

Wingecarribee Shire

Heritage Strategy 2019-2021

This document has been prepared to meet the requirements of the local government heritage management program, in which each Council must prepare or update, adopt and implement a Heritage Strategy. This heritage strategy has been prepared in accordance with the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) publication *Recommendations for local council heritage management*.

1. Heritage Committee

OEH Recommendation (Recommendation 1)

Establish a heritage committee to deal with heritage matters in your area

OEH Outcome (Outcome 1)

Increased community participation, awareness and appreciation of heritage in the local area

Current Context

The Wingecarribee Heritage Advisory Committee was re-established by resolution of Council on 10 April 2019. The Committee comprises two Councillors, a member of the Berrima District Historical and Family History Society, a member of the Southern Highlands Branch of the National Trust of Australia (NSW), a member of the Southern Highlands Branch of the Australian Garden History Society, and three community representatives. The Committee meets every two months and first meeting of the new Committee was held on 10 May 2019.

The Committee's role, as stated in its Terms of Reference (adopted on 10 April 2019), is to provide advice and recommendations to the Council on the following matters:

- Development and implementation of heritage policy, plans, strategies and programmes.
- Heritage issues affecting the Wingecarribee Shire.
- The review of heritage listings, as required.
- Planning and delivery of events for participation in the annual National Trust Heritage Festival, as required.
- Judging of the biennial Wingecarribee Heritage Awards.
- Oversight of the Joadja Conservation Management Group.
- Notification of any development application that involves a heritage item listed in Wingecarribee Local Environmental Plan.

Actions for 2019-2021

1. Provide support to the Wingecarribee Heritage Advisory Committee in carrying out its role.
2. Ensure that the Heritage Advisory Committee is involved in the preparation, adoption and monitoring of this and future heritage strategies.
3. Undertake the 2020 Heritage Awards with the assistance of the Heritage Advisory Committee.
4. Undertake the local grants programme (Wingecarribee Heritage Assistance Grants) with input on applications by the Heritage Advisory Committee.
5. Involve the Committee in the review of the Development Controls Plans, the Local Strategic Planning Statements and the Local Housing Strategy.

2. Heritage Listing and Studies

OEH Recommendation (Recommendation 2)

Identify the heritage items in your area and list them in your local environmental plan.

OEH Outcome (Outcome 2)

Increased knowledge and proactive management of heritage in your local area.

Current Context

The Wingecarribee Local Environmental Plan (WLEP) 2010 contains 406 existing items of environmental heritage, 16 heritage conservation areas and 9 archaeological sites. The latest addition of heritage items occurred through Amendment No. 40, published on 10 March 2017.

Actions for 2019-2021

1. Review Schedule 5 of the Wingecarribee Local Environmental Plan 2010 to update/correct listings and mapping and to add new items supported by Council, as appropriate.
2. Undertake further consultation with owners of 250 properties recommended for heritage listing that were deferred by Council in 2012 with the aim of advancing these to heritage items.
3. List items subject to Interim Heritage Orders in 2018 and 2019, where supported by Council.
4. Continue to research and update the heritage assessments of all potential heritage items and other items for potential heritage listing.
5. Prepare statements of significance for existing heritage items that do not have them.
6. Continue programme of photographically recording all heritage listed items in the Shire.
7. Continue programme of recording information from Statements of Heritage Impact and other heritage reports submitted to Council on existing or potential heritage items onto the heritage database.
8. Continue to identify and periodically list interiors of heritage significance.
9. Identify and periodically list gardens and landscapes of heritage significance.

3. Heritage Advisor

OEH Recommendation (Recommendation 3)

Appoint a heritage and urban design advisor to assist the council, the community and owners of listed heritage items.

OEH Outcome (Outcome 3)

Increased community participation and proactive heritage and urban design management, in your local area.

Current Context

Council's Heritage Advisory programme has been in place for a number of years and is well utilised by staff and owners of heritage assets in the Shire.

Actions for 2019-2021

1. Continue to employ a Heritage Advisor to provide free advice to the community about heritage issues.
2. Continue to seek the input of council's Heritage Advisor in the assessment of development applications and projects likely to impact on the heritage significance of buildings/places.
3. Appropriately promote the Heritage Advisory Service to the community.

4. Managing Heritage

OEH Recommendation (Recommendation 4)

Manage local heritage in a positive manner.

OEH Outcome (Outcome 4)

Proactive heritage and urban design management in your local area.

Current Context

Council's professional staff is knowledgeable about heritage matters and there is a depth of experience in assessing applications on heritage places.

Actions for 2019-2021

1. Provide property owners with advice on heritage controls and/or incentives that may apply to their heritage item.
2. Meet with community groups to provide advice on heritage issues as required.
3. Systematically review Development Control Plans to provide clear and easily understood heritage and urban design controls for the different towns, villages and rural areas of the Shire.
4. Investigate options to reduce fees for some types of heritage applications as part of the Heritage Assistance and Education Programme.
5. Prepare fact sheets on a number of popular topics including obtaining heritage approvals and maintenance, including painting.

5. Local Heritage Fund

OEH Recommendation (Recommendation 5)

Introduce a local heritage incentives fund to provide small grants to encourage local heritage projects.

OEH Outcome (Outcome 5)

Increased community participation and proactive conservation and management of heritage in your local area.

Current Context

Council has operated a local heritage fund most years since 2005-2006 and consistently since the 2012-13 financial year. Council intends to continue to run the heritage grants annually and has nominally increased the budget for the 2019-20 round of funding.

Actions for 2019-2021

1. Continue to offer the local heritage fund as a means of encouraging owners to undertake conservation work on heritage items.
2. Encourage Council to continue to incrementally increase the amount of money offered in the Local Heritage Fund.
3. Encourage participation in the local heritage fund through appropriate advertising.
4. Promote successful heritage grant projects.

6. Main Street/Urban Design

OEH Recommendation (Recommendation 6)

Run a heritage main street program.

OEH Outcome (Outcome 6)

Council, owners and the community actively participate in attractive and well managed heritage main streets.

Current Context

Council has operated a main street program in the past and it is not a primary focus for heritage policy at this time. However, in 2013-14 Council produced Master Plans for the major towns of Mittagong, Bowral and Moss Vale.

Actions for 2019-2021

1. Pursue opportunities to implement the recommendations of the Master Plans.
2. Consider opportunities for Master Planning in villages across the Shire, particularly those with heritage values.

7. Heritage Promotion

OEH Recommendation (Recommendation 7)

Present educational and promotional programs.

OEH Outcome (Outcome 7)

Increased awareness and appreciation of heritage by the Council, owners and the community in your local area.

Current Context

Council runs a biennial Awards scheme to promote heritage works throughout the Shire which were due to be held in April/May 2017. Due to staffing shortages, this has been put back until 2018.

Actions for 2019-2021

1. Continue to operate the biennial Wingecarribee Heritage Awards as a way of rewarding and promoting successful heritage developments.
2. Provide information on heritage and heritage items in the area plus heritage related events on the web site.
3. Provide information on and links to further information about common technical issues in the area (such as rising damp; maintenance of stone buildings, etc.) on council's web site.
4. Develop heritage walks and brochures on town and villages that do not have them and revise existing heritage walks that are more than 5 years old.
5. Upload and promote the heritage fact sheets once prepared and endorsed.
6. Undertake heritage training for staff and the community as identified and required.
7. Investigate options for identifying heritage places in the Shire, such as plaques and smart phone apps.
8. Continue liaison with Tourism Southern Highlands in the promotion of heritage as a tourism experience.
9. Promote heritage sustainability.

8. Managing Assets

OEH Recommendation (Recommendation 8)

Set a good example to the community by properly managing places owned or operated by the Council.

OEH Outcome (Outcome 8)

Council proactively conserves and manages its heritage assets.

Current Context

Council is improving its processes in dealing with its own heritage assets.

Actions for 2019-2021

1. Continue to provide a record of council managed heritage places on the heritage database.
2. Establish a programme of preparation of Conservation Management Strategies for council managed heritage structures.
3. Establish a programme of preparation of landscape plans for council managed heritage parks.
4. Encourage the preparation of heritage asset maintenance plans for Council heritage listed assets.
5. Seek indicative costs and detailed advice from the Heritage Advisor on works involving Council owned assets.

9. Heritage and sustainable development

OEH Recommendation (Recommendation 9)

Promote sustainable development as a tool for heritage conservation.

OEH Outcome (Outcome 9)

Proactive heritage and sustainable development in your local area.

Current Context

Council generally supports sustainable development and encourages appropriate adaptive or creative reuse of period buildings and other sustainability measures in association with heritage buildings and within heritage areas.

Actions for 2019-2021

1. Provide owners of heritage items with free conservation advice.
2. Support the use of incentives for appropriate heritage work.
3. Seek appropriate solutions for developers of heritage items.
4. Provide information to owners of heritage properties on sustainable heritage management.
5. Continue to utilise the heritage incentives clauses for innovative proposals involving heritage places.
6. Encourage traditional environmental control devices on period buildings and new buildings in conservation areas.