

# Australia

## Cape Londonderry, Western Australia



**Latitude:** 126° 47' 43"  
**Longitude:** 130° 44' 36"  
**Distance from Derry, Londonderry, NI.** 8,724 miles

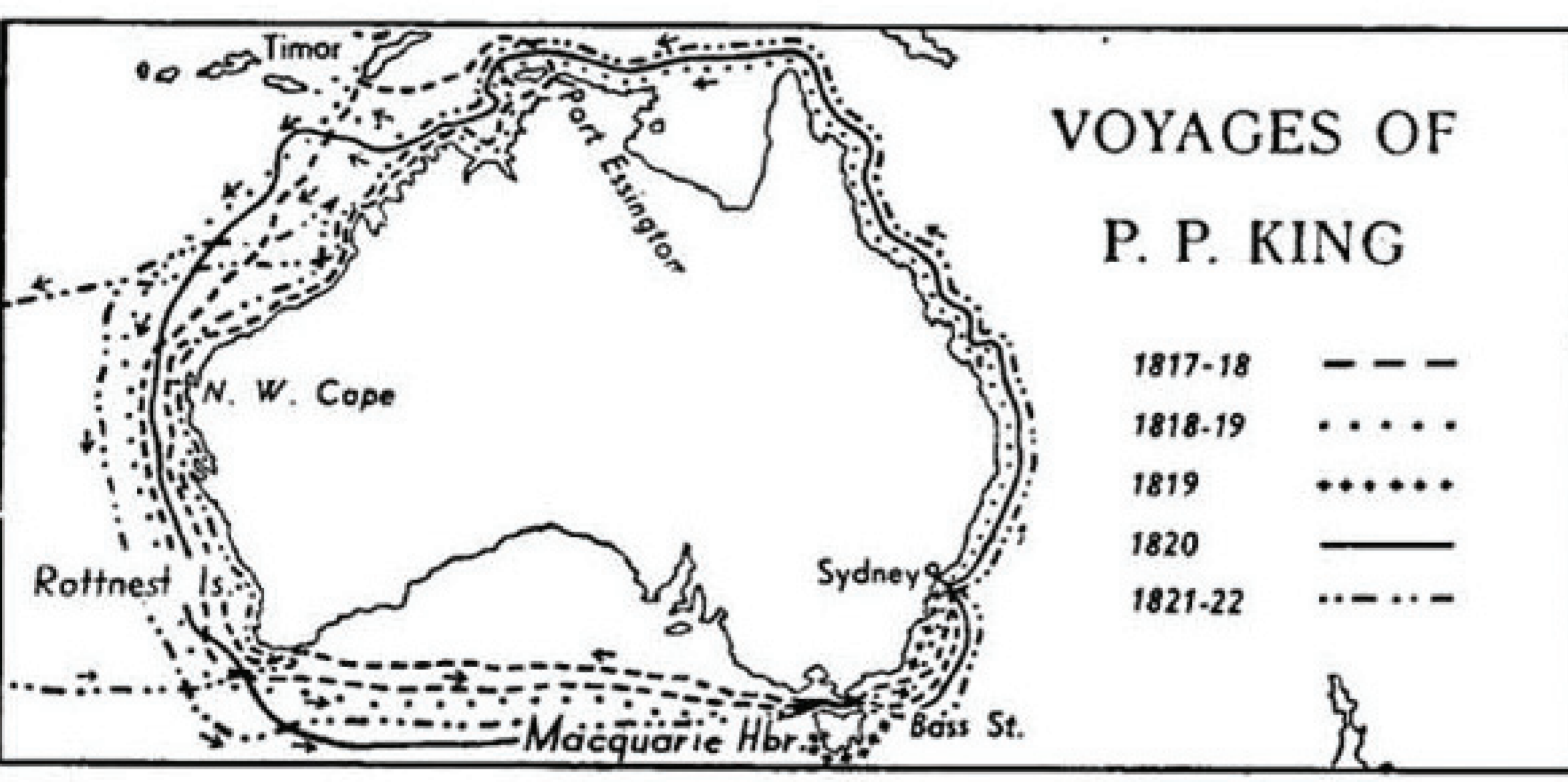
Cape Londonderry is the most northerly point in Western Australia bounded by the Indian Ocean. It was formally named on 30.9.1819 after Robert Stewart Londonderry (1769-1822), 2nd Marquess of Londonderry.

The British statesman, known in history as Lord Castlereagh, born on 1767, went to St. John's College, Cambridge, but left after one year. He took his seat in the Irish House of commons at the age of 21 and played a dominant role in English history. He cut his throat with a penknife on 22.08.1822. The explorer and rear admiral, Philip Parker King (1791-1856) who was the eldest son of Philip Gidley King, the 3rd Governor of N S Wales began an exploration of the coast of Australia on 22nd December 1817. He charted a course from Sydney and had arrived at Cape Londonderry on 30th September 1818. He returned to Sydney on 12th January 1820. He had succeeded in surveying 540 miles of the northern coast in addition to the 500 he had previously examined. Besides this a running survey of the 900 miles on the east coast between the Percy Isles and Torres Strait had been made and a much safer route had been discovered.

Cape Londonderry belongs to indigenous lands which have been recognised as having native title since 2012. Since the 1970's Aboriginals have been moving from large settlements back to ancestral homelands reclaimed from the government. This has resulted in healthier communities with lower rates of obesity, diabetes and alcohol related problems. Today 21% of Australia's estimated 670,000 indigenous peoples live in remote areas like Cape Londonderry-



**PHILLIP PARKER KING**



### Did you know ?

Western Australia is the second largest county sub-division in the world but there is a connection too between King and Londonderry Island in Chile. In 1825 he was appointed to the command of the Adventure sloop with instructions to survey the southern coasts of the peninsula of South America. The voyages began in November 1826 and in November 1830 Captain King was paid off, having done excellent work. An account of the South American voyages will be found in Narrative of the Surveying Voyages of His Majesty's Ships Adventure and Beagle by King and Robert Fitzroy published in 1839.

### Facts and figures Western Australia

**Area:** Area: 2,529,875 sq km – 33% of all Australia ( Coastline of 20,781 km )  
**Population:** 2,451,400 but with a huge sparsely populated interior – density of population – 2.4 per sq mile  
**Capital:** Perth  
**Currency:** Australian Dollar  
**Languages:** Indigenous and English