monthly record of fog</u>	1919–62	P1117
<u>Cape Bruny – monthly returns of weather</u>	1918–62	P1119
<u>Cape Bruny – journal of weather reports</u>	1886–1917	P1190
<u>Cape Bruny – meteorological observations</u>	1875–86	P1192
<u>Cape Sorell – Lightstation log books</u>	1917–71	P782

<u>Cape Sorell – Visitors books</u>	1918–71	P775
<u>Cape Sorell – monthly record of fog</u>	1921–62	P1151
<u>Cape Sorell – monthly returns of weather</u>	1919–62	P1152
<u>Cape Wickham – Lightstation journals</u>	1861–1918	P2426
<u>Currie Harbour – monthly record of fog</u>	1919–41	P1145
<u>Currie Harbour – lighthouse journals and monthly returns</u>	1880–1988	P1147
<u>Deal Island – Lightstation log books</u>	1920–92	P1113
<u>Deal Island – monthly returns of weather</u>	1919–62	P1171
<u>Deal Island – monthly record of fog</u>	1920–62	P1173
<u>Eddystone Point – Lightstation log book</u>	1889–1993	P784
<u>Eddystone Point – Visitors books</u>	1932–93	P777
<u>Eddystone Point – monthly returns of weather</u>	1919–62	P1140
<u>Eddystone Point – monthly record of fog</u>	1920–62	P1141
<u>Goose Island – journal of weather reports</u>	1915–17	P1166
<u>Goose Island – monthly returns of weather</u>	1926–30	P1167
<u>Low Head – Lightstation log books</u>	1937–94	P786
<u>Low Head – stores book for the lighthouse</u>	1896–1926	P1155
<u>Low Head – monthly returns of weather</u>	1919–62	P1158
<u>Low Head – monthly record of fog</u>	1920–62	P1160
<u>Maatsuyker Island – Lightstation log books</u>	1893–1999	P781
<u>Maatsuyker Island – monthly record of fog</u>	1919–62	P1124
<u>Maatsuyker Island – monthly returns of weather</u>	1919–62	P1125
<u>Maatsuyker Island – Weather reports</u>	1935–38	P1194
<u>Swan Island – Lightstation log books</u>	1867–1986	P778
<u>Swan Island – Visitors books</u>	1919–86	P1588
<u>Swan Island – monthly record of fog</u>	1921–62	P1135
<u>Swan Island – monthly returns of weather</u>	1919–62	P1136
<u>Tasman Island – Lightstation log books</u>	1906–76	P779
<u>Tasman Island – monthly returns of weather</u>	1931–62	P1163
<u>Tasman Island – monthly record of fog</u>	1928–58	P1164
<u>Tasman Island – Weather reports</u>	1935–38	P1194

Further information

Tasmanian lighthouses

Records for lighthouses located at Cape Forestier, Circular Head, Iron Pot Islet (Derwent Light), Emu Bay, Hunter Island, Mersey Bluff, Table Cape and Three Hummock Island, are held by other offices of the National Archives. Keyword searches on RecordSearch using the name of the lighthouse will identify records of interest.

Other lighthouses in Australia

- *Fact sheet 233 - Lighthouse records held in Brisbane*
- *Fact sheet 259 - South Australian lighthouse records*

Records held by the Archives Office of Tasmania

Many relevant records for the period before Federation are held by the Archives Office of Tasmania, part of the Tasmanian Archive and Heritage Office.