

Ref: MBR036924



The Hon. Richard Wynne MP
Minister for Planning
8 Nicholson Street
EAST MELBOURNE VIC 3002

Dear Minister

RE: Statement of Expectations 2018-2020

The Heritage Council of Victoria (the Council) is an independent statutory body which identifies and protects places and objects of cultural heritage significance to the State of Victoria. The Council is committed to continued improvement of its regulatory functions.

On behalf of the Council, I am pleased to provide a response to your Statement of Expectations which applies for the period 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2020. Activities planned by the Council in 2018-20 in response to your Statement of Expectations are outlined below. The performance targets correspond to performance targets listed in the Council's Corporate Plan 2018-19.

Target 1 – Undertake a review of key regulatory provisions of the Act to ensure improved regulatory process, by December 2019.

The Council aims to maintain and improve its capacity to make and communicate high-quality decisions that are robust and consistent. The Council will undertake an internal review of the administration of its key regulatory functions under the *Heritage Act 2017* ('the Act') in order to improve the efficient and effective performance of them. The Council will advise the Minister as to any issues arising from key regulatory provisions of the new Act.

Target 2 – Provide strategic training sessions for members in relation to regulatory functions, by June 2019, to ensure best-practice regulatory activity and clear and transparent regulatory processes under the Act.

The Council seeks to provide strategic regulatory training for members in order to ensure best-practice hearing practices and procedures. The Council will conduct two strategic (hearings) training sessions in 2018-19 to ensure its members are well equipped in a time of a high regulatory workload. The Council strives to undertake regular analysis and training, utilising both external and internal resources, to ensure members are well equipped with the training and skills required to fulfil their role.

Target 3 – Amend existing stakeholder resources, by June 2019, to improve awareness of the Act’s regulatory processes and communicate best-practice cultural heritage regulation.

The Council is conducting strategic projects to ensure, in line with its functions, that more Victorians understand the role that cultural heritage plays in the life of our communities and to ensure that the Council champions and supports exemplary cultural heritage practice. In 2018-19 the Council will be conducting work to understand and better recognise the social significance of cultural heritage. The Council will conduct a review of the Victorian Heritage Register Criteria and Threshold Guidelines in relation to Criterion G (social significance), with corresponding amendments to be made to these Guidelines by June 2019.

The Council is committed to administering the Heritage Act 2017 and the Regulations in an effective, conscientious and efficient manner. I look forward to providing you with continued updates on our progress in meeting your Statement of Expectations.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'St Macintyre', written in a cursive style.

Prof Stuart Macintyre
Chair, Heritage Council of Victoria