

SHIPWRECKS OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

PORT PIRIE WRECKS

Photographs and documentary evidence suggest that many vessels have been broken up and possibly abandoned in the waterways of Port Pirie. At this stage however, information about vessel remains is minimal. Any information which supports further research and survey work in the Port Pirie region would be greatly appreciated – please contact the Maritime Officer, State Heritage Unit, (08) 8124 4933.

Aerial photographs from the 1940s show an abandoned vessel (possibly a wooden barge) near the BHP smelter, while a 1992 photograph shows deteriorating wreckage of what is probably the same vessel.



Wreck at Port Pirie, 1992 (Note position of chimney)

A 1951 photograph shows an abandoned pontoon in Port Pirie, while a 1968 aerial photo reveals what is possibly the same vessel on a bank at the bend of the river.



Iron pontoon, 1951. Photo: PortsCorp



Aerial photograph of Port Pirie, 1945. Photo: PortsCorp



Aerial photograph of Port Pirie, 1968. Photo: PortsCorp

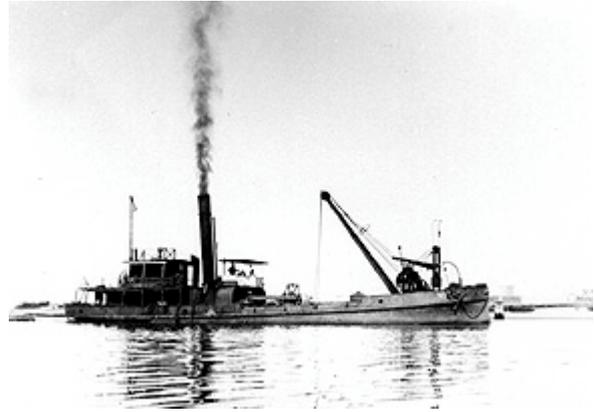
Department of Marine and Harbors records indicate that Hines Metals scrapped numerous vessels in Port Pirie during the 1950s and 1960s, including the barge (ex tug) *Myee* and Adelaide Steam Tug Company's barges No. 7 (ex paddle tug *Adelaide*) and No. 5 (ex steel barge *Grampus*). Whether these sites were completely cleared, or remains were abandoned on the bank, is unknown at this stage.



Paddle tug Adelaide. Photo: PortsCorp

The 54-ton wooden ketch *Plank Point* (1915) was beached opposite Baltic Wharf in the late 1940s. In the late 1950s it was deliberately broken up and covered with dredging spoil during

Photographs taken in 1992 show an iron boiler along the river. Although its origin is unknown, it has been suggested that these remains may be associated with the dredge *Tridacna* which was broken up in Port Pirie in 1966.



Tridacna. Photo: PortsCorp



Iron boiler, 1992

FOR MORE INFORMATION

State Heritage Unit

Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources

P (08) 8124 4960

E DEWNRHeritage@sa.gov.au

www.environment.sa.gov.au