

State of Heritage Review: Local Heritage

Objectives, Scope and Deliverables

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Document Purpose

This document describes the purpose of the 'State of Heritage Review: Local Heritage' (the Review). It outlines the questions that will be resolved by the review and provides a reference for ensuring a common understanding of its scope, objectives and deliverables.

1.2 Heritage Act 2017

Part 2, Section 11(1) of the *Heritage Act 2017* states that the functions and powers of the Heritage Council of Victoria include

- (a) to advise the Minister on the status of the State's cultural heritage resources and any steps necessary to protect and conserve them;*
- (c) to promote public understanding of the state's cultural heritage and develop and conduct community information and education programs;*
- (d) to advise government departments and agencies, municipal councils and other responsible authorities on matters relating to the protection and conservation of cultural heritage;*

It is under these statutory functions and powers that this State of Heritage Review into local cultural heritage is being progressed.

2 PURPOSE & AUDIENCE

The purpose of the Heritage Council of Victoria's Review into local cultural heritage is to provide a clear summary of the current status of local cultural heritage protection and management across the State, and to offer a clear and practical vision for how local and State government can work together more effectively to support local communities in honouring, protecting and promoting our cultural heritage now and into the future.

There are two primary audiences of the Review report:

- 01.** the Minister for Planning and the Heritage Council of Victoria – relating to the Heritage Council fulfilling its statutory duty of reporting to the Minister on the 'State of Heritage'.
- 02.** Local Government, the Minister for Local Government and the Municipal Association of Victoria – the focus of the Review and its findings.

3 OBJECTIVES AND SCOPE

3.1 Objectives

The Review has four primary objectives:

- to create a clear picture of the current arrangements for local cultural heritage across the State that can be used as a point of comparison in future years
- to recommend tangible and practical opportunities for enhancing and improving the way State and local government work together to recognise, protect and manage local cultural heritage, and anticipate and prepare for future challenges
- to improve community understanding of the benefits of local and State cultural heritage protection and demystify the current arrangements
- to promote and encourage good heritage practice across government and within the broader community by showcasing best-practice examples of local cultural heritage management.

3.2 Scope

In Scope

The State of Heritage Review: Local Heritage will:

- investigate the different arrangements for local and State cultural heritage protection and management in Victoria and compare them with those of other jurisdictions in Australia, primarily NSW
- establish a clearer understanding of current provision for local cultural heritage (with a stocktake of what is being done), including the extent and currency of local heritage studies, the provision for heritage within local planning, and arrangements for the support and promotion of local cultural heritage¹
- evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of current local cultural heritage protection and management arrangements, including the effectiveness of the coordination of local and State cultural heritage mechanisms, and how the public understanding of the two levels might be increased
- identify current mechanisms that have the potential to provide sustainable funding of local heritage protection and management
- identify the challenges likely to emerge in local cultural heritage protection and management
- identify best-practice examples of management, protection and promotion of local cultural heritage, noting where they are occurring and how they could be communicated and taken up more broadly through mechanisms such as forums, workshops and/or a roadshow
- identify short, medium and long-term opportunities for increasing awareness, appreciation and the benefits of local cultural heritage across the State of Victoria
- specify practical steps for improvement that can be implemented by the Heritage Council of Victoria, Heritage Victoria and municipal agencies within existing resources
- identify the top three initiatives which, if funded, could greatly improve the recognition, protection and management of local cultural heritage across the State of Victoria.

It will do this through desktop research and consultation with state and local government officers and key community groups (to be agreed in the Review's Communication & Stakeholder Engagement Plan).

Out of Scope

The following will not be investigated as part of this Review:

- an examination of National and Commonwealth levels of heritage protection and management
- an analysis of the regulatory framework and planning scheme
- an analysis of the make-up and content of specific Heritage Overlays
- a specific analysis of Council-owned assets – but the report could give examples of best practice.

4 KEY DELIVERABLES

The key deliverables for the Review are

01. A formal Review report that

- provides a stocktake of the current provisions for local heritage, to serve as a baseline for future comparisons
- contains an analysis of the different ways local and State cultural heritage protection and management mechanisms work together in Victoria to protect the state's cultural heritage, identifying potential areas for change and improvement
- identifies the strengths and weaknesses in the current local cultural heritage arrangements, making clear proposals for improvement
- identifies short, medium and long-term opportunities for increasing awareness, appreciation and the benefits of local heritage across the State of Victoria

¹ Focus is intended to be on things such as the status of Heritage Studies or statistics such as the number of places in Heritage Overlays, etc. Things such as significant trees and landscapes are also potentially In Scope as a starting point, though may be ruled out as the stocktake focus is refined.

- identifies examples of best practice of heritage management, protection and promotion, noting where they are occurring and how they could be communicated and taken up more broadly through mechanisms such as forums, workshops and/or a roadshow (see deliverable 2 below)
 - outlines the tangible and practical improvements that can be implemented either immediately or in the six months following the review's completion by the Heritage Council of Victoria, Heritage Victoria and municipal councils
 - specifies three strategic initiatives to improve local heritage protection and management in the State.
02. A promotion programme including forums, workshops and a road show that showcases best-practice local cultural heritage protection and management and the benefits that appreciation and protection of heritage can bring to local communities.

5 BENEFITS

The following are the anticipated benefits that will be realised by delivering the Review:

01. An overarching baseline view of local cultural heritage protection and management arrangements across the State that can be used as a basis for comparison over future years.
02. Improved coordination between State and local cultural heritage recognition, management and protection arrangements, including agreement from all parties on the tangible steps to be taken to fix the biggest areas of disconnection.
03. Improved public understanding and appreciation of local and State cultural heritage protection and management arrangements and how heritage contributes to the economy, cultural activity, amenity and social cohesion of local communities.
04. Greater knowledge sharing between local agencies on the best approaches and practices for the recognition, protection and management of local cultural heritage.

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