

Victorian Heritage Database Report

Report generated on - 10/11/24

SS FEDERAL

Location

Bass Strait

Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

S258

Date lost

03/1901

Construction material

Steel

Hull

6 Bulkheads cemented. Triple expansion engines. 256 NHP. One deck, elliptical stern, clincher built. Register closed 30 June 1901.

Propulsion

Steam - Screw

Number of masts

2

Length/Breadth/Depth

290.00 Feet / 40.00 Feet / 20.00 Feet

Builder

William Duxford & Sons, Pallion, Sunderland

Year of construction

1890

Built port

Sunderland

Built country

United Kingdom

Registration Port

Melbourne

Date lost

03/1901

Departure

Port Kembla

Destination

Albany

Cargo

3000+ tons of coal

Owner

McIlwraith, McEacharn Ltd.

Master

Captain Coull

Weather conditions

Strong winds

Cause of loss

Foundered at sea

Number of crew

31

Statement of significance

<p>*There is a 1600m diameter Protected Zone around Federal centred on position -38.122476 148.730866 WGS84. No entry is permitted unless a Permit has been authorised by Heritage Victoria. *</p>

VHR history

A Marine Court of Inquiry was held into the loss of the Federal but it was unable to come to any conclusion. Some of the bodies recovered wore life belts, so it was apparent that the crew had time to prepare to abandon ship.

During mine sweeping operations in World War I, a sunken object was fouled in deep water half way between Ram Head and Cape Everard. It is thought that this may have been the Federal.