

2022–23 ANNUAL REPORT

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"To lead in the recognition and conservation of Victoria's cultural heritage."

- Heritage Council of Victoria

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ISSN 1835 2227 (pdf)

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Accountable Officer's declaration

In accordance with the *Financial Management Act 1994*, I am pleased to present the Heritage Council of Victoria's Annual Report for the year ending 30 June 2023.

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Damien Welch Accountable Officer Executive Officer – Heritage Council Secretariat

3 November 2023

Chair's report

As a peak heritage body, we acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the Country that we call Victoria as the original custodians of Victoria's land and waters, and acknowledge the importance and significance of Aboriginal cultural heritage. We honour Elders past and present whose knowledge and wisdom has ensured the continuation of Aboriginal culture and traditional practices.

The 2022–23 period saw the delivery of substantial strategic, regulatory and communications outcomes as the Heritage Council of Victoria ('the Council') returned to some normality in operations following the impacts of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. The Council is making great strides in consolidating the vision and objectives of its Strategic Plan 2021–25, is leading in the recognition and conservation of the state's diverse cultural heritage, and is working hard to see Victorians connect with and value its contribution to the enrichment of our culture.

The Council's stakeholder engagement activities and ongoing partnerships, including with Heritage Victoria, the National Trust, Open House Melbourne and the Houses Awards, continue to effectively promote public understanding of Victoria's cultural heritage. The Council's partnerships are critical in creating connections across the cultural heritage sphere and increasing public understanding of contemporary cultural heritage practice. As part of the Council's wonderful ongoing partnership with Open House Melbourne the annual Heritage Address in July 2022 returned as an in-person event to close the Open House program. It was delivered at Federation Square by Katrina Sedgwick, who reflected on her experience as a leader in shaping Melbourne's cultural landscape. The 2023 premiere of the latest iteration of the Modern Melbourne documentary series, also a product of the Open House partnership, was this year a regional premiere during the Open House Bendigo weekend and featured Peter Elliott, AM, one of Australia's most celebrated architects. The promotion of public understanding of the cultural heritage management system has been greatly enhanced by the release of the Heritage Information Pack, in May 2023, which includes an animation, pamphlets and posters, and seeks to address gaps in public knowledge and appreciation of cultural heritage. In 2023 the Council became a major supporter of the National Trust of Victoria's Australian Heritage Festival, a community-driven event over April and May, which also featured the first Heritage Trades Show at Labassa Mansion. These events and promotional activities are making meaningful contributions to the understanding of cultural heritage in Victoria.

The Council closely monitors the engagement with and performance of its social media channels and website and is very pleased at the progress. The Council's LinkedIn page has grown exponentially, and its Instagram page remains a strong and growing social media tool, continuing to attract new followers (up by 20% on the previous year) who enjoy its focus on the diverse places in the Victorian Heritage Register. The Council continued to commission photography on a large-scale, capturing the diversity of heritage places in Victoria and promoting it widely on social media channels and in publications. The Council's quarterly heritage newsletter also continues to grow subscribers and is proving a useful mechanism to engage with new audiences.

This was also a year of outstanding project achievements for the Council, in which several important outcomes were delivered. In September 2022, the Council officially launched 'HCV Hub', its new online interface for public submissions to hearings and reviews. Already an essential part of the Council's busy schedule of regulatory work, the Hub has delivered a huge improvement in the accessibility and efficiency of public hearings and has been used for all registration and permit review hearings since its launch. It has performed extremely well. Also in the regulatory sphere, in December 2022 the Council published a revised version of the 'Victorian Heritage Register Criteria and Threshold Guidelines', following a process of review and consultation which sought to ensure the continued clarity and effectiveness of this fundamental document. Twenty-two diverse places and objects were included in the Victorian Heritage Register in 2022–23, including the Albanian Mosque in Shepparton, significant as the earliest surviving purpose-built mosque in Victoria, and the William Cooper residence in Footscray, significant for its association with early twentieth-century Aboriginal activism.

The Local Government Heritage Forum (the Forum) finally returned to the Council's calendar in 2023, and was held at Melbourne Museum in May. The day-long, in-person Forum was attended by key local government stakeholders, including close to 140 planning and heritage staff from more than 50 councils across the state. The Forum has become an essential part of the Council's roster of annual events and meets a need to bring local heritage practitioners together to discuss issues in the protection and management of local cultural heritage. The increase in the size of the Forum arose from Council's statewide review into local heritage protection and management arrangements (*State of Heritage Review: Local Heritage 2020*), which commenced in 2018. The review also recommended the delivery of 'Practical Improvements' to enhance local cultural heritage management and protection. Two of those key practical improvement recommendations were also delivered in 2023: the 'Heritage 101 for Councillors' material was launched in February 2023, and the 'Heritage 101 Information Pack' for the public launched in May 2023 at the Forum. The material produced has received excellent feedback on its design as a resource for use by local government and other stakeholders.



The Council witnesses the ongoing impact of climate change and related weather events on heritage places and is concerned at the rapidly worsening scale of these impacts. The Council's delivery of project outcomes in relation to its cultural heritage and climate change work continued in June 2023, with a set of new resources being launched on the Council website to help owners and managers of heritage places and objects understand the vulnerability of their place/object to the impacts of climate change. The materials all demonstrate the impacts that climate change is already having in Victoria and on heritage places, which are extremely vulnerable to these impacts.

The Council's strategic initiatives always seek to look ahead to ensure the Council is equipped to meet the challenges that continue to arise. Victoria is, as ever, changing, and the pressures presented by climate change and the pressures in demographics and the broader built environment impact on the protection and management of Victoria's cultural heritage. The Council is keenly aware of these pressures and challenges in carrying out its functions. The Council continues to work hard to deliver on the strategic and regulatory objectives of its *Strategic Plan 2021–25* to ensure the Council is equipped to anticipate and meet the pressures and challenges arising in the protection and management of Victoria's cultural heritage.

The Council remains in a strong financial, operational and strategic position, and is excited about continuing its work to achieve its core objectives over the coming year.

CHANGING COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

We welcomed five new members who took up their roles this year:

- Dr Janine Major, Alternate Archaeology member
- Dr Ursula de Jong, Architecture conservation or architectural history member
- Ruth Redden, Alternate Architecture conservation or architectural history member
- Maddison Miller, Alternate Aboriginal person who has relevant experience or knowledge of cultural heritage member
- Phoebe LaGerch-Wijsman, Alternate National Trust member.

On behalf of the Council, I would also like to express special thanks to Prof Andrew May, Jeffrey Robinson, Jo Guard and Maggi Solly, who completed their terms at the end of June 2023, and to Rueben Berg, who resigned effective 31 March 2023.

I acknowledge the valuable service to the state's heritage of all Council members.

Prof Philip Goad Chair, Heritage Council of Victoria



About the Heritage Council

MANNER OF ESTABLISHMENT AND RELEVANT MINISTER

The Heritage Council of Victoria (the Council) is an independent statutory authority established under the *Heritage Act 2017* (the Heritage Act) as the Victorian Government's primary decision-making body on the identification of places and objects of cultural heritage significance to the State of Victoria.

The statutory scope of the Heritage Act covers places and objects of cultural heritage significance to the State of Victoria but does not apply to a place or object that is of cultural heritage significance solely on the ground of its association with Aboriginal tradition. In this Annual Report, the terms 'cultural heritage' and 'heritage' are used generically and interchangeably to refer to the 'heritage' to which the Heritage Act applies, recognising that heritage places and objects may have multiple attributes and values.

The responsible minister for the period from 1 July 2022 to 5 December 2022 was the Hon Lizzie Blandthorn MP, Minister for Planning. The responsible minister for the period from 5 December 2022 to 30 June 2023 was the Hon Sonya Kilkenny MP.

MISSION, VISION AND VALUES

The Council used the following strategic statements, taken from its Strategic Plan 2021–25, to guide its work. The Council's Strategic Plan 2021–25 and its stated Mission, Vision and Values guided and informed the Council's objectives, priorities, main undertakings and activities in FY2022–23.

Mission

To lead in the recognition and conservation of Victoria's cultural heritage.

Vision

Victorians connect with and value our diverse cultural heritage. We aspire to have:

- Victorian communities, landowners and custodians understanding and valuing our heritage and its contribution to enriching culture
- a heritage system that protects, sustains and enhances our heritage
- coherent and integrated heritage processes across all levels of government
- transmission of heritage values to current and future generations through effective stewardship and inspirational story telling.

Values

In its work, the Council demonstrates the following values:

Value	
Respect for heritage	We value Victoria's heritage places and objects as assets to be enjoyed as expressions of the traditions, identities and achievements of our diverse communities and cultures.
Collaboration	We value the knowledge others bring to heritage conservation and encourage the sharing of experience and information.
Innovation	We value exploring new approaches to ensure a more sustainable future for Victoria's cultural heritage.
Skilled practice	We value the skills and resources that enable high-quality heritage management across the state.

NATURE AND RANGE OF SERVICES

The Council has six main undertakings that outline the nature and range of services it provides:

Provision of advice

One of the Council's key roles is to advise the Minister for Planning on the state of Victoria's cultural heritage resources and any steps necessary to protect and conserve them.



The Council also has a role in advising and liaising with individuals and other bodies that have responsibilities in heritage protection and conservation in Victoria, including local government, community organisations and heritage owners/managers.

Determination of state-level significance and archaeological value

The Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) provides the state's highest level of legal protection for our cultural heritage. The Council determines which places and objects are of state-level heritage significance and are included in the VHR.

The Council also determines if sites under 75 years of age have archaeological value and should therefore be included in the Heritage Inventory of Victorian archaeological sites.

Hearings and reviews

As prescribed by the Heritage Act, the Council conducts hearings or reviews in relation to requests for a review of: the Executive Director's recommendations for inclusion or non-inclusion in the VHR; determinations of permit applications; refusals of nominations for the VHR; and consents for certain activities at archaeological sites.

Promotion of cultural heritage

The Council works to promote public understanding of Victoria's cultural heritage.

Undertaking research

The Council initiates and undertakes research to identify and assess Victoria's heritage and assist in its conservation and interpretation. The Council may do this itself or in partnership with other government or community bodies.

Governance and compliance

As an independent statutory authority with its own financial management responsibilities, the Council has multiple governance and compliance obligations and reporting requirements.

FUNCTIONS, POWERS AND DUTIES

The Council has the following statutory functions, as set out in s.11, of the Heritage Act:

- to advise the Minister on the status of the state's cultural heritage resources and on any steps necessary to
 protect and conserve them
- to make and publish guidelines in relation to the conservation of cultural heritage
- to promote public understanding of the state's cultural heritage and develop and conduct community information and education programs
- to advise government departments and agencies and municipal councils on matters relating to the protection and conservation of places and objects of cultural heritage significance
- to liaise with other bodies responsible for matters relating to the protection, conservation, management and promotion of Victoria's cultural heritage
- to initiate and undertake programs of research related to the identification, conservation or interpretation of Victoria's cultural heritage
- to include places or objects in the Heritage Register
- to remove places or objects from the Heritage Register, or to amend the registration of a place or object
- to remove sites from the Heritage Inventory
- to conduct reviews of decisions of the Executive Director in relation to nominations, permits and consents
- to develop, revise and publish the assessment criteria to be used in considering the cultural heritage significance of places and objects and determining whether those places or objects should or should not be included in the Heritage Register
- to adopt, and forward to the Minister, World Heritage Strategy Plans and amendments to World Heritage Strategy Plans
- to determine criteria for assessing whether a place has archaeological value
- to advise the Minister administering the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, on proposed amendments to planning schemes which may affect the protection or conservation of cultural heritage
- to manage the Heritage Fund
- to perform any other functions conferred on the Heritage Council under this Act or any other Act.



Key initiatives and operational performance

The Council's Strategic Plan 2021–25 highlights its strategic directions and actions, and its Corporate Plan 2022–23 outlines the strategic priorities, actions and performance measures that were monitored and reported against during 2022–23.

KEY INITIATIVES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

This section summarises the Council's key initiatives and achievements during 2022-23.

Promotion of cultural heritage

The recommencement of in-person events in 2022 enabled the Council to grow its events calendar and support the promotion of heritage to a broad audience.

Resources to promote public understanding

• In May 2023, a <u>Heritage Information Pack</u>, including an animation, pamphlets and posters, was launched at the Council's Local Government Heritage Forum. The pack addresses the gaps in public knowledge and appreciation for heritage and helps demystify the heritage protection system. The different resources reinforce the benefits of heritage protection, communicate complex concepts in simple terms, and frame the heritage system as positive, progressive and inclusive. The pack is free and digitally accessible for ease of use, sharing and downloading, with the option of print-quality material for display and handing out at in-person events and locations. A comprehensive communications strategy has ensured high ongoing engagement with and use of the resources by heritage and planning stakeholders, including a wide variety of government, advocacy and private organisations.

Partnerships, sponsorships and awards

- The Council became a major supporter of the National Trust of Victoria's Australian Heritage Festival, a community-driven event between 18 April and 18 May 2023. With an extended timeframe of 4 weeks, the festival hosted 190 events by 122 different event organisers. It also incorporated its first fully digital program, including its first <u>Webinar Series on Heritage and Sustainability</u>. Over 3000 people attended in person, with many more experiencing elements of the program online. The 2023 festival theme was 'Shared Stories', inviting communities to discover people and places they wouldn't otherwise know, encouraging quirky and hidden tales about Victoria's cultural heritage to be explored, and to foster understanding of our shared histories and differences.
- On the last weekend of April, the National Trust held its first Heritage Trades Show at Labassa Mansion, sponsored by the Heritage Council of Victoria. Visitors were able to wander through the historic mansion and its gardens and encounter different practitioners, some performing live demonstrations (such as lime slaking or constructing a sash window), some with static displays of the tools and materials they use in their work, and some with photos of work completed. In total, 32 exhibitors and panellists took part, including heritage professionals and tradespeople, suppliers and company owners, and the Holmesglen Institute and their student ambassadors. A feature of both days was a panel discussion led by Heritage Council member Jeff Robinson, and which can be viewed online as part of the Heritage and Sustainability Webinar Series.
- As a long-term heritage partner, the Council continued its support of Open House Melbourne in July 2022. The Council's annual Heritage Address was held in person and simultaneously online with Katrina Sedgwick, who presented her ideas on the concept of 'future heritage' from her position as newly appointed head of MapCo. The event was attended by over 200 people and the recording of the Heritage Address has been viewed online over 800 times and is still available to watch.
- The Council partnered with Sacred Spaces to facilitate a new episode of the documentary series that celebrates Melbourne architecture and the built environment. This new episode will air in late 2023.
- The Council sponsored the John George Knight Award, the highest accolade in the Victorian Architecture awards heritage category, and a national heritage architecture award with Houses magazine. In June 2023, the John George Knight Award was presented to NH Architecture with Trethowan Architecture for the 'Queen Victoria Markets Shed Restoration A–D, H–I'. In July 2022, the 'House in Heritage Category' Houses Award was presented to both Bence Mulcahy for Fusilier Cottage and Studio Bright for Autumn House.



Education and information initiatives

- In May 2023, the Council revived its annual Local Government Heritage Forum for local government planners and heritage officers. Organised by the Council's Local Government Specialist Committee, the in-person-only day-long forum was attended by 137 local government planning and heritage staff from more than 50 councils across the state. The forum's theme was 'Embracing change' and attendees heard presentations on contemporary issues that are affecting heritage planning, including heritage and interpretation, heritage and sustainability and heritage places and disaster risk management. Representatives from State Planning Services, Planning Panels Victoria and Heritage Victoria also provided updates on recent and upcoming state government heritage-related initiatives and policies, and the Heritage Council presented on two of the State of Heritage Review's Practical Improvement initiatives (for more information regarding the latter see the 'Research and projects' section following).
- In November 2022, the Council hosted a two-hour introductory in-person seminar by David Young, OAM, for heritage practitioners and builders in using the technical guide published in late 2021: <u>Mortars, materials, mixes</u> <u>and methods. A guide to repointing mortar joints in older buildings</u>. The seminar introduced the key elements of the technical guide and provided ample opportunities for questions from attendees.
- The Council continued the publication of its quarterly online heritage newsletter for members of the public and all lovers of heritage. Each edition offers a behind-the-scenes look at the heritage protection work completed by the Victorian Government and the heritage custodians committed to the everyday guardianship, conservation, and promotion of Victorian heritage. As of May 2023, with the publication of the 8th edition, 723 people had subscribed. Most readers are from Victoria, Australia, but there are also international subscribers from the United States of America, United Kingdom, Germany, France and Singapore.

Social media

- Council's Instagram account grew rapidly to over 3125 followers by 30 June 2023, an increase of more than 20 per cent. The account offers insights into the breadth and depth of the Victorian Heritage Register and discusses major projects and current sponsorships and partnerships, and uses new photography content commissioned during this financial year. New social media initiatives were employed to encourage the public to engage with heritage matters beyond social media, promoting and linking to recent work of the Heritage Council and upcoming awards and events, and to precipitate a new public understanding of the value of heritage and its protection.
- The Council's LinkedIn account continues to gain popularity with over 859 followers as of June 2023 an increase of 72% from last year. It acts as a principal announcement platform for Heritage Council work and events, reaching a range of planning and heritage stakeholders and organisations.
- The number of Heritage Council Twitter followers remains steady at 3551.

Research and projects

Several important projects were completed in FY2022-23.

- HCV Hub Council received funding from the Victorian Government's Regulatory Reform Incentive Fund to develop an online platform for the quick and secure lodgement of all forms, submissions and other material for its hearings and reviews. The new platform – called the 'HCV Hub' – was successfully launched in early September 2022 for all registration, permit, consent and IPO–related matters; forms pertaining to hearings on 'sites of archaeological value' were developed and launched in the Hub in early May 2023.
- Victorian Heritage Register Criteria and Threshold Guidelines In December 2022, the Council completed a 16-month project to review the <u>Victorian Heritage Register Criteria and Threshold Guidelines</u> and published a revised version of the guidelines on its website. This fundamental document, whose role is outlined in ss.11(k) and 12 of the Heritage Act, is periodically reviewed by the Council to ensure its continued clarity and effectiveness. The review commenced in September 2021 and included targeted workshops with heritage practitioners and others to gather feedback on priority areas for improvement. The revisions provide more clarity in how the guidelines are to be used and the criteria applied, including new introductory and explanatory content. The criteria themselves have not changed.
- State of Heritage Review 2020 Practical Improvement recommendations Two projects to deliver two of the practical improvement recommendations from the State of Heritage Review: Local Heritage 2020 were completed in 2023. The outputs of both projects were developed in consultation with the Council's Local Government Specialist Committee:
 - The 'Heritage 101 for councillors' project, a partnership with the Municipal Association of Victoria, delivered Practical Improvement 3 via the development of two resources:

1) <u>Local government's role in heritage protection – an introduction for councillors</u> guide: to help councillors understand the importance of local heritage protection and their obligations under the *Planning and Environment Act 1987.*



2) <u>Heritage in your municipality</u>: a PowerPoint template to assist local government planners and heritage officers with the briefing of new councillors and executive staff on heritage protection in their municipality.

These resources were launched in February 2023.

- The 'Heritage 101 pack for councils and the public' project delivered Practical Improvement 2 and was launched in May 2023. More details about this <u>'Heritage Information Pack'</u> can be found earlier, in the first bullet under the 'Promotion of cultural heritage' section.
- **Cultural heritage and climate change** In June 2023, the second stage of a partnership project with Heritage Victoria (which began in 2020) to understand the impacts of climate change on Victoria's state-significant cultural heritage places and objects was completed, and a set of <u>new resources</u> was launched on the Council website. These resources will help owners and managers of heritage places and objects to understand the impacts of climate change. They include six principles to guide policy and decision making, a vulnerability assessment guide, eight vulnerability assessment tables and 10 illustrated case studies to show the complex, site-specific nature of climate change exposure and vulnerability for different types of heritage place/object across Victoria.

In 2023 the Council also commenced two important new projects:

- a project to synthesise current information on the economic and social value of heritage, the results of which will be presented at the August 2023 Heritage Council meeting
- a project to implement the Heritage Amendment Bill 2023 changes, which are due to come into effect on 1 February 2024 (or earlier by proclamation).

The results of both projects will be reported in next year's annual report.

Governance and compliance

- The Council's Finance and Risk Management Committee continued its work ensuring that appropriate policies and guidance in relation to finance and good governance are in place to support the Council's functions.
- In 2022–23, the Council received an exemption from the Standing Directions under the *Financial Management Act 1994* and was approved to use the Department of Environment Land Water and Planning (DELWP) managed Portfolio Financial Management Compliance Framework (PFMCF), a framework also approved under the Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) from 1 January 2023. The purpose of the PFMCF is to ease the reporting burden for small, low-risk entities such as the Council.
- Pursuant to Clause 9 of Schedule 1 of the Heritage Act, the Heritage Council's Corporate Plan 2023–24 was developed in consultation with, and approved by, the Minister for Planning. The 2023–24 Corporate Plan is included in Appendix 2 of this Annual Report.

Advice and liaison

- One of the Council's key roles is to advise the Minister for Planning on the state of Victoria's historical cultural heritage resources and any steps necessary to protect and conserve them. In 2022–23 the Council advised the Minister in relation to:
 - prospective Heritage Act amendments
 - strategic project work in relation to climate change and cultural heritage, on local heritage management matters and on the launch of an online platform for the lodgement of hearing submissions.

OBJECTIVES AND PERFORMANCE FOR 2022–23

This section provides an overview of the Council's performance in delivering on its objectives and key initiatives and meeting the key performance indicators outlined in its 2022–23 Corporate Plan.

STRATEGY 1	WIDER UNDERSTANDING OF CULTURAL HERITAGE
Objectives	a. More Victorians understand the role that cultural heritage plays in the life of our communities, heritage processes, and the roles and responsibilities of organisations involved in heritage management.
	 The stories and narratives of our important cultural heritage places and objects are well told and widely shared.
	c. The Council is recognised as leading public discourse about the conservation, management and celebration of Victoria's cultural heritage.

STRATEGY 1	WIDER UNDERSTANDING OF CULTURAL HERITAGE						
Priority Activity	Goal	SOHR ¹	Performance Target				
Update the Heritage Council communications plan.	1(b)	PP2 ²	Communications Plan updated to reflect revised focus and adopted by HCV. Community 'roadshow' prepared and delivered.				
			Result				
			Partly achieved. A draft of the Communications Plan was considered by the Communications Committee in FY2022–23 and is expected to be adopted by the Council in late 2023.				
Work with the Minister, Heritage Victoria,	1(a)		Chair to meet with Minister bi-annually.				
National Trust, local government, community heritage organisations and other			At least one annual formal engagement session (meeting / workshop) with Heritage Victoria, National Trust, and local government.				
stakeholders to clarify and communicate roles, responsibilities and processes for			Result				
heritage.			Achieved. The Chair met with Minister Blandthorn in October 2022 and with Minister Kilkenny in February 2023.				
			The Council convened the Local Government Heritage Forum, which included engagement with representatives from across local government and Heritage Victoria. The Council engaged formally with the National Trust in relation to the Australian Heritage Festival and other partnerships.				
Engage with Development Victoria, the Property Council (Victoria), Urban	1(c)		Timing and delivery of engagement with Development Victoria, the Property Council (Victoria), UDIA, and other property organisations agreed.				
Development Institute of Australia (UDIA), and other property organisations to create			Result				
opportunities for improved communication, and better recognition of the contribution of cultural heritage to the Victorian economy and development projects.			Partly achieved. The Council continued to seek engagement with property organisations and asset managers in relation to project work and encouraged engagement partly through its grant to Heritage Victoria.				
Demonstrate the economic and social value of heritage to the community by reference	1(a)		Project commenced to assemble and synthesise information on the economic and social value of heritage to the community.				
to authoritative data and case studies.			Result				
			Achieved. Project was commenced and results are on track to be presented at the Heritage Council's August 2023 meeting.				

¹ SOHR = State of Heritage Review: Local Heritage 2020 report recommendations
 ² PP 2 = Promotion Program 2, recommendation from the State of Heritage Review: Local Heritage 2020 report

STRATEGY 2	EFFE	EFFECTIVE AND REPRESENTATIVE VICTORIAN HERITAGE REGISTER					
Objectives	b. 1 F c. 1	 b. The Victorian Heritage Register reflects the diverse range of State significant cultural heritage valued by communities throughout Victoria. 					
Priority Activity	Goal	SOHR ¹	Performance Target				
Update the 'Victorian Heritage Register Criteria and Threshold Guidelines' to reflect	2(a)		Work commenced on the review of the 'Victorian Heritage Register Criteria and Threshold Guidelines'.				
current legislation and contemporary best practice.			Result				
			Achieved. The new Guidelines were published ahead of schedule on 5 December 2022.				
Work with Heritage Victoria to improve the functionality of the Victorian Heritage	2(c)	Pl ² 6	Liaison with Heritage Victoria about the functionality of the Victorian Heritage Database through Hermes/VHD working group				
Database (VHD) so that users understand its purpose and have easy access to			Result				
current information about places on the Victorian Heritage Register			Achieved and ongoing. The Heritage Council continued to work with Heritage Victoria in relation to the VHD, and at end of FY2022–23 was working on redesigning the public-facing VHD to assist with clarity of roles and responsibilities.				

¹ SOHR = State of Heritage Review: Local Heritage 2020 report recommendations
 ² PI = Practical Improvement recommendation from the State of Heritage Review: Local Heritage 2020 report

STRATEGY 3	INNOVATIVE AND SUSTAINABLE HERITAGE PRACTICE					
Objectives		cultural heritage conservation contributes to sustainable practices and addresses hallenges arising from climate change.				
	 Victoria has a more highly skilled heritage workforce – professional and trade custodians and policy makers. 					
	c. The Council identifies, instigates, undertakes or supports projects which develop or demonstrate exemplary heritage practice and/or showcase Victoria's cultural herita					
Priority Activity	Goal	Performance Target				
Instigate a project to highlight and promote the intergenerational value of heritage in the	3(a)	Heritage Council working group established to consider UN SDGs and intergenerational value of heritage.				
context of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).		Result				
		Partly achieved. The highlighting and promotion of the value of heritage in the context of the SDGs is being achieved through strategic project work relating both to the Social and Economic Value of Heritage and Cultural Heritage and Climate Change projects.				
Implement a 'Cultural Heritage and Climate Change Project' focused on the effects of	3(c)	Public communication of the outcomes of the Cultural Heritage and Climate Change Project including case studies and other tools.				
climate change on impact Victoria's cultural heritage places and objects and the		Result				
development of principles, tools and resources to enable their protection and conservation.		Achieved. The outputs of the project, including a set of 8 Principles, 10 case studies, a Vulnerability Assessment Guide and associated examples were published on the Council's website on 8 June 2023 and communicated via all channels.				
Pro-actively support a national strategic approach to the growing shortage of	3(b)	Propose a review of the findings from heritage trades and training projects report by HCOANZ.				
specialist heritage trade skills, in the context of post-pandemic economic recovery,		Result				
through the Heritage Chairs and Officials of Australia and New Zealand (HCOANZ).		Partly achieved. The Council continues to engage with the mechanism of the HCOANZ group to progress shared objectives in relation to heritage trades and training projects. The Council also now sponsors the annual Heritage Trades Show in partnership with the National Trust.				

STRATEGY 4	SHARED RESPONSIBILITY FOR HERITAGE CONSERVATION					
Objectives	 a. The Council leads a shared approach to recognising, protecting and conserving Victoria' cultural heritage. b. The shared history of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Victorians is recognised and understood. c. Local government is supported in managing local heritage. d. Victorian state government agencies demonstrate high-quality conservation and management of public heritage assets. 					
Priority Activity	Goal	SOHR ¹	Performance Target			
Collaborate with the Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Council through a joint working	4(a)		Joint Working Group with the Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Council meeting regularly			
group to facilitate a common approach which appropriately recognises places of			Result			
shared histories and promotes a broader understanding of Australia's history.			Partly achieved. Due to membership changes only one meeting was held in the financial year, but the Heritage Council continues to collaborate through the Joint Working Group.			
Contribute to delivering Dhawura Ngilan	4(b)		Promote/support the Dhawura Ngilan implementation initiatives to HCOANZ			
Vision and Standards in collaboration with the Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Council			Result			
and Heritage Chairs and Officials of Australia and New Zealand (HCOANZ).			Achieved. In 2022–23 the Heritage Council signed a document confirming it supported the delivery of the Vision and Standards through the HCOANZ group.			
Facilitate best practice local heritage management, guidance and knowledge	4(c)	Pl² 5	Local Government Heritage Forum structure and content, including focus, structure, timing and costs, is approved by the Heritage Council			
sharing through forums, workshops, the updated Heritage Council Communications			Result			
Plan, and the work of the Local Government Specialist Committee.			Achieved. An all-day in-person Local Government Heritage Forum was held on 19 May. Close to 140 local government planners and heritage advisors attended on the day. Feedback from attendees has been highly positive.			
Support local government through creation of relevant information packs and delivery of information sessions.	4(a)	Pl ² 2	'Heritage 101' information pack created for councils and the public published and communicated.'Heritage 101' induction pack created for new councillors published and promoted.			



STRATEGY 4	SHARED RESPONSIBILITY FOR HERITAGE CONSERVATION					
		Pl ² 3				
			Result			
			Achieved. Practical Improvement 3 was launched in February 2023 and Practical Improvement 2 was delivered and launched at the Local Government Heritage Forum in May 2023, all materials resulting in excellent feedback and engagement.			

¹ SOHR = State of Heritage Review: Local Heritage 2020 report recommendations

² PI = Practical Improvement recommendation from the State of Heritage Review: Local Heritage 2020 report

STRATEGY 5	IMPR	OVED HERITAGE COUNCIL OPERATIONS
Objectives	s b. C ir	he Council will have adequate resources and will manage its workload to address trategic programs while managing statutory functions effectively. capacity for community participation and transparency of Council processes will be increased. he Council will continue to provide robust and effective advice to the Minister.
Priority Activity	Goal	Performance Target
Examine ways to improve efficiency and to increase available resources, including advocacy for additional staff, greater	5(a)	Annual review of staff allocation, member costs and strategic funding and implementation of recommendations. Scope options for improved management of member documents.
support for Members and specific project funding		Result
		Achieved. The Heritage Council's Finance and Risk Management Committee reviewed the Council's performance, resources, costs and governance and reputational risks as part of its review of its Risk Register, its approach to strategic project funding and the budgeted grant to Heritage Victoria. The Council has improved management of member documents through the use of OneDrive.
Develop a user-friendly, publicly accessible, online system for management of		Online system for management of documentation associated with hearings and other statutory processes operational and subject to review and fixes as necessary.
documentation associated with hearings and other statutory processes		Result
		Achieved. The development of the new HCV Hub to manage the circulation of all documentation associated with the Council's statutory processes was completed on 12 September 2022 and the final forms relating to submissions on sites of archaeological value were launched in May 2023.
Implement a systematic annual program for training and capacity-building for Council	5(c)	HCV identifies training and capacity needs and opportunities on an annual basis and implements a program to address these.
Members		Result
		Achieved. The Heritage Council's Training Committee continued to identify and develop training opportunities on a bi-annual basis, and sessions were prepared for the November and May planning meetings, with a program established to address the capacity needs of regulatory committees.

STATEMENT OF EXPECTATIONS

On 10 October 2022 the Minister for Planning, the Hon Lizzie Blandthorn MP, set out her expectations for the Council, to guide its business planning processes, as follows:

- That, following launch, the Council continues to update the user platform (HCV Hub) for stakeholders involved in council hearings, reviews and other regulatory matters under the *Heritage Act 2017*. Updates should ensure that the platform is user friendly, information is easily understood and accessible, and incorporates all the council's regulatory processes;
- improve the IT platforms used to provide publicly accessible information and manage regulatory processes, including through the Heritage Council website;
- develop guidance for applicants seeking fee waivers under the Heritage Regulations; and
- develop communication products to ensure information regarding the council's statutory responsibilities under the *Heritage Act 2017* are clearly articulated to its stakeholders and differentiate between regulatory activities under the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*.

The above four targets have been incorporated into the Council's 2023–24 Corporate Plan and will be a focus in the Council's strategic and regulatory work for the coming period. In particular, dot points 1, 2 and 4 above are



currently being delivered through the Council's existing program of regulatory and strategic work referred to elsewhere in this document.

IN SUMMARY

The 2022–23 period saw the delivery of substantial outcomes in the performance of the Council's strategic, regulatory and communications functions, and the continuation of critical partnerships across the cultural heritage sphere to increase public understanding of contemporary cultural heritage practice. Council-led events and promotional activities are improving the performance of the Council's functions and making meaningful contributions to the understanding of cultural heritage in Victoria. The Council has measured the growing engagement with the Victorian Heritage Register through the performance of its social media and website channels and constantly reviews their functionality. It was also a year of outstanding project achievements for the Council, including the launch of the 'HCV Hub' online hearings platform, the publication of the revised 'Victorian Heritage Register Criteria and Threshold Guidelines', the release of the 'Heritage 101' educational and promotional material and the launch of the cultural heritage and climate change resources. The Council continues to deliver on the strategic and regulatory objectives of its 2021–25 Strategic Plan and continues to look ahead to ensure the Council is equipped to anticipate and meet the pressures and challenges arising in the protection and management of Victoria's cultural heritage. The Council remains in a strong financial, operational and strategic position, and will continue to achieve its core objectives over the coming year.

State of Heritage

The following overview is provided pursuant to Schedule 1, s.12(b) of the Heritage Act 2017 (the Heritage Act).

HERITAGE ACT AMENDMENT 2023

The Heritage Amendment Bill 2023, the legislation to amend the *Heritage Act 2017*, was introduced into Parliament on 21 February 2023. It passed the Legislative Assembly and Legislative Council in March 2023. Changes to the Heritage Act will commence on 1 February 2024 and will include the introduction of a new process through which a person or body may make an application that a place or object be excluded from the Victorian Heritage Register. The Council has developed regulatory material to be ready to manage this new process.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Under the Heritage Act, the Council can approve or reject recommendations for loans and grants from the Heritage Fund. It can also seek special assistance for owners through land tax remission.

Land tax remission

Under s.243 of the Heritage Act, the Council may seek approval, on behalf of an owner, to remit or defer payment of land tax attributable to a place in the Victorian Heritage Register. The Council must first seek consent from the Minister for Planning, before approaching the Treasurer for approval. Although this is a form of financial assistance, it is not financed through the Heritage Fund.

Current land tax remission:

- Trades Hall and Literary Council, 2 Lygon Street, Carlton
- Bendigo Trades Hall and Literary Institute Inc., 40 View Street, Bendigo
- Ballarat Regional Trades and Labour Council, 24 Camp Street, Ballarat.

WORLD HERITAGE MANAGEMENT

The Royal Exhibition Building and Carlton Gardens (REBCG) was inscribed on the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) World Heritage List on 1 July 2004.

The World Heritage Management Plan for the REBCG was approved by the Minister for Planning in November 2013.

Under the Heritage Act, there is a requirement to review a World Heritage Management Plan every seven years, so the review of the REBCG World Heritage Management Plan commenced in 2020.

The revised World Heritage Management Plan was placed on public notice from 9 December 2022 until 3 March 2023 and a total of 12 submissions were received. The Steering Committee considered all submissions before adopting the Plan on 12 May 2023. The World Heritage Management Plan was submitted to the Australian Heritage Council for endorsement on 27 June 2023. This is a non-statutory step but will ensure that the plan is compliant with the requirements of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* before it is submitted to the Minister for Planning in accordance with Part 9 of the Heritage Act.

A World Heritage Environs Area (WHEA) Strategy Plan for the Royal Exhibition Building and Carlton Gardens (the Strategy Plan) was prepared by the Executive Director, Heritage Victoria, and placed on public exhibition from 16 September to 20 November 2022 following declaration of a revised WHEA by the Governor in Council on 28 July 2022 on the recommendation of the Minister for Planning. A published notice invited members of the public to make submissions to the Heritage Council on the draft Strategy Plan and draft planning scheme controls developed to implement the recommendations of the draft Strategy Plan. The Heritage Council received submissions, some of which included requests for a hearing.

On 15 May 2023, the Heritage Council conducted an eight-day hearing into the draft Strategy Plan and submissions before complying with its obligations under Part 9 Division 2 of the Heritage Act. Fourteen parties were participants in the hearing, including residential and commercial property owners, two municipal councils and community advocacy groups. Pursuant to section 175 of the Heritage Act, on 30 June 2023 the Heritage Council adopted the draft Strategy Plan with amendments and gave a copy to the Minister for approval.

Once approved, the Strategy Plan will be a standalone document and no longer considered part of the World Heritage Management Plan due to its separate statutory requirements for development and adoption.



VICTORIAN HERITAGE REGISTER – ASSESSMENTS AND DETERMINATIONS

The Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) provides the state's highest level of legal protection for its cultural heritage. The Council determines which places and objects are included in the VHR.

Number of Places and Objects in the Victorian Heritage Register

The following table contains a breakdown of the number of registered places and objects in the VHR as of 30 June 2023, according to categories of registration.

VHR categories of registration	Number as of 30 June 2023
a registered place, incl	2351
a registered archaeological place	203
a place included in the World Heritage List	1
those where there is a registered object integral ¹ to a registered place	101
a registered object ¹	48
a registered shipwreck	661
a protected zone	10
Total registered places, objects and shipwrecks	3070

1 - It is not possible to get an accurate total of individual objects as many registered objects or objects integral are collections or multiples.

Assessments and Determinations in 2022–23

When a place or object is nominated for inclusion in the VHR, Heritage Victoria undertakes a thorough assessment of its cultural heritage significance. The Executive Director (ED) then makes a recommendation to the Council, which is publicly advertised for a 60-day period during which submissions can be made.

The Council then considers the recommendation and any submissions before making a final determination. A hearing may be held if requested by interested parties. The Council can determine whether to include the place or object in the VHR, not include the place or object in the VHR and/or refer it to the relevant local council to provide appropriate protection. Some determinations relate to amending registrations. When a place is included or amended in the VHR the Council may also issue permit exemptions, which enable owners to undertake specific works that do not harm the cultural heritage significance of the place or object without the need for a permit.

The increase in additions of new places/objects in the VHR in FY2022–23 is primarily due to additional resources available to Heritage Victoria to address known gaps in the VHR, including the assessment of places/objects that might fit the thematic areas identified in the Australian Government's 2022 'State of the Environment' Report as being under-represented in Heritage Registers across the country.

Assessments & Determinations	2022–23	2021–22	2020–21	2019-20	2018–19
Assessments ¹					
Nominations accepted	39	41	40	57	56
Nominations rejected by the ED under s29	6	14	12	15	6
Number of VHR assessments completed incl.	45	40	42	42	31
ED recommendations for inclusion in VHR	19	12	6	11	8
ED recommendations to amend VHR	18	22	23	25	14
ED recommendations to remove from VHR	0	1	0	1	0
ED recommendations to not include in VHR	8	5	1	5	9
Interim Protection Orders (IPOs)					
IPOs requested of the ED	13	13	13	16	23
IPOs issued by the ED	2	1	2	1	2
IPOs requested of the Heritage Council	3	5	4	8	8
IPOs issued by the Heritage Council	1	3	0	0	0
Heritage Council Nomination Reviews					
Nomination Review requested	1	1	3	1	2
Nomination accepted	0	2	1	0	0
Nomination refused	0	0	1	1	2
Nomination referred to the ED for reconsideration	0	0	1	0	0
Nomination Review Decision pending	1	0	0	0	0

Assessments & Determinations	2022–23	2021–22	2020–21	2019-20	2018–19
Heritage Council Registration Hearings & Meetings				•	
Hearings	6	9	11	6	5
Meetings	2	1	1	4	1
Registration decisions called in by Minister	1	1	0	2	1
Hearing Decisions pending	2	1	1	0	2
Heritage Council Determinations ¹					
Additions to the VHR	22	10	8	7	7
Amendments to existing registrations	8	20	26	22	12
Decisions to Not Include in the VHR	11	3	5	5	2
Decisions to Not Amend existing registrations	0	1	0	1	0
Removals from VHR	0	1	0	0	0

1- The number of nominations does not match the number of assessments/recommendations because some were submitted in previous years. Similarly, the number of assessments/recommendations does not match the number of determinations because some relate to assessments/recommendations made in the previous financial year or determinations that will be made in the next financial year.

Heritage Certificates in 2022–23

Heritage certificates are used primarily by the conveyancing industry to reveal whether a property is affected by the Heritage Act in any way. They are issued by Landata. In 2022–23:

• 8195 (an average of 683 per month) certificates were issued.

VICTORIAN HERITAGE REGISTER - PLACES AND OBJECTS INCLUDED IN 2022-23

The following places and objects were included in the VHR during the year.



Included August 2022 ACTOR'S STUDIO HOUSE – H2420

Rear, 22 Shiel Street, North Melbourne, Melbourne City

Designed by architect Suzanne Dance in 1975 for actor Max Gillies, the Actor's Studio House is significant as the first building solely designed by a women architect to be awarded a Royal Australian Institute of Architects (RAIA; Victorian Chapter) medal. It is also architecturally significant as a notable example of a fine and early exploration of the corrugated iron revival movement in Victoria, and as an exceptional example of smallscale design, responding sensitively to an irregularly shaped inner-city backyard. It was acknowledged as outstanding for its architectural design by the RAIA (Victorian Chapter) in 1980.



Included August 2022 LAKE WENDOUREE – H2419

Wendouree Parade, Lake Wendouree, Ballarat City

Lake Wendouree is significant for its associations with the development of water-based sports and recreation in Victoria since the 1860s, and its close association with the 1956 Olympic Games. It was the only Olympic venue in regional Victoria and was selected for its substantial scale which enabled up to ten rowing or canoeing crews to race abreast. It is also significant as a landscape that has been carefully designed from the mid-nineteenth century to provide a distinctive and appealing sensory experience. It has inspired numerous artworks since at least the 1870s, particularly photography and painting.



Included August 2022 MAISIE'S PLOTS – H2424

Bogong High Plains Road, Falls Creek, Alpine Shire

Maisie's Plots are significant as one of the longest continual ecological monitoring experiments in Australia and Victoria. It is among the longest continual grassland monitoring projects in the world. Established by botanist Maisie Fawcett between 1945 and 1947, Maisie's Plots has yielded valuable data about the impact of cattle grazing on alpine vegetation and soils. Generations of students and researchers have been educated at Maisie's Plots and the place is highly valued, visited and written about by botanists and ecological scientists in Victoria and around the world.



Included October 2022 ALBANIAN MOSQUE, SHEPPARTON – H2425 8 Acacia Street, Shepparton, Greater Shepparton City

The Albanian Mosque, Shepparton is significant as the earliest surviving purpose-built mosque in Victoria. The mosque demonstrates the history of Muslim migration to Victoria during the post-war era and in successive waves into the twenty-first century. It is acknowledged as culturally significant within Islamic faith communities across Victoria and is regularly visited by Muslims seeking to explore the history of their religion and its development in Australia.



Included October 2022 FLINDERS TELEGRAPH CABLE COMPLEX AND PIER – H2413

The Esplanade, Flinders, Mornington Peninsula Shire

The Flinders Telegraph Cable Complex and Pier is significant for its association with the installation and first successful operation of submarine telegraphic communications in Victoria, and as the site where telegraphic communications between Victoria and Tasmania were installed, operated and expanded for seven decades, until the introduction of telephonic communications in the 1930s. It is also socially significant to the community that has grown since the 1970s around the scientific study and popular observation of the Victorian Common or Weedy Seadragon (*Phyllopteryx taeniolatus*).



Included October 2022 MOUNT MACEDON SURVEY CAIRN – H2421

Memorial Cross Loop Road, Mount Macedon, Macedon Ranges Shire

The Mount Macedon Survey Cairn is significant as an outstanding example of the type of survey cairns that were key to the Geodetic Survey of Victoria (1858–72), the earliest comprehensive land survey undertaken of Victoria. It is also a fine and highly intact example in a class of places which are endangered to the point of rarity in Victoria. Although more than 250 stone survey cairns were erected for the Geodetic Survey, many have deteriorated or been lost due to exposure to harsh environmental conditions.



Included October 2022 WOMBEETCH PUYUUN GRAVE MONUMENT & DAWSON FAMILY GRAVE – H2423

Cemetery Road, Camperdown, Corangamite Shire

The Wombeetch Puyuun Grave Monument & Dawson Family Grave is significant for its capacity to demonstrate the rapid and devastating effect of European colonisation on Aboriginal people in Victoria from the 1840s. There are few large-scale colonial monuments commemorating an Aboriginal person or group in Victoria from that time, and the monument's height, location and poignant inscriptions, including Wombeetch Puyuun's name in his own language, make a powerful public statement about the dispossession of Aboriginal people. The site is of significance to Eastern Maar people, including descendants of the Liwura Gundidj clan of the Djargurd Wurrung people.



257 St Kilda Street, Brighton, Bayside City



Kuring-gai is significant as a substantial, fine and remarkably intact example of a 1920s interwar mansion, designed by the highly regarded architect Cedric H Ballantyne. Its impressive scale, landscaped and bayside surrounds and largely intact 1920s interior draw from multiple stylistic sources. The outcome is a striking residence with a prevailing North American bungalow character, unusual for a two-storey building in Victoria, combined with a general Arts & Crafts Movement character as well as Georgian Revival and Spanish Mission/Mediterranean influences.



Included December 2022 BUCKLAND RIVER CROSSING – H2431

Buckland Valley Road, Buckland, Alpine Shire

The Buckland River Crossing is significant as the culmination point of one of the worst race riots in Victoria's colonial history: the Buckland Valley Riot. On 4 July 1857, a hostile group of European miners violently chased Chinese miners from their camp down the Buckland Valley. The Joss House Temple was destroyed along with an estimated 750 tents and 30 stores. A bottleneck formed as panic-stricken Chinese people attempted to cross the Buckland River to safety over a narrow log crossing. A number of Chinese miners died as a result of the riot and the site is a place of remembrance for the Chinese community.



Included December 2022 MOE COURTHOUSE – H2432

59-61 Lloyd Street, Moe, Latrobe City

The Moe Court House is significant for its importance in demonstrating a large range of the defining characteristics of Brutalist architecture in Victoria, including its monumental scale and fortress-like character, off-form concrete, jagged roofline, industrial-style glazing and bold sculptural expression of curving elements, angled forms and projecting planes. It was one of the largest court houses to be built in Victoria in the second half of the twentieth century, and likely the largest to have been erected in a regional Victorian centre since the completion of grand complexes at Geelong and Wangaratta in the late 1930s.



Included December 2022 TOMLINS SIMMIE & CO FLOUR MILL – H2433

87 Charleston Road, Bendigo, Greater Bendigo City

The Tomlins Simmie & Co Flour Mill is historically significant for its association with the flour milling industry in Victoria. It is distinguished by being the first electric powered flour mill in Victoria. The place is also significant as a fine and highly intact example of a twentieth-century flour mill, built in an advantageous setting on the Bendigo–Swan Hill/Echuca railway line. The flour mill building exhibits one of the most intact mill interiors in Victoria and, in its internal layout and collection of fixtures and objects, reflects the early milling process.

Included December 2022 YARRAWONGA SHIRE HALL – H2429

100 Belmore Street, Yarrawonga, Moira Shire

The Yarrawonga Shire Hall is significant as a reflection of continued growth and prosperity in towns across Victoria during the interwar years, despite the social and economic repercussions of the First World War and the Great Depression. As a fine and highly intact example of an interwar town hall with highly decorated interior spaces, including many of its 1930s interior features, it also demonstrates the changing values in civic planning during the interwar years, which focused on consolidating municipal and community services under the one roof.



Included February 2023 CAULFIELD RACECOURSE – H2415

Normanby Road and Station Street, Caulfield East, Glen Eira City

The Caulfield Racecourse is significant as one of Victoria's and Australia's premier racecourses, and as one of only three major metropolitan racecourses in Victoria in operation since the nineteenth century. The place was permanently established as a racecourse reserve in 1876, although races have been run in this location since the late 1850s. Since 1879 it has been home to the Caulfield Cup, an internationally renowned handicap race, and a key lead-up and qualifying event to the Melbourne Cup.



Included February 2023 PORTLAND LIFEBOAT – H2430

Portland Maritime Discovery Centre, Lee Breakwater Road, Portland, Glenelg Shire

The Portland Lifeboat is a pulling (propelled by oars), selfrighting, double-ended, timber lifeboat constructed in 1858 in Williamstown. It was retired from service in 1915 and installed in the Portland Botanic Gardens to serve as a memorial to the *Admella* shipwreck rescue. In 1998 it was relocated to the Portland Maritime Discovery Centre. It is significant for its associations with the Victorian Lifeboat service and is rare as one of only two early Victorian lifeboats remaining that demonstrate the first design and construction of lifeboats in Victoria. It is the oldest lifeboat vessel in Victoria in largely original condition and retaining its original fabric.



Included March 2023 HARRY JOHNS COLLECTION – H2435

Museums Victoria, 11 Nicholson Street, Carlton, and Australian Sports Museum, Melbourne Cricket Ground, Brunton Avenue, East Melbourne, Melbourne City

The Harry Johns Collection, consisting of 85 objects including a truck related to the Harry Johns Boxing Troupe, is held at Museums Victoria and the Australian Sports Museum. It is significant as being one of a small number of heritage collections remaining that provides insight into the history and organisation of tent boxing in Victoria and its place in working class, rural and Aboriginal life. Around half the Harry Johns boxers were Aboriginal men; for Aboriginal fighters, boxing opened opportunities for employment, success and public acclaim at a time of profound discrimination.



Included March 2023 JOHN CURTIN HOTEL – H2426

27–31 Lygon Street, Carlton, Melbourne City

The John Curtin Hotel is significant for its strong association with the trade union and labour movement in Victoria. Built in 1915 to replace an earlier hotel constructed in 1859–60, it has been closely associated with Victoria's trade unions since its establishment, due in large part to its proximity to the Victorian Trades Hall. Unionists, left-wing activists and members of the Labor Party have used the establishment for over 100 years to conduct informal gatherings, meetings, hold celebrations and presentations, and accommodate interstate officials on visits to Victoria. It is of social significance to these community groups.



Included April 2023 CEMENT CREEK PLANTATION - H2439

Cement Creek Road, East Warburton, Yarra Ranges Shire

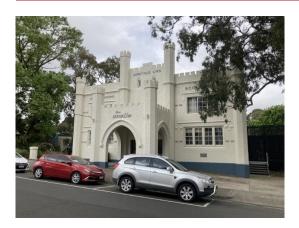
The Cement Creek Plantation is significant for its association with the provision of Melbourne's clean water supply. It demonstrates the MMBW's scientific endeavours from the 1920s and 1930s to ensure water purity in catchment areas that had been degraded through decades of farming, fires and logging. Part of a revegetation program, this experimental plantation tested conifer species' potential to improve land and water quality, and their commercial timber potential. It is also significant for its cathedrallike atmosphere created by the over 1476 trees, up to 55 metres high, systematically planted in regular formations.



Included April 2023 CSL (COMMONWEALTH SERUM LABORATORIES) COLLECTION – H2422

10 Cameron Street, Coburg, Merri-bek City, and 11 Nicholson Street, Carlton, Melbourne City, and 2 Booker Street, Spotswood, Hobsons Bay City

The CSL collection is significant for its ability to illustrate the immense manufacturing capabilities of CSL, as well as its adaptation of existing biotechnology for specifically Australian purposes. The company's unprecedented manufacturing capacity is evident in the size and breadth of the collection, which features an array of medicines dating to the early 1920s. The collection also highlights key innovations in Victoria's medical history, such as the development of anti-venoms. (Photo © Museums Victoria)



Included April 2023 **1ST DANDENONG SCOUT GROUP ARMYTAGE OWN SCOUT** HALL – H2438

61A Princes Highway, Dandenong, Greater Dandenong City

The 1st Dandenong Scout Group Armytage Own Scout Hall is significant as a fine and notable example of a Scout Hall and for its capacity to demonstrate the history and values of the Scouting movement in the early twentieth century. Its architecturally ambitious picturesque Medieval-style facade sets it apart from other Scout Halls in the state. It is also significant for its association with Ada Elizabeth Armytage, a prominent and influential philanthropist and well-known supporter of the Scouting movement, who commissioned the building.



Included April 2023

WILLIAM COOPER RESIDENCE, SOUTHAMPTON STREET -H2436

73 Southampton Street, Footscray, Maribyrnong City

The William Cooper Residence, Southampton Street, is significant for its association with early twentieth-century Aboriginal activism. Yorta Yorta man William Cooper established the Australian Aborigines' League (AAL) in Melbourne in the early 1930s and lived at the house between January 1938 and November 1940. These years saw the culmination of his political work and the organisation of important political events, including the 1938 deputation to the German Consulate and 'Day of Mourning'. Few places survive which demonstrate this history. The house is socially significant to Victoria's Aboriginal communities.



Included June 2023 **DONALD SHIRE OFFICES – H2437**

31 McCulloch Street, Donald, Buloke Shire

The Donald Shire Offices are significant as a fine example of a Federation Freestyle building. It has stylised Dutch gables, arched apexes crowned by orbs and corner towers surmounted by cupolas and arcaded loggias. Art Nouveau features include stained glass entrance doors featuring ornamental wreaths into which is set a 'DS' for Donald Shire. The Council Chamber is particularly fine and includes a barrel-vaulted ceiling of pressed plaster and elaborate plastered cornices and a plastered curvilinear Art Nouveau pediment above a bas-relief of the Shire of Donald crest.



Included June 2023 **MORDIALLOC RAILWAY WATER TOWER – H2441** 70 Albert Street, Mordialloc, Kingston City

Mordialloc Railway Water Tower, built by James Younger in a simplified Edwardian Style in c.1910, is significant for its association with the rapid expansion of Victoria's railway network. It comprises an inverted cone constructed from metal-reinforced concrete sitting on a circular brick base. It is a rare example of its type in existence in Victoria and is likely to be one of the last water towers of any type within the entire suburban rail network. Its striking form was not widely replicated in Victoria. The use of metal-reinforced concrete in the cone's construction also represents a relatively early and novel use of this material.

Victorian Heritage Register – Amendments in 2022–23

Most amendments to the VHR involved the addition of land to the registration or a similar refinement. Early registrations by the former Historic Buildings Council did not include and/or define the land in relation to the registration.

Amendment Date	VHR No	Name of Place / Object Amended	VHR No	Name of Place / Object Amended
August 2022	H1488 H0918	Traralgon Courthouse, Traralgon Main Entrance Gates (Gate 6), Pillars and Fence, The University of Melbourne, Parkville	H1293	'Cranlana', Toorak
February 2023	H0176	York House, Fitzroy North		
April 2023	H0001 H0895	Melbourne Town Hall and Administration Building, Melbourne Ovoid Sewer Aqueduct, Charlemont	H0501	Melbourne Athenaeum, Melbourne
June 2023	H1884	Werribee Satellite Aerodrome, Werribee		

VICTORIAN HERITAGE REGISTER – PERMITS

Changes to places or objects in the Victorian Heritage Register require a permit or a permit exemption from the Executive Director. When a request for a review of a permit determination by the Executive Director is made, the Council conducts the review and determines the outcome.

The value of works covered by permits in 2022–23 has again increased substantially. This reflects the trend of the size and complexity of the permits continuing to grow year on year.

Permits	2022–23	2021–22	2020–21	2019–20	2018–19			
Permits Issued / Refused / Amended / Exemptions								
Total permit applications	1148	1109	900	1104	1146			
Permits refused or part refused	6	4	3	4	6			
Permit amendments approved	64	77	42	36	14			
Permit amendments refused	2	2	1	3	2			
Total permits issued by the ED, incl	169	200	160	164	217			
Maritime permits under Victorian Act	7	7	11	2	6			
Maritime permit extensions	0	0	0	0	0			
Maritime permits under Commonwealth Act	3	3	6	5	9			
Total permit exemptions issued by the ED	730	791	784	897	907			

Cost of Works covered by permits issued and permit exemptions

Cost of works covered by permits issued	\$1,972,415,657	\$903,000,000	\$262,000,000	\$459,000,000	\$526,101,602
Cost of works covered by permit exemptions	\$380,235,156	\$345,000,000	\$437,000,000	\$225,000,000	\$298,133,684
Total value of works covered by heritage permits and exemptions	\$2,352,650,813	\$1,248,000,000	\$699,000,000	\$684,000,000	\$824,235,286
Heritage Council Permit Reviews	2022–23	2021–22	2020–21	2019–20	2018–19
Reviews lodged	2	3	5	2	7
Reviews determined	1	0	3	3	4
Reviews called in by Minister for Planning	0	1	0	0	0
Reviews withdrawn	0	1	2	0	0
Reviews pending (as of 30 June 2022)	2	1	0	2	3

VICTORIAN HERITAGE INVENTORY - CONSENTS AND SITE REMOVALS

The Victorian Heritage Inventory is a listing of all known historical archaeological sites as determined by the Executive Director. There are more than 7,000 sites currently listed on the Heritage Inventory. Works to uncover, excavate or damage an archaeological site require a Consent from the Executive Director. Consent may also be issued to authorise other works, such as geotechnical testing. The above figures for 'permits issued' includes some permits that relate to works conducted on registered places with historical archaeological values.

Section 119 of the Heritage Act introduced a formal process for removing sites from the Heritage Inventory. The Council may remove an archaeological site from the Heritage Inventory if the Executive Director determines that the site has low archaeological value.

The following table highlights the Archaeological Consents issued over the past five years and includes the statistics for sites removed from the Heritage Inventory. In most cases sites are removed from the Heritage Inventory once a detailed program of archaeological investigation and recording has taken place followed by site development. Sites may also be removed if they are reassessed and determined to be of low archaeological value.

The number of Consents issued in 2022–23 reflects a significant increase from the figures of the previous year (an increase of 24 approvals). These figures reflect high levels of development and building activity in the Melbourne CBD area and increasing amounts in regional centres such as Ballarat, Geelong and Bendigo. The figures also reflect high levels of archaeology work associated with Major Projects and other infrastructure programs.

Archaeological Consents (s.129)	2022–23	2021–22	2020–21	2019–20	2018–19
Consents to Damage (over half of site)	26	22	15	26	27
Consents to Damage (under half of site)	37	40	16	28	46
Consents to Excavate	12	20	53	29	36
Consents to Uncover	11	9	40	16	11
Consents for Other works	54	25	21	17	18
TOTAL	140	116	145	116	138
Site removals (s.119)	2022–23	2021–22	2020–21	2019–20	2018–19
Sites removed from the Heritage Inventory (s.119)	14	13	13	9	37

LIVING HERITAGE GRANTS PROGRAM

The Living Heritage Program was an initiative of the Victorian Government to support the repair and conservation of 'at risk' heritage places and objects included in the Victorian Heritage Register under the Heritage Act. Heritage Victoria manages the program.

In 2022–23 the final round of the Community Heritage Grants stream of the Living Heritage Program supported 18 new conservation projects to publicly accessible listed heritage places and objects totaling \$2,212,000. The Independent Panel appointed to recommend successful projects to the Minister included a Heritage Council member.

Place	VHR No	Managed by Grant		Description of Works
All Saints Church, Hall and former Vicarage, East St Kilda	H1364	Melbourne Anglican Trust Corporation	\$200,000	Conservation works including repairs to the sandstone facade of the All Saints Church, in poor condition and at risk.
Bendigo Cemetery, Bendigo	H0798	Remembrance Parks	\$133,000	Conservation works to the Mortuary Chapel at Bendigo Cemetery, including repairs to the interior render, ceiling, masonry, doors and roof slates.
Captain John Mills House, Port Fairy	H0253	The National Trust of Australia (Victoria)	\$103,000	Conservation works to Captain John Mills House, including roof repairs.
Castlemaine Railway Precinct, Castlemaine	H1664	Mount Alexander Shire Council	\$39,000	A documentation project to prepare a conservation management plan to identify significance, develop consistent heritage policy across the site and prioritise works.
Chicory Kiln, Bacchus Marsh	H2326	Bacchus Marsh Lions Club Inc., Maddingley	\$33,000	Treatment proposal for the historic signage and conservation works to the roof repairs, repairs to rainwater goods, windows, doors and brickwork.
Churchill Island, Newhaven	H1614	Phillip Island Nature Parks	\$198,000	Conservation works to several historic buildings on the site to repair and restore significant original fabric, including roof, timber and brickwork repairs.
Court House, Traralgon	H1488	Friends of Traralgon Courthouse/Traralgon Council	\$98,000	Conservation works to the Court House, including replacement of defective cast-iron downpipes and repairs to internal plasterwork.
Court House, former Police Quarters and Lock-up, Daylesford	H1492	Working Heritage	\$124,000	Conservation works to the Court House, including urgent repairs to and replacement of windows, replacement of gutters and repairs to downpipes.
Fisherman's Shed, Queenscliff	H2074	Queenscliffe Maritime Museum	\$38,000	A documentation and conservation work project involving a conservation management plan and to undertake conservation works.



Place	VHR No	Managed by	Grant	Description of Works
Former Benalla Migrant Camp, Benalla	H2358	Benalla Rural City Council	\$195,000	Conservation and repair works to huts 61, 62 and 65 of the Former Benalla Migrant Camp.
Murtoa Water Tower, Murtoa	H1193	Murtoa and District Historical Society and Community Museum Inc.	\$183,000	Conservation works to the Former Railway Water Tower in Murtoa, including a new tank roof, restoration of windows and doors, re-capping of the tower top and brickwork and floor repairs.
Hiawatha A Frame Bridge, Hiawatha	H2069	str		A documentation project funding detailed structural engineering inspection, drawings and full scope of works for the Hiawatha A Frame Bridge.
Hinnomunjie Bridge, Omeo Valley	H0917	East Gippsland Shire Council	\$200,000	Stabilise and make the bridge safe by repairing fire damage and repairing and reinforcing bridge structure.
Manyung Recreation Camp, Mount Eliza	H1895	Young Men's Christian Association of Victoria	\$188,000	Conservation works to the bunkhouses at Camp Manyung to repair rising damp and salt attack.
Mechanics Institute and Library (also known as Kyneton Mechanics Institute and Library), Kyneton	H1904	Macedon Ranges Shire Council	\$200,000	Conservation works to the Mechanics Institute and Library in Kyneton to address rising damp and lack of under-floor ventilation.
St Marks Anglican Church, Fitzroy	H0553	Melbourne Anglican Trust Corporation	\$155,000	Conservation works to address urgent risk to fabric, including roof works, repairs to rainwater goods and brickwork repairs.
Tatura World War II Internment and POW Camps Collection, Tatura	H2373	Tatura and District Historical Society, Tatura	\$40,000	Materials conservation of items at risk from mould and pest activity in the collection to prevent deterioration.
Traill Fountain, Eastern Park & Geelong Botanic Gardens, Geelong	H2095	The Friends of the Geelong Botanic Gardens	\$35,000	Conservation works to the Traill Fountain in the Geelong Botanic Gardens, to clean, repaint and seal the fountain.

The Annual Report of the Heritage Council is prepared in accordance with all relevant Victorian legislations and pronouncements.

	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000	2021 \$'000	2020 \$'000	2019 \$'000
Revenue	2,151	2,190	1,868	1,874	2,270
Expenses	2,160	1,905	1,561	1,710	1,456
Net Result	(9)	286	307	164	814
Total Assets	6,434	6,274	4,341	3,954	3,243
Total Liabilities	2,770	2,601	954	874	383

FIVE-YEAR SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL OPERATIONS

CURRENT YEAR FINANCIAL REVIEW

There has been no significant change to the Heritage Council's financial position.

The Council's revenue was slightly lower than the previous financial year, though remaining relatively consistent with the longer-term trend.

The Council's operating expenditure increased slightly, largely attributable to a budgeted increase in strategic grant funding, some urgent grant disbursements for operational IT purposes and some lengthy regulatory matters which resulted in a corresponding increase in member fees.

The Council's small operating deficit at the end of the financial year was \$9,000 and the Council maintained investments with the government's Centralised Bank, where funds are at call.

CAPITAL PROJECTS

The Council does not manage any capital projects.

DISCLOSURE OF GRANTS AND TRANSFER PAYMENTS

Legacy grants from past grant programs totaling \$104,111 (2022: \$182,905), a decrease from the previous year due to the acquittal of past 'legacy' grant funding, are included as outstanding commitments in the Council's budget and managed through the Heritage Fund. This has included 'legacy' grant items such as the Victorian Property Fund, the Victorian Heritage Grants and other Heritage Victoria projects.

SUBSEQUENT EVENTS WHICH WILL AFFECT OPERATIONS IN FUTURE YEARS

Most Heritage Fund revenue is subject to prevailing economic conditions, in particular in the property and construction industry. With the potential flow-on effects of the Coronavirus pandemic, changed economic conditions and changes in industry practice, it is anticipated that Heritage Fund revenue could be affected. Considering this risk, the Council has adopted an approach of periodic budget reviews.

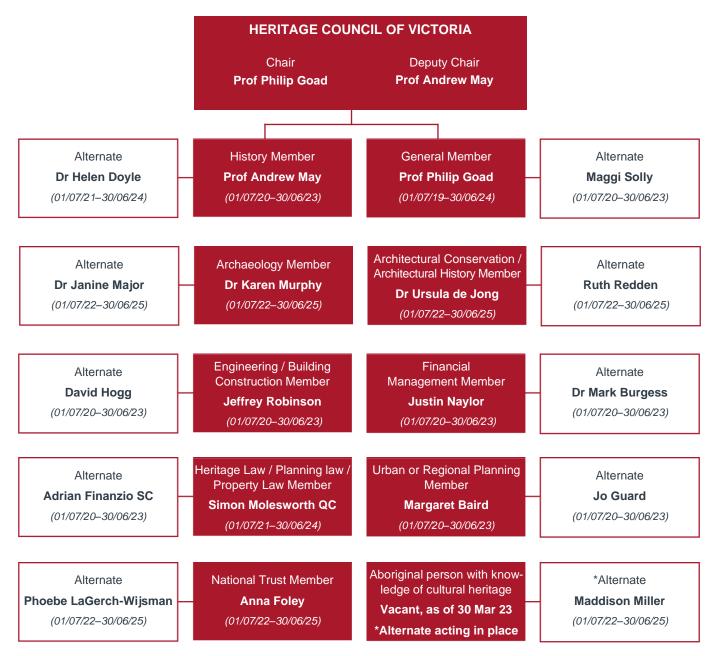
Financial estimates in the Heritage Council Corporate Plan 2023-24 (appended) have been prepared accordingly.

Governance and organisational structure

HERITAGE COUNCIL MEMBERS

The Council consists of 10 members and 10 alternate members who represent a broad cross-section of heritage specialists and the community. Members are appointed by the Governor-in-Council on the recommendation of the Minister for Planning.

The following chart outlines all of the Council's members and membership categories (including periods of appointment) for 2022–23.

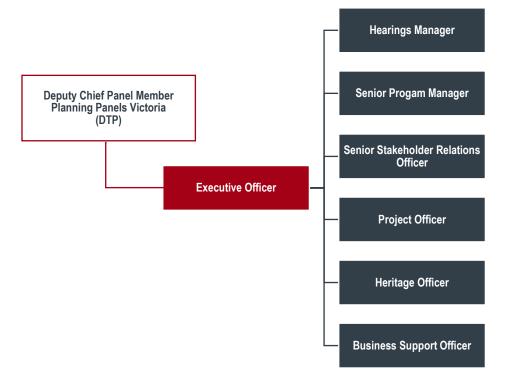


ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

The Council does not employ any staff but is supported by a small Secretariat consisting of Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) employees. It is led by an Executive Officer who is the Council's Accountable Officer



and is responsible for day-to-day matters. The Executive Officer reports to the Deputy Chief Panel Member, Planning Panels Victoria, DTP.



AUDIT COMMITTEE – STANDING DIRECTIONS EXEMPTIONS

In 2022–23, the Council received an exemption from the Standing Directions under the *Financial Management Act 1994* and was approved to use the Department of Environment Land Water and Planning (DELWP) managed Portfolio Financial Management Compliance Framework (PFMCF), a framework also approved under the Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) from 1 January 2023.

The Finance and Risk Management Committee manages all financial matters as necessary.

HERITAGE COUNCIL COMMITTEES

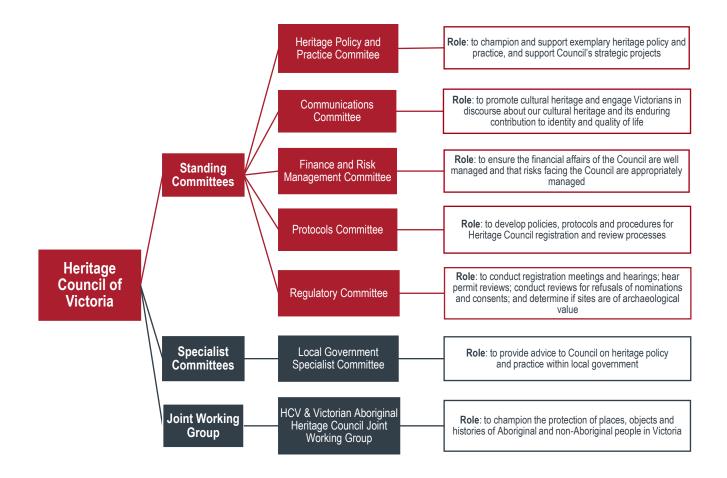
Under s.13 of the Heritage Act, the Council may establish committees to assist and advise it in fulfilling its statutory functions. There are two types of committees currently in operation:

Standing Committees – consisting of Council members only. Five standing committees have been constituted to ensure the effective operation of the Council, especially in relation to its legislative functions. Most standing Committees meet at least six times per year and, on the Council's behalf, undertake some of its most critical and demanding work. This work includes: the conduct of hearings and reviews and the proper statutory administration of the Heritage Act; the management of the Council's finances; the oversight of strategic, educational and promotional activities; and the development of heritage policy and practice.

Specialist Committees – consisting of Council members and external subject-matter experts to advise the Council on cultural heritage matters pertaining to specific subject areas. Specialist Committees meet four times per year and provide advice to the Council as needed. In 2022–23 there was one Specialist Committee constituted under the Heritage Act.

Joint Working Group – a partnership with the Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Council, consisting of Heritage Council of Victoria and Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Council members. The Joint Working Group meets four times a year.

The following chart outlines the committees that were operating in 2022–23 and their different roles:



HERITAGE COUNCIL COMMITTEES AND MEMBERSHIP

Following is a breakdown of membership of the Heritage Council committees in 2022–23.

Standing Committees & Joint Working Group

Heritage Policy and Pra	ctice Committee	Communications Committee			
Chair	Heritage Council Members	Chair	Heritage Council Members		
Margaret Baird	David Hogg* Helen Doyle* Karen Murphy Maggi Solly* Mark Burgess*	Maggi Solly*	Jeffrey Robinson Joanne Guard* Karen Murphy Maddi Miller* Mark Burgess* Phoebe LaGerch-Wijsman*		
Finance and Risk Mana	gement Committee	Protocols Committee			
Chair	Heritage Council Members	Chair	Heritage Council Members		
Justin Naylor	Anna Foley Janine Major* Jeffrey Robinson Jo Guard* Maggi Solly* Ursula de Jong	Simon Molesworth	Andrew May Anna Foley Margaret Baird Mark Burgess* Rueben Berg		
Regulatory Committee		HCV / VAHC Joint Working Group			
Chair & Deputy	Heritage Council Members	HCV co-Chair	HCV Members		
Andrew May (Chair)	All members	Andrew May	Rueben Berg, Maddi Miller		
Margaret Baird (Deputy)		VAHC co-Chair	VAHC Member		
		(vacant)	Doris Paton		

*Alternate attending on behalf of full member

Specialist Committees

Local Government Committee (LGSC)						
Heritage Council chair Heritage Council members		Non–Heritage Council members				
Ruth Redden*	Joanne Guard*, Justin Naylor, Maggi Solly*	David Helms, Colleen Lazenby, Dannielle Orr, Richa Swarup, Samantha Westbrooke, Kelly Wynne				

*Alternate attending on behalf of full member

Heritage Council representation

- Victorian Heritage Restoration Fund Mark Burgess
- History Council Andrew May

MEETINGS REPORT 2022–23

In addition to the below, Members and Alternates attended a range of other meetings and workshops.

	Heritage Council	Observing as Alternate	Communications	Finance & Risk Management	Heritage Policy & Practice	Protocols	HCV / VAHC Joint Working Group	Registration Hearings *	IPOs*	Nomination Reviews*	Permit Reviews*	Local Government Committee	Project Steering Committee**
Members													
Philip Goad	7	_						1	1	1			
Andrew May	7	-				6	2	2	1	2			2
Karen Murphy	6	-	6		4			1	1	1			5
Ursula de Jong	7	-		6						1	1		
Jeffrey Robinson	7	_	7	8					1				8
Simon Molesworth	6	-				6		1		1			
Justin Naylor	8	-		8							1	3	
Margaret Baird	6	-			6	6		1		1	1		6
Anna Foley	7	-		9		4			1				3
Rueben Berg	3	-					1	2		2			2
Alternates													
Maggi Solly	3	3	8	9	6			1	1	1		5	6
Helen Doyle	2	5			6			2	1	2			4
Janine Major	3	3		6							1		
Ruth Redden	2	3							1	1		5	2
David Hogg	2	4			4			1		2	1		7
Adrian Finanzio								3	2	5	1		
Mark Burgess	2	4	8		4	5				1			6
Joanne Guard	1	1	8	6					3			4	4
Phoebe LaGerch- Wijsman	1	2	4										
Maddi Miller	2	1	3										1

*Some hearings/reviews took place over multiple days.

**Some Members sat on multiple project steering committees.

Workforce data

The Council does not employ any staff but is assisted in its functions by a Secretariat consisting of Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) employees and, where required under the *Heritage Act 2017*, by the Executive Director, Heritage Victoria.

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH & SAFETY

The Council is supported by the Heritage Council Secretariat staff, who are employed within DTP and are embraced by the department's OH&S management processes.

There were no incidents reported during the year.

MERIT AND EQUITY

The Council notes the merit and equity principles under the *Public Administration Act 2004* and complies with these principles. It also follows its own protocols designed to ensure its actions are fair, impartial and responsive.

WORKFORCE INCLUSION POLICY

The Council supports DTP's Workforce Inclusion Policy.

EXECUTIVE OFFICER DISCLOSURE

The Council does not have any Executive Officers, to whom the Victorian Government's Policy on Executive Remuneration in Public Entities applies, within the meaning of Part 3 of the *Public Administration Act 2004*. The *Heritage Act 2017* does provide that an Executive Officer of the Council may be employed under Part 3 of the *Public Administration Act 2004*; however, the Executive Officer of the Council is employed by DTP and is an Accountable Officer as defined in s.42 of the *Financial Management Act 1994* and as disclosed in the Council's Financial Statements.

Other disclosures

LOCAL JOBS FIRST

The *Local Jobs First Act 2003* introduced in August 2018 brings together the Victorian Industry Participation Policy (VIPP) and Major Project Skills Guarantee (MPSG) policy, which were previously administered separately. The Council has not engaged or had any ongoing contracts (tenders) to which the Local Jobs First policy applies.

GOVERNMENT ADVERTISING EXPENDITURE

In the 2022–23 reporting period the Council did not have any expenditure on government campaigns.

CONSULTANCY EXPENDITURE

Details of consultancies (valued at \$10,000 or greater)

In 2022–23, there were two consultancies engaged during the year where the total fee payable was \$10,000 or greater (excl. GST). The total expenditure incurred during 2022–23 in relation to these consultancies was \$30,284 (excl. GST).

Details of individual consultancies are outlined on the Heritage Council's website at https://heritagecouncil.vic.gov.au/about-heritage-council/annual-reports/

Details of consultancies (valued at less than \$10,000)

In 2022–23, there was one consultant engaged during the year where the total fee payable was less than \$10,000. The total expenditure incurred during 2022–23 in relation to this consultancy was \$9,800 (excl. GST)

INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY EXPENDITURE

For the 2022–23 reporting period, the Council had a total ICT expenditure of \$36,508 (ex GST) with the details shown below.

All operational ICT expenditure	ICT expenditure relating to projects to create or enhance ICT capabilities						
Business As Usual (BAU) ICT expenditure	Non-Business As Usual (non-BAU) ICT expenditure	Operational expenditure (OPEX)	Capital expenditure (CAPEX)				
\$36,508	\$0	\$0	\$0				

• ICT expenditure refers to the Council's costs in providing business-enabling ICT services within the current reporting period. It comprises Business As Usual (BAU) ICT expenditure and Non-Business As Usual (Non-BAU) ICT expenditure.

• Non-BAU ICT expenditure relates to extending or enhancing the Council's current ICT capabilities.

• **BAU ICT** expenditure is all remaining ICT expenditure, which primarily relates to ongoing activities to operate and maintain the current ICT capability.

DISCLOSURE OF MAJOR CONTRACTS

No major contracts (above \$10 million) were entered into in the 2022–23 reporting period. A 'major contract' is a contract entered into during the reporting period valued at \$10 million or more.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

The *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (the Act) allows the public a right of access to documents held by the Council. The purpose of the Act is to extend as far as possible the right of the community to access information held by government departments, local councils, Ministers and other bodies subject to the Act.

An applicant has a right to apply for access to documents held by the Council. This comprises documents both created by the Council or supplied to the Council by an external organisation or individual, and may also include maps, films, microfiche, photographs, computer printouts, computer discs, tape recordings and videotapes. Information about the type of material produced by the Council is available on the Council's website.

The Act allows the Council to refuse access, either fully or partially, to certain documents or information. Examples of documents that may not be accessed include: cabinet documents; some internal working documents; law

OFFICIAL

enforcement documents; documents covered by legal professional privilege, such as legal advice; personal information about other people; and information provided to the Council in-confidence.

Under the Act, the Freedom of Information (FOI) processing time for requests received is 30 days. However, when external consultation is required under ss.29, 29A, 31, 31A, 33, 34 or 35, the processing time is 45 days. Processing time may also be extended by periods of 30 days, in consultation with the applicant. With the applicant's agreement this may occur any number of times. However, obtaining an applicant's agreement for an extension cannot occur after the expiry of the timeframe for deciding a request.

If an applicant is not satisfied by a decision made by the Council, under s.49A of the Act, they have the right to seek a review by the Office of the Victorian Information Commissioner (OVIC) within 28 days of receiving a decision letter.

Making a request

FOI requests can be lodged online at <u>ovic.vic.gov.au</u>. An application fee of \$31.80 applies. Access charges may also be payable if the document pool is large, and the search for material time consuming.

Access to documents can also be obtained through a written request to the Council, as detailed in s.17 of the *Freedom of Information Act 1982.*

When making a FOI request, applicants should ensure requests are in writing, and clearly identify what types of material/documents are being sought.

Requests for documents in the possession of the Council should be addressed to:

Damien Welch Executive Officer – Heritage Council Secretariat GPO Box 527 Melbourne, 3001 Telephone: (03) 9194 0867 email: heritage.council@delwp.vic.gov.au

FOI Statistics

There were no applications from the public received by the Heritage Council of Victoria during the 2022–23 reporting period.

Further information

Further information regarding the operation and scope of FoI can be obtained from the Act, regulations made under the Act, and <u>ovic.vic.gov.au</u>.

COMPLIANCE WITH BUILDING ACT 1993

The Council does not own or control any government buildings and consequently is exempt from notifying its compliance with the building and maintenance provisions of the *Building Act 1993*.

COMPETITIVE NEUTRALITY POLICY

Competitive neutrality requires government businesses to ensure where services compete, or potentially compete, with the private sector, any advantage arising solely from their government ownership be removed if it is not in the public interest. Government businesses are required to cost and price these services as if they were privately owned. Competitive neutrality policy supports fair competition between public and private businesses and provides government businesses with a tool to enhance decisions on resource allocation. This policy does not override other policy objectives of government and focuses on efficiency in the provision of service.

The Council continues to comply with the requirements of the Competitive Neutrality Policy.

PUBLIC INTEREST DISCLOSURES ACT 2012

The *Public Interest Disclosures Act 2012* (PID Act) enables people to make disclosures about improper conduct by public officers and public bodies. The Act provides protection to people who make disclosures in accordance with the Act and establishes a system for the matters disclosed to be investigated and rectifying action to be taken.

The Council is a public body for the purposes of the PID Act.

What is a public interest disclosure?

A public interest disclosure is a complaint of corrupt or improper conduct or detrimental action by a public officer or a public body.

Improper or corrupt conduct involves substantial mismanagement of public resources, risk to public health or safety or the environment, or corruption.

'Detrimental action' is action taken against a person in reprisal for making a public interest disclosure.

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How do I make a public interest disclosure?

You can make a public interest disclosure about the Council or its board members, officers or employees by contacting IBAC on the contact details provided below.

The Council is **not** able to receive public interest disclosures.

The Council has established procedures for the protection of persons from detrimental action in reprisal for making a public interest disclosure about the Council, its board members, officers or employees. You can access the Council's procedures on its website at: https://heritagecouncil.vic.gov.au/about-heritage-council/public-interest-disclosures/.

Independent Broad-Based Anti-Corruption Commission (IBAC) Victoria

Address:Level 1, North Tower, 459 Collins Street, Melbourne Victoria 3000.Mail:IBAC, GPO Box 24234, Melbourne Victoria 3001Internet:www.ibac.vic.gov.auPhone:1300 735 135Email:See the website above for the secure email disclosure process and anonymous disclosures.

COMPLIANCE WITH THE HERITAGE ACT

Under the Heritage Act 2017 the Council is required to report annually to the Minister on:

- the carrying out of its functions under the Heritage Act; and
- the state of Victoria's cultural heritage; and
- the operation of the Heritage Act.

The Annual Report provides the information required under the Heritage Act.

The Council is also required to provide the Minister annually with a Corporate Plan of its proposed works and operations for the next year. A copy of the Council's 2023–24 Corporate Plan was provided to the Minister.

DISCLOSURE OF EMERGENCY PROCUREMENT

In 2022–23, there was no spending on emergency procurement by the Council.

ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTING

The Heritage Council has a Service Level Agreement in place with the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (now the Department of Transport and Planning) for the provision of office accommodation and fleet services. Data on environmental impacts is included in the Department of Transport and Planning's Annual Report.

AVAILABILITY OF OTHER INFORMATION

In compliance with the requirements of the Standing Directions of the Minister for Finance, details in respect of the items listed below have been retained by the Council and are available on request, subject to the provisions of the *Freedom of Information Act 1982*.

(a) A statement that declarations of pecuniary interests have been duly completed by all relevant council members and relevant officers.

(b) Publications:

Publication	Produced	How obtained
Annual Report 2021–22	November 2022	See: http://heritagecouncil.vic.gov.au/about-heritage-council/annual-reports/
Corporate Plan 2022–23	October 2022	or email heritage.council@delwp.vic.gov.au

(c) Changes in fees and charges – The Heritage Council charges fees for nomination reviews and permit reviews. The permit review fees are calculated as a percentage of the permit application fees charged by Heritage Victoria. Fees increased as per the Heritage (General) Regulations 2017 and the Heritage Underwater Cultural Heritage Regulations 2017 on 1 July 2022 – see the fee schedule https://www.heritage.vic.gov.au/about-us/fees-and-penalties

(d) There was no major research or development activity carried out by the entity during the 2022–23 financial year.

The information is available on request from: The Executive Officer Heritage Council Secretariat Phone: (03) 9194 0867 Email: heritage.council@delwp.vic.gov.au The following information is not relevant to the Heritage Council for the reasons set out below:

- A declaration of shares held by senior officers (no shares have ever been issued in the Heritage Council).
- Details of overseas visits undertaken (no Council member took overseas work-related trips).
- Details of external reviews carried out on the agency (no external reviews have been undertaken).
- A statement on industrial relations within the agency (there were no relevant industrial relations matters to report).

Portfolio financial management compliance attestation statement

I Prof. Philip Goad, on behalf of the Responsible Body, certify that the Heritage Council of Victoria has been granted an exemption from the Standing Directions 2018 under the *Financial Management Act 1994* and Instructions. This exemption has been granted by the Assistant Treasurer on the basis that the Council complies with the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning and the Department of Transport and Planning's Portfolio Financial Management Compliance Framework.

Prof. Philip Goad Chair, Heritage Council of Victoria 1 November 2023

Financial report

Accountable Officer's declaration and statutory certification

The attached financial statements for the Heritage Council of Victoria have been prepared in accordance with Standing Direction 5.2 of the Assistant Treasurer under the *Financial Management Act 1994*, applicable Financial Reporting Directions, Australian Accounting Standards including Interpretations, and other mandatory professional reporting requirements.

We further state that, in our opinion, the information set out in the comprehensive operating statement, balance sheet, statement of changes in equity, cash flow statement and accompanying notes, presents fairly the financial transactions during the year ended 30 June 2023 and financial position of the entity at 30 June 2023.

At the time of signing, we are not aware of any circumstance which would render any particulars included in the financial statements to be misleading or inaccurate.

We authorise the attached financial statements for issue on 01 11 2023.

Prof. Phillip Goad

Chair Heritage Council of Victoria

Melbourne 01 11 2023

Danip

Damien Welch

Accountable Officer Heritage Council of Victoria

Melbourne 01 11 2023

Karen Ling

Chief Financial Officer Heritage Council of Victoria

Melbourne 01 11 2023



Independent Auditor's Report

To the Council Members of the Heritage Council of Victoria

Opinion	I have audited the financial report of the Heritage Council of Victoria (the authority) which comp the:
	balance sheet as at 30 June 2023
	 comprehensive operating statement for the year then ended
	 statement of changes in equity for the year then ended
	cash flow statement for the year then ended
	 notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies
	 accountable officer's declaration and statutory certification.
	In my opinion, the financial report presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of
	authority as at 30 June 2023 and its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ende
	accordance with the financial reporting requirements of Part 7 of the Financial Management Ac 1994 and applicable Australian Accounting Standards.
Basis for Opinion	I have conducted my audit in accordance with the Audit Act 1994 which incorporates the Austral Auditing Standards. I further describe my responsibilities under that Act and those standards in t
opinion	Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report section of my report.
	My independence is established by the Constitution Act 1975. My staff and I are independent of
	authority in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethica
	Standards Board's APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (the Code) that are relevant
	to my audit of the financial report in Victoria. My staff and I have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.
	I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis f my opinion.
Other	The Council Members is responsible for the "other information" included in the authority's Annu
Information	Report for the year ended 30 June 2023. The other information in the Annual Report does not in
	the financial report and my auditor's reports thereon. My opinion on the financial report does no
	cover the other information included in the Annual Report. Accordingly, I do not express any for assurance conclusion thereon.
	In connection with my audit of the financial report, my responsibility is to read the other informa
	when it becomes available and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially
	inconsistent with the financial report, or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appe
	be materially misstated. If, based on the work I have performed, I conclude that there is a mater
	misstatement of this other information, I am required to report that fact. I have nothing to report this regard.
Council	The Council Members of the authority are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation
Members'	financial report in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and the Financial Managem
responsibilities	Act 1994, and for such internal control as the Council Members determines is necessary to enab
for the financial	preparation and fair presentation of a financial report that is free from material misstatement,
report	whether due to fraud or error. In preparing the financial report, the Council Members are respon
	for assessing the authority's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, mat
	related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless it is inappropriate

T 03 8601 7000 enquiries@audit.vic.gov.au www.audit.vic.gov.au

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial report As required by the *Audit Act 1994*, my responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on the audit. My objectives for the audit are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards, I exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. I also:

- identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the authority's internal control
- evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the Council Members
- conclude on the appropriateness of the Council Members' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the authority's ability to continue as a going concern. If I conclude that a material uncertainty exists, I am required to draw attention in my auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify my opinion. My conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of my auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the authority to cease to continue as a going concern.
- evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

I communicate with the Council Members regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during my audit.

MELBOURNE 3 November 2023

Paul Martin as delegate for the Auditor-General of Victoria

HERITAGE COUNCIL OF VICTORIA

These annual financial statements represent the audited general purpose financial statements of the Heritage Council of Victoria for the period 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023. The purpose of the report is to provide users with information about the Heritage Council of Victoria's stewardship of resources entrusted to it.

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COMPREHENSIVE OPERATING STATEMENT

FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

	Notes	2023	2022
		\$	\$
Revenue and income from transactions			
Rendering of services	2.1	2,070,773	2,182,293
Interest income	2.2	80,010	8,189
Total revenue and income from transactions		2,150,783	2,190,482
Expenses from transactions			
Member fees and other costs	3.1	(342,513)	(312,129)
Supplies and services	3.2	(1,285,481)	(1,314,378)
Grants expenses	3.3	(532,083)	(278,100)
Total expenses from transactions		(2,160,077)	(1,904,607)
Net result		(9,294)	285,875
Comprehensive result		(9,294)	285,875

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 30 JUNE 2023

	Notes	2023	2022
		\$	\$
Assets			
Financial assets			
Cash and deposits	5.1	6,276,144	6,206,489
Receivables	4.1	157,367	67,896
Total assets		6,433,511	6,274,385
Liabilities			
Payables	4.2	134,959	147,879
Security deposits	4.3	1,950,073	1,856,487
Contract liabilities	4.4	684,887	597,133
Total liabilities		2,769,919	2,601,499
Net assets		3,663,592	3,672,886
Equity			
Accumulated surplus		2,133,578	2,142,872
Contributed capital		1,530,014	1,530,014
Net worth		3,663,592	3,672,886

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY

FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

	Accumulated surplus/(deficit)	Contribution by owners	Total
	\$	\$	\$
Balance at 1 July 2021	1,856,997	1,530,014	3,387,011
Comprehensive result	285,875	-	285,875
Balance as at 30 June 2022	2,142,872	1,530,014	3,672,886
Comprehensive result	(9,294)	-	(9,294)
Balance as at 30 June 2023	2,133,578	1,530,014	3,663,592

CASH FLOW STATEMENT

FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

	Notes	2023	2022
		\$	\$
Cash flows from operating activities			
Receipts			
Receipts from other entities		2,000,262	2,234,215
Interest received		80,010	8,189
GST recovered from ATO		26,765	1,817
Total receipts		2,107,037	2,244,221
Payments			
Payments to suppliers and members		(1,598,885)	(1,597,302)
Payments of grants and other transfers		(532,083)	(278,100)
Total payments		(2,130,968)	(1,875,402)
Net cash flows from operating activities	5.1(b)	(23,931)	368,819
Cash flows used in investing activities			
Net cash flows from/(used in) investing activities		-	-
Cash flows used in financing activities			
(Repayments)/proceeds of security deposits		93,586	1,566,487
Net cash flows from/(used in) financing activities		93,586	1,566,487
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents		69,655	1,935,306
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the financial year		6,206,489	4,271,183
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the financial year	5.1(a)	6,276,144	6,206,489

1. ABOUT THIS REPORT

The financial statements cover the Heritage Council of Victoria (HCV) as an individual reporting entity. The HCV is a body corporate established by the *Heritage Act 2017* which commenced 1 November 2017 and is a controlled entity of the State of Victoria.

Its address is: Heritage Council of Victoria

2 Lonsdale Street

Melbourne, VIC, 3000

A description of the nature of its operations and its principal activities is included in the 'Report of operations', which does not form part of these financial statements.

Basis of preparation

These financial statements:

- are in Australian dollars and the historical cost convention is used unless a different measurement basis is specifically disclosed in the note associated with the item measured on a different basis
- have been prepared by applying the accrual basis of accounting, whereby assets, liabilities, equity, income and expenses are
 recognised in the reporting period to which they relate, regardless of when cash is received or paid.

Judgements, estimates and assumptions are required to be made about the carrying values of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. These estimates and associated assumptions are based on professional judgement derived from historical experience and various other factors that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period the estimate is revised and in future periods that are affected by the revision. Judgements and assumptions have been made by management in applying applicable Australian Accounting Standards (AAS) that have a significant effect on the financial statements and estimates. These relate to:

- accrued revenue, refer to note 4.1;
- accrued expenses, refer to note 4.2; and
- superannuation expense, refer to note 3.1.1

Compliance information

These general-purpose financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Financial Management Act 1994 (FMA) and applicable Australian Accounting Standards (AAS) which include Interpretations, issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB). They are presented in a manner consistent with the requirements of AASB 1049 *Whole of Government and General Government Sector Financial Reporting* (AASB 1049).

Where appropriate, those AAS paragraphs applicable to not-for-profit entities have been applied. Accounting policies selected and applied in these financial statements ensure that the resulting financial information satisfies the concepts of relevance and reliability, thereby ensuring that the substance of the underlying transactions or other events is reported.

2. FUNDING DELIVERY OF OUR SERVICES

Introduction	Structure
 Introduction The HCV's role is to: advise the Minister for Planning on the protection and conservation of Victoria's cultural heritage. decide which places and objects are added to the Victorian Heritage Register. hear appeals on permit applications. promote public understanding of Victoria's cultural heritage and conduct community education and information programs. 	2.1 Rendering of services 2.2 Interest income
 undertake research related to identification, conservation and interpretation of cultural heritage. advise and liaise with state government departments and agencies and municipal councils on the protection and conservation of places and objects of cultural significance. 	
To enable the HCV to fulfill its objective and provide outputs, it receives income from rendering of services and other sources.	

2.1 Rendering of services

•	2023	2022
	\$	\$
Rendering of services		
Planning fees, permit fees and permit review fees	2,070,773	2,182,293
Total rendering of services	2,070,773	2,182,293

The rendering of services included in the table above are transactions that HCV has determined to be classified as revenue from contracts with customers in accordance with AASB 15. The HCV derives revenue from the rendering of services at a point in time when the performance obligation to the customer is satisfied. Consideration received in advance of recognising the associated revenue from the customer is recorded as a contract liability (refer Note 4.4).

The HCV has three main types of fees:

- Certificate fees levied to advise an applicant whether or not a place or object is included in the Heritage Register under the Heritage Act 2017 and the category in which it is registered.
- Permit and consent fees The Heritage (General) Regulations 2015 set out the prescribed fee required to accompany an application for a permit or consent application pursuant to the *Heritage Act 2017*. A permit is required for alterations to a place included in the Victorian Heritage Register unless a permit exemption is provided. A consent is required for works which may affect the historical archaeology of a Heritage Inventory site.
- Permit review fees Reviews of determinations are conducted by the Heritage Council under Part 5, Division 5 of the *Heritage Act* 2017. An applicant may seek a review of a determination in relation to a permit and a hearing into permit review as per section 106(1) of the Act, or a review of any condition imposed on the permit as per section 106(2). The Heritage Council conducts the review (or hearing) and makes a determination.

The HCV has an obligation to provide a decision on the various applications made to it under the *Heritage Act 2017*. Application fees are recognised as revenue when the HCV satisfies its performance obligation by communicating its decision on permit, consent or advice to the applicant. Fees that are receipted, but the related performance obligation not yet completed, are recognised as contract liabilities (Note 4.4) at the end of the financial year.

2.2 Interest income

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
Interest income		
Interest from cash, deposits and investments	80,010	8,189
Total interest income	80,010	8,189

Interest income includes interest received on bank term deposits and other investments and the unwinding of the discount on financial assets over time. Interest income is recognised using the effective interest method which allocates the interest over the relevant period.

3. THE COST OF DELIVERING SERVICES

Introduction

This note provides an account of the expenses incurred by the HCV. In note 2, the funds that enable the provision of services were disclosed and in this note the cost associated with provision of services are recorded.

Structure

3.1 Member fees and other costs 3.1.1 Superannuation

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- 3.2 Supplies and services
- 3.3 Grants expenses

3.1 Member fees and other costs

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
Member fees and other costs		
Sitting fees	(290,826)	(265,057)
Travel and subsistence expenses	(1,348)	(404)
Superannuation	(30,888)	(27,655)
Other on-costs	(19,451)	(19,013)
Total member fees and other costs	(342,513)	(312,129)

The HCV members are remunerated for attending various council meetings, including hearings and appeals.

3.1.1 Superannuation

The names, details and amounts expensed in relation to the major employee superannuation funds and contributions made by the HCV are as follows:

	Paid contribution for the year		Contribution outstanding at year end	
Fund	2023 \$	2022 \$	2023 \$	2022 \$
Defined contribution plans:				
Victorian Superannuation Fund – Vic Super Scheme	(7,346)	(6,281)	(2,349)	(2,981)
Various other	(14,951)	(15,348)	(6,242)	(3,045)
Total	(22,297)	(21,629)	(8,591)	(6,026)

Members of the HCV are entitled to receive superannuation benefits and the Council contributes to defined contribution plans. HCV does not contribute to defined benefit plans.

Superannuation contributions paid or payable for the reporting period are included as part of member fees and other costs in the comprehensive operating statement of the HCV.

Contributions are set at a minimum of 10.50% of member's committee sitting fees and are legally enforceable on the HCV.

3.2 Supplies and services

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
Supplies and services		
Community awareness and publicity	(81,139)	(34,410)
Contract and professional services	(1,065,225)	(1,143,679)
General expenses	(76,444)	(85,822)
IT expenses	(36,508)	(26,569)
Office and accommodation	(10,934)	(9,182)
Postage and telephone	(50)	(530)
Other expenses	(792)	(13,000)
Travel and subsistence	(14,389)	(1,186)
Total supplies and services	(1,285,481)	(1,314,378)

Supplies and services are recognised as an expense in the reporting period in which they are incurred.

Types of expenses includes hiring of professional services for heritage building feasibility studies, education and training, conservation management plans, advertising, publicity and information costs and project staffing and expenses for contractors.

3.3 Grants expenses

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
Grants		
Other grants and transfers	(532,083)	(278,100)
Total	(532,083)	(278,100)

Grants to third parties are recognised as an expense in the reporting period in which they are paid or payable. These grants assist with the conservation of any part of Victoria's cultural heritage. These grants are provided based on the consent of the Executive Director of Heritage Victoria and the HCV.

4 OTHER ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

Structure		
4.1 Receivables		
4.2 Payables		
4.2.1 Maturity analysis of contractual payables		
4.3 Security deposits		
4.3.1 Maturity analysis of security deposits		
4.4 Contract Liabilities		

4.1 Receivables

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
Current receivables		
Contractual		
Accrued revenue	34,977	36,634
Trade and Loans Receivables	31,015	-
Amounts owing from the Victorian Government	91,375	-
Total contractual receivables	157,367	36,634
Total current receivables	157,367	36,634
Non-current receivables		
Contractual		
Loans receivable	-	31,262
Total non-current receivables	-	31,262
Total receivables	157,367	67,896

Contractual receivables are classified as financial instruments and categorised as financial assets at amortised cost. They are initially recognised at fair value plus any directly attributable transaction costs. HCV holds the contractual receivables with the objective to collect the cash flows and therefore subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less any impairment.

Refer to note 6.2 for impairment policy.

4.2 Payables

	2023 \$	2022 \$
Current payables	•	*
Contractual		
Accrued expenses	124,941	91,487
Trade creditors ⁽ⁱ⁾	293	293
Superannuation payable	-	6,026
Total contractual payables	125,234	97,806
Statutory		
GST input tax payable	9,725	12,791
Amounts owing to the Victorian Government	-	37,282
Total statutory payables	9,725	50,073
Total current payables	134,959	147,879
Total payables	134,959	147,879

(i) The average credit period is 30 days. No interest is charged on the trade creditors or other payables for the first 30 days from the date of the invoice. Thereafter, interest may be charged at differing rates determined by the individual trade arrangements entered into.

Contractual payables are classified as financial instruments and measured at amortised cost. This includes trade creditors and other accrued expenses. Trade creditors represent liabilities for goods and services provided to the HCV prior to the end of the financial year that are unpaid and arise when the HCV becomes obliged to make future payments in respect of the purchase of those goods and services.

4.2.1 Maturity analysis of contractual payables

The following table discloses the contractual maturity analysis for the entity's contractual payables.

	Carrying Amount \$	Nominal amount \$				Ma	aturity dates
		-	Less than 1 month		3 months – 1 year	1-5 years	5+ years
			\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
2023							
Payables ⁽ⁱ⁾							
Accrued expenses	124,941	124,941	124,941	-	-	-	-
Trade creditors	293	293	293	-	-	-	-
Superannuation payable	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	125,234	125,234	125,234	-	-	-	-
2022							
Payables ⁽ⁱ⁾							
Accrued expenses	91,487	91,487	91,487	-	-	-	-
Trade creditors	293	293	293	-	-	-	-
Superannuation payable	6,026	6,026	6,026	-	-	-	-
Total	97,806	97,806	97,806	-	-	-	-

(i) The amount of payables disclosed exclude statutory payables (i.e. taxes payable).

4.3 Security deposits

	2023 \$	2022 \$
Current security deposits		
Short term security deposits – Current	1,616,487	1,806,487
Total current security deposits	1,616,487	1,806,487
Non-current security deposits		
Long term security deposits	333,586	50,000
Total non-current security deposits	333,586	50,000
Total security deposits	1,950,073	1,856,487

Security deposits are held in trust to ensure the site is returned to its former state and the proper cataloguing and conservation of any excavated material occurs.

The HCV's deposits consist of:

• Short-term (the amount held will be returned within the next 12 months) and long-term security deposits – Section 103(1) of the *Heritage Act 2017* allows the Executive Director to impose a condition on a permit requiring security to be given to ensure satisfactory completion of works. This generally applies to conservation works. It also allows the form and amount of security to be determined by the Executive Director.

4.3.1 Maturity analysis of security deposits

	Carrying Amount \$	Nominal amount \$				Ma	aturity dates
		-	Less than 1		3 months – 1		
			month	1–3 months	year	1–5 years	5+ years
			\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
2023							
Security deposits	1,950,073	1,950,073	-	-	1,616,487	333,586	-
Total	1,950,073	1,950,073	-	-	1,616,487	333,586	-
2022							
Security deposits	1,856,487	1,856,487	-	150,000	1,656,487	50,000	-
Total	1,856,487	1,856,487	-	150,000	1,656,487	50,000	-

4.4 Contract liabilities

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
Contract Liabilities		
Opening balance 1 July 2022	597,133	547,263
Add: Payments received for performance obligations yet to be completed during the period	675,869	551,114
Less: Revenue recognised in the reporting period that was included in the contract liability balance at the beginning of the period	(588,115)	(501,244)
Total contract liabilities	684,887	597,133
Represented by		
Current contract liabilities	684,887	597,133
Non-current contract liabilities	-	-

Contract liabilities relating to rendering of services

Contract liabilities represent application fees received in the reporting period, but the performance obligations are outstanding at balance date.

5 HOW WE FINANCED OUR OPERATIONS

Introduction

This section provides information on the sources of finance utilised by the HCV during its operations.

It includes disclosures of balances that are financial instruments (such as borrowings and cash balances).

Structure

- 5.1 Cash flow information and balances
- 5.2 Commitments for expenditure
 - 5.2.1 Agreements to pay out grants and loans
 - 5.2.2 Commitments for operating expenditure
 - 5.2.3 Commitments for capital expenditure

5.1 Cash flow information and balances

Cash and deposits, including cash equivalents, comprise of cash on hand and cash at bank with an original maturity of three months or less, which are held for the purpose of meeting short term cash commitments rather than for investment purposes and which are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and are subject to significant risk of changes in value.

	2023 \$	2022 \$
(a) Reconciliation of cash and cash equivalents		
At call deposits	2,650,070	2,570,060
Cash equivalent	3,626,074	3,636,429
Total cash and deposits disclosed in the balance sheet	6,276,144	6,206,489
Balance per cash flow statement	6,276,144	6,206,489
(b) Reconciliation of net result for the period to cashflow from operating activities		
Net result	(9,294)	285,875
Movements in assets and liabilities		
(Increase)/decrease in receivables	(89,471)	2,272
Increase/(decrease) in payables	(12,920)	30,802
(Decrease)/increase in contract liabilities	87,754	49,870
Net cash flows from operating activities	(23,931)	368,819

5.2 Commitments for expenditure

Commitments for future expenditure include paying out grants and loans, operating commitments and capital commitments arising from contracts.

These commitments are recorded below their nominal value and are inclusive of GST. Where it is considered appropriate and provides additional relevant information to users, the net present value of significant individual projects is stated. These future expenditures cease to be disclosed as commitments once the related liabilities are recognised in the balance sheet.

5.2.1 Agreements to pay out grants and loans

In addition to the grants and loans issued during the year, total approvals given by the HCV up to 30 June 2023 provide for the issue of \$104,111 (2022: \$182,905) in grants and loans in future years.

These commitments are represented in the table below. These are not reflected in the comprehensive operating statement and balance sheet until the option has been taken up by the applicant.

	2023	2022	
	\$	\$	
Grant commitments			
Not later than one year	104,111	78,794	
Later than one year but no later than five years	-	104,111	
Total	104,111	182,905	

5.2.2 Commitments for operating expenditure

At reporting date, the HCV has no operating commitments (2022: \$nil).

5.2.3 Commitments for capital expenditure

At reporting date, the HCV has no capital commitments (2022: \$nil).

Introduction

The HCV is exposed to risk from its activities and outside factors. In addition, it is often necessary to make judgements and estimates associated with recognition and measurement of items in the financial statements. This section sets out financial instrument specific information, (including exposures to financial risks) as well as those items that are contingent in nature or require a higher level of judgement to be applied, which relate mainly to fair value determination.

Structure

- 6.1 Financial instrument specific disclosures6.1.1 Financial Instruments: Categorisations
- 6.2 Financial risk management objective and policies6.2.1 Credit risk
 - 6.2.2 Liquidity risk
 - 6.2.3 Market risk
- 6.3 Fair value determination
- 6.4 Contingent assets and liabilities

6.1 Financial instrument specific disclosures

Financial instruments arise out of contractual agreements that give rise to a financial asset of one entity and a financial liability or equity instrument of another entity. Due to the nature of the HCV's activities, certain financial assets and financial liabilities arise under statute rather than a contract (for example taxes, fines and penalties). Such assets and liabilities do not meet the definition of financial instruments in AASB 132 *Financial Instruments: Presentation*.

Categories of financial assets

Financial assets at amortised cost

Financial assets are measured at amortised costs if both of the following criteria are met, and the assets are not designated as fair value through net result:

- the assets are held by the HCV to collect the contractual cash flows; and
- the assets' contractual terms give rise to cash flows that are solely payments of principal and interests.

These assets are initially recognised at fair value plus any directly attributable transaction costs and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method less any impairment.

The HCV recognises the following assets in this category:

- cash and deposits; and
- receivables (excluding statutory receivables)

Categories of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities at amortised cost

Financial liabilities at amortised cost are initially recognised on the date they originated. They are initially measured at fair value plus any directly attributable transaction costs. Subsequent to initial recognition, these financial instruments are measured at amortised cost with any difference between the initial recognised amount and the redemption value being recognised in profit and loss over the period of the interest-bearing liability, using the effective interest rate method. The HCV recognises the following liabilities in this category:

- payables (excluding statutory payables); and
- security deposits.

Derecognition of financial assets:

A financial asset (or, where applicable, a part of a financial asset or part of a group of similar financial assets) is derecognised when:

- the contractual rights to receive cash flows from the asset have expired; or
- the HCV retains the right to receive cash flows from the asset, but has assumed an obligation to pay them in full without material delay to a third party under a 'pass through' arrangement; or
 - the HCV has transferred its rights to receive cash flows from the asset and either:
 - a) has transferred substantially all the risks and rewards of the asset; or
 - b) has neither transferred nor retained substantially all the risks and rewards of the asset but has transferred control of the asset.

Where the HCV has neither transferred nor retained substantially all the risks and rewards or transferred control, the asset is recognised to the extent of the HCVs continuing involvement in the asset.

Derecognition of financial liabilities:

A financial liability is derecognised when the obligation under the liability is discharged, cancelled or expires.

When an existing financial liability is replaced by another from the same lender on substantially different terms, or the terms of an existing liability are substantially modified, such an exchange or modification is treated as a derecognition of the original liability and the recognition of a new liability. The difference in the respective carrying amounts is recognized as an 'other economic flow' in the comprehensive operating statement.

Reclassification of financial instruments:

Subsequent to initial recognition the reclassification of financial liabilities is not permitted. Financial assets are required to be reclassified between fair value through net result, fair value through other comprehensive income and amortised cost when and only when the HCV's business model for managing its financial assets has changed such that its previous model would no longer apply.

However, the HCV is generally unable to change its business model because it is determined by the Performance Management Framework (PMF) and all Victorian government entities are required to apply the PMF under the Standing Directions 2018 under the FMA.

If under rare circumstances an asset is reclassified, the reclassification is applied prospectively from the reclassification date and previously recognised gains, losses or interest should not be restated. If the asset is reclassified to fair value, the fair value should be determined at the reclassification date and any gain or loss arising from a difference between the previous carrying amount and fair value is recognised in net result.

6.1.1 Financial instruments: Categorisation

The carrying amounts of the HCV's financial assets and financial liabilities are listed in the table below.

	Financial assets at amortised cost \$	Financial liabilities at amortised cost \$	Total \$
2023			
Contractual financial assets			
Cash and deposits	6,276,141	-	6,276,141
Receivables			
Accrued revenue	34,977	-	34,977
Loans receivables	-	-	-
Amounts owing from the Victorian Government	91,375	-	91,375
Total contractual financial assets	6,402,493	-	6,402,493
Contractual financial liabilities			
Payables ⁽ⁱ⁾			
Accrued expenses	-	124,941	124,941
Trade creditors	-	293	124,941
Superannuation payable	-	-	-
Security deposits	-	1,950,073	1,950,073
Total contractual financial liabilities	-	2,075,307	2,075,307
2022			
Contractual financial assets			
Cash and deposits	6,206,489	-	6,206,489
Receivables			
Accrued revenue	36,634	-	36,634
Loans receivables	31,262	-	31,262
Total contractual financial assets	6,274,385	-	6,274,385
Contractual financial liabilities			
Payables ⁽ⁱ⁾			
Accrued expenses	-	91,487	91,487
Trade creditors	-	293	293
Superannuation payable	-	6,026	6,026
Security deposits	-	1,856,487	1,856,487
Total contractual financial liabilities	-	1,954,293	1,954,293

(i) The amount of payables disclosed excludes statutory payables (i.e. taxes payable).

6.2 Financial risk management objective and policies

The HCV's financial risk management program seeks to manage risks and the associated volatility of its financial performance. The main purpose in holding financial instruments is to prudentially manage the HCV's financial risks within the government policy parameters.

The HCV is exposed to the following risks:

- Credit risk.
- Liquidity risk.
- Market risk.

6.2.1 Credit risk

Credit risk refers to the possibility that a borrower will default on its financial obligations as and when they fall due. The HCV's exposure to credit risk arises from the potential default of a counter party on their contractual obligations resulting in financial loss to the entity. Credit risk is measured at fair value and is monitored on a regular basis.

Credit risk associated with the HCV's contractual financial assets is minimal because the main debtor is the Victorian Government. For debtors other than government, it is the HCV's policy to only deal with entities with high credit ratings and to obtain sufficient collateral or credit enhancements, where appropriate. In addition, the HCV does not engage in hedging for its contractual financial assets and mainly obtains contractual financial assets that are on fixed interest.

Provision of impairment for financial assets is recognised when there is objective evidence that the HCV will not be able to collect a receivable. Objective evidence includes financial difficulties of the debtor, default payments, debts that are more than 60 days overdue, and changes in debtor credit ratings.

Contract financial assets are written off against the carrying amount when there is no reasonable expectation of recovery. Bad debt written off by mutual consent is classified as a transaction expense. Bad debt written off following a unilateral decision is recognised as other economic flows in the net result.

Currently the HCV does not hold any collateral as security nor credit enhancements relating to any of its financial assets.

As at the reporting date, there is no event to indicate that any of the contractual financial assets are impaired. There are no financial assets that have had their terms renegotiated so as to prevent them from being past due or impaired and they are stated at the carrying amounts as indicated.

Impairment of financial assets under AASB 9

HCV applies AASB 9 simplified approach for all contractual receivables to measure expected credit losses using a lifetime expected loss allowance based on the assumptions about risk of default and expected loss rates.

As of 30 June 2023, HCV did not have trade receivables past due. Accordingly, HCV determined that no allowance for expected credit loss on initial application date of AASB 9 and at the end of the financial year.

6.2.2 Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk is the risk that the HCV would be unable to meet its financial obligations as they fall due. The HCV operates under the Government fair payments policy of settling financial obligations within 30 days and in the event of a dispute, make payments within 30 days from the date of resolution. Risk is managed through monitoring future cash flows and maturities planning to ensure adequate holding of high-quality liquid assets and dealing in highly liquid markets.

The HCV's exposure to liquidity risk is deemed insignificant based on prior period data and current assessment of risk.

6.2.3 Market risk

The HCV's exposure to market risk is primarily through interest rate risk, with insignificant exposure to foreign currency and other price risks.

The HCV's sensitivity to market risk is determined based on the observed range of actual historical data for the preceding five-year period, with all variables other than the primary risk variable held constant.

Interest rate risk

Fair value interest rate risk is the risk that the fair value of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market interest rates. The HCV does not hold any interest-bearing financial instruments that are measured at fair value and therefore has no exposure to fair value interest rate risk.

Cash flow interest rate risk is the risk that the future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market interest rates.

The HCV has minimal exposure to cash flow interest rate risk through its term deposits.

The carrying amount of financial assets and financial liabilities that are exposed to interest rate risk are set out in the table below.

Interest rate exposure of financial instruments

	Weighted		re		
	average interest rate	Carrying amount \$	Fixed interest rate \$	Variable interest rate \$	Non-interest bearing \$
2023		`		i	
Contractual financial assets					
Cash and deposits	3.07%	6,276,144	-	2,650,070	3,626,074
Receivables					
Accrued revenue		34,977	-	-	34,977
Loans receivables		-	-	-	-
Amounts owing from the Victorian Government		91,375			91,375
Total		6,402,496	-	2,650,070	3,752,426
Contractual financial liabilities					
Payables: ⁽ⁱ⁾					
Accrued expenses		124,941	-	-	124,941
Trade creditors		293	-	-	293
Superannuation payable		-	-	-	-
Security deposits		1,950,073	-	-	1,950,073
Total		2,075,307	-	-	2,075,307
2022					
Contractual financial assets					
Cash and deposits	0.32%	6,206,489	-	2,570,060	3,636,429
Receivables					
Accrued revenue		36,634	-	-	36,634
Loans receivables		31,262	-	-	31,262
Total		6,274,385	-	2,570,060	3,704,325
Contractual financial liabilities					
Payables: ⁽ⁱ⁾					
Accrued expenses		91,487	-	-	91,487
Trade creditors		293	-	-	293
Superannuation payable		6,026	-	-	6,026
Security deposits		1,856,487	-	-	1,856,487
Total		1,954,293	-	-	1,954,293

(i) The amount of payables disclosed excludes statutory payables (i.e. taxes payable).

Reviewing past account performance, future expectations, economic forecasts and management's knowledge and experience of the financial markets, the HCV believes the following movements are 'reasonably possible' over the next 12 months (base rates are sourced from the Reserve Bank of Australia):

• a movement of 100 basis points up and 100 basis points down (2022: 200 basis points up and 100 basis points down) in market interest rates (AUD);

	_		Interest rate risk
	Carrying amount	-1.0% -100 basis points	+1.0% 200 basis points
2023			
Contractual financial assets			
Cash and deposits – floating interest	2,650,070	(26,501)	26,501
Total			
			Interest rate risk
	Carrying amount	-1.0% -100 basis points	+2.0% 200 basis points
2022			
Contractual financial assets			
Cash and deposits – floating interest	2,570,060	(25,701)	51,402
Total	2,570,060	(25,701)	51,402

6.3 Fair value determination

In determining fair values, a number of inputs are used. To increase consistency and comparability in the financial statements, these inputs are categorised into three levels, also known as the fair value hierarchy. The levels are as follows:

- Level 1 quoted (unadjusted) market prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities;
- Level 2 valuation techniques for which the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement is directly or indirectly observable; and
- Level 3 valuation techniques for which the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement is unobservable.

The HCV determines whether transfers have occurred between levels in the hierarchy by reassessing categorisation (based on the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement as a whole) at the end of each reporting period.

The HCV currently holds a range of financial instruments that are recorded in the financial statements where the carrying amounts approximate to fair value, due to their short-term nature or with the expectation that they will be paid in full by the end of next the reporting period. These financial instruments include: cash and deposit, receivables, security deposits and payables.

6.4 Contingent assets and liabilities

Contingent assets and contingent liabilities are not recognised in the balance sheet but are disclosed in the notes to the financial statements and, if quantifiable, are measured at nominal value. They are presented inclusive of GST receivable or payable respectively.

Contingent assets

Contingent assets are possible assets that arise from past events, whose existence will be confirmed only by the occurrence or non-occurrence of one or more uncertain future events not wholly within the control of the entity.

These are classified as either quantifiable, where the potential economic benefit is known, or non-quantifiable.

Bank guarantees pursuant to a condition of a permit totaling \$32,059,070 (2022: \$33,020,558), are held by the HCV as financial security.

Heritage permits granted under Section 102 of the *Heritage Act 2017* may require unconditional Bank Guarantee or Security Bond of 50% of the estimated amount of the works. The Bank Guarantee will be forfeited if the approved Conservation Schedule and Interpretation Plan are not completed or implemented to the satisfaction of the Executive Director, Heritage Victoria.

Contingent liabilities

Contingent liabilities are:

- possible obligations that arise from past events, whose existence will be confirmed only by the occurrence or non-occurrence of one or more uncertain future events not wholly within the control of the entity; or
- present obligations that arise from past events but are not recognised because:
 - o it is not probable that an outflow of resources embodying economic benefits will be required to settle the obligations; or
 - \circ \quad the amount of the obligations cannot be measured with sufficient reliability.

Contingent liabilities are also classified as either quantifiable or non-quantifiable

There are no quantifiable contingent liabilities (2022: \$nil).

Introduction

This section includes additional material disclosures required by accounting standards or otherwise, for the understanding of this financial report.

Structure

- 7.1 Ex-gratia expenses
- 7.2 Responsible persons
- 7.3 Related parties
- 7.4 Remuneration of auditors
- 7.5 Subsequent event
- 7.6 Australian accounting standards issued that are not yet effective

7.1 Ex gratia expenses

Ex gratia expenses are the voluntary payments of money or other non-monetary benefit (e.g. a write off) that is not made either to acquire goods, services or other benefits for the entity or to meet a legal liability, or to settle or resolve a possible legal liability of or claim against the entity.

There were no ex-gratia expenses (2022: \$nil).

7.2 Responsible persons

In accordance with the Ministerial Directions issued by the Assistant Treasurer under the *Financial Management Act 1994* (FMA), the following disclosures are made regarding responsible persons for the reporting period.

Due to the November 2022 state election, the legislative assembly was dissolved at 6:00pm on 1 November 2022 and the government entered a "caretaker period" until 26 November 2022 when the leader of the opposition conceded defeat and the Government was returned. During this period government business is conducted in accordance with practices referred to "caretaker conventions" while Ministers retain their executive responsibility, given the expiry or dissolution of the Legislative Assembly, the government cannot be held accountable for its decisions in the normal manner. Ministers of the returned government were appointed on 5 December 2022.

Minister for Planning	The Hon. Lizzie Blandthorn MP	1 July 2022 to 1 November 2022
Minister for Planning	The Hon. Sonya Kilkenny	5 December 2022 to 30 June 2023
Chair	Philip Goad	1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023
Accountable Officer	Rhonda McLaren	1 July 2022 to 26 August 2022
Accountable Officer	Damien Welch	27 August 2022 to 30 June 2023
Member	Andrew May	1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023
Member	Justin Naylor	1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023
Member	Karen Murphy	1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023
Member	Ursula de Jong	1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023
Member	Jeffrey Robinson	1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023
Member	Simon Molesworth	1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023
Member	Margaret Baird	1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023
Member	Anna Foley	1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023
Member	Rueben Berg	1 July 2022 to 31 March 2023
Alternate Member	Margaret Solly	1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023
Alternate Member	Mark Burgess	1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023
Alternate Member	Janine Major	1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023
Alternate Member	Ruth Redden	1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023
Alternate Member	David Hogg	1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023
Alternate Member	Adrian Finanzio	1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023
Alternate Member	Joanne Guard	1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023

Alternate Member	Helen Doyle	1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023
Alternate Member	Maddison Miller	1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023
Alternate Member	Phoebe LaGerche-Wijsman	1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023

The person who held the position of Accountable Officer of the HCV (employed as the Executive Officer under the *Heritage Act 2017*) from 1 July 2022 to 26 August 2022 was Rhonda McLaren. The person who held the position of Accountable Officer of the HCV (employed as the Executive Officer under the *Heritage Act 2017*) from 27 August 2022 to 30 June 2023 was Damien Welch.

Members of HCV are appointed by the Governor in Council on the recommendation of the Minister for Planning in accordance with s.10 of the *Heritage Act 2017*.

Alternate members act 'in place' of members, generally in cases of absence or agreement. Alternate members have the same skills and experience as members as per s.10 of the Act and act in the place of members in a variety of cases.

The following table provides a breakdown of remuneration received or receivable by the board members in connection with the management of the HCV.

	2023	2022 No.
	No.	
Income band (\$)		
0 – 9,999	4	6
10,000 – 19,999	12	8
20,000 – 29,999	2	6
30,000 – 39,999	2	-
Total number	20	20
Total remuneration	312,903	288,176

The compensation detailed above excludes the salaries and benefits the Portfolio Minister receives. The Minister's remuneration and allowances is set by the Parliamentary Salaries and Superannuation Act 1968 and is reported within the State's Annual Financial Report.

The Heritage Council of Victoria's Accountable Officer (employed as the Executive Officer under the *Heritage Act 2017*) is remunerated by and reported in the financial statements of the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) and of the Department of Transport and Planning (DTP).

Acting arrangements

There have been no acting arrangements during the financial year.

7.3 Related parties

The HCV is a wholly owned and controlled entity of the State of Victoria. Related parties of the HCV include:

- all key management personnel and their close family members and personal business interests (controlled entities, joint ventures and entities they have significant influence over);
- all cabinet ministers and their close family members; and
- all departments and public sector entities that are controlled and consolidated into the whole of state consolidated financial statements.

All related party transactions have been entered on an arm's length basis.

The key management personnel of the Heritage Council of Victoria are listed in note 7.2.

Key management personnel

Remuneration comprises employee benefits (as defined in AASB 119 Employee Benefits) in all forms of consideration paid, payable or provided by the entity, or on behalf of the entity, in exchange for services rendered. Accordingly, remuneration is determined on an accrual basis, and is disclosed in the following categories.

Short-term employee benefits include amounts such as wages, salaries, annual leave or sick leave that are usually paid or payable on a regular basis, as well as non-monetary benefits such as allowances and free or subsidised goods or services.

Post-employment benefits include pensions and other retirement benefits paid or payable on a discrete basis when employment has ceased.

The remuneration breakdown of the HCV's key management personnel is shown in the table below (excludes the salaries and benefits of the Portfolio Minister and the Accountable Office, refer to note 7.2 Responsible persons):

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
Compensation of key management personnel		
Short term benefits	282,906	261,978
Post-employment benefits	29,997	26,198
Total	312,903	288,176

Significant transactions with government related entities

The HCV provided funding to Heritage Victoria, DEECA (DTP from 1 January 2023) of \$532,083 to support Heritage Victoria in recognising, protecting and managing places and objects in accordance with the provisions of *Heritage Act 2017* (see note 3.3 Other grants and transfers). The HCV does not employ any staff. The administration of HCV is supported by a small secretariat consisting of DEECA (DTP from 1 January 2023) employees. The cost \$982,992 of the secretariat is recouped from HCV.

All related party transactions have been entered on an arm's length basis.

7.4 Remuneration of auditors

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
Victorian Auditor General's Office		
Audit of the financial statements	(31,000)	(30,000)
Total	(31,000)	(30,000)

The remuneration of auditors is included in contract and professional services in note 3.2 Supplies and services.

7.5 Subsequent event

HCV is not aware of any other circumstances that have arisen, or information that has become available between 30 June 2023 and the date of final approval of this general-purpose financial report that qualifies for inclusion as a post balance date event.

7.6 Australian accounting standards issued that are not yet effective

Certain new and revised accounting standards have been issued but are not effective for the 2022–23 reporting period. These accounting standards have not been applied to these financial statements. HCV is reviewing its existing policies and assessing the potential implications of these accounting standards which include:

Standard / Interpretation	Summary	Applicable for annual reporting periods beginning on	Impact on financial statements
AASB 2020-1 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Classification of Liabilities as Current or Non- Current.	 The Standard amends AASB 101 to clarify requirements for the presentation of liabilities in the statement of financial position as current or non-current. A liability is classified as non-current if an entity has the right at the end of the reporting period to defer settlement of the liability for at least 12 months after the reporting period. The meaning of settlement of a liability is also clarified. AASB 2020-6 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Classification of Liabilities as Current or Non-current – Deferral of Effective Date was issued in August 2020 and defers the effective date to annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2023 instead of 1 January 2022, with earlier application permitted. 	1 January 2023	The standard is not expected to have a significant impact.
	AASB 2022-10 amends AASB 13 Fair Value Measurement by adding authoritative implementation guidance and illustrative examples for fair value a/measurements of non-financial assets of not-for-profit public sector entities not held primarily for their ability to generate net cash inflows.	1 January 2024	The standard is not expected to have a significant impact.

Standard / Interpretation	Summary	Applicable for annual reporting periods beginning on	Impact on financial statements
	The Standard:		
	 specifies that an entity needs to consider whether an asset's highest and best use differs from its current use only when it is held for sale or held for distributions to owners under AASB 5 Non-current Assets Held for Sale and Discontinued Operations or if it is highly probable that it will be used for an alternative purpose; clarifies that an asset's use is 'financially feasible' if market participants would be willing to invest in the asset's service capacity, considering both the capacity to provide needed goods or services and the resulting costs of those goods and services; specifies that if both market selling price and some market participant data required to fair value the asset are not observable, an entity needs to start with its own assumptions and adjust them to the extent that reasonably available information indicates that other market participants would use different data; and 	n : n	
Australian Accounting	nature of costs to be included in a reference asset and identification of economic obsolescence. AASB 2022-5 amends AASB 16 Leases to add subsequent measurement requirements for sale and leaseback transactions that satisfy the requirements for sale in AASB 15 Revenue from Contracts with	1 January 2024	This standard is not expected to have an impact as the department is not party to any sale and leaseback
	Customers. The amendments ensure that a seller-lessee subsequently remeasures lease liabilities arising from a leaseback in a way that does not recognise any amount o gain or loss that is related to the right of use it retains.		arrangements.
AASB 17 Insurance Contracts AASB 2022-8 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Insurance	AASB 17 replaces AASB 4 Insurance Contracts, AASB 1023 General Insurance Contracts and AASB 1038 Life Insurance Contracts for not-for-profit public sector entities of or annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 July 2026.	1 July 2026	The impact of this standard is being assessed.
Contracts:Consequential Amendments	AASB 2022-9 amends AASB 17 to make public sector- related modifications (for example, it specifies the pre- requisites, indicators and other considerations in b identifying arrangements that fall within the scope of AASB 17 in a public sector context). This Standard applies for annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 July 2026.		
	AASB 2022-8 makes consequential amendments to other Australian Accounting Standards so that public sector entities are permitted to continue to apply AASB 4 and AASB 1023 to annual periods before 1 July 2026		

Appendices

Appendix 1: Disclosure Index

The annual report of the Heritage Council of Victoria is prepared in accordance with all relevant Victorian legislation and pronouncements. This index has been prepared to facilitate identification of the Heritage Council's compliance with statutory disclosure requirements.

Legislation	Requirement	Page reference
Ministerial Direction	ons and Financial Reporting Directions	
Report of operation	s	
Charter and purpose		
FRD 22	Manner of establishment and the relevant Ministers	Page 7
FRD 22	Purpose, functions, powers and duties	Page 8
FRD 22	Key initiatives and projects	Page 9
FRD 22	Nature and range of services provided	Page 7
Management and str	ucture	
FRD 22	Organisational structure	Page 28
FRD 22	Governing Board	Page 28
FRD 22	Board Committees	Page 29
Financial and other in	nformation	-
FRD 8	Performance against objectives and measures	Page 11
FRD 10	Disclosure index	Page 66
FRD 12	Disclosure of major contracts	Page 33
FRD 15	Executive Officer disclosure	Page 32
FRD 22	Employment and conduct principles	Page 32
FRD 22	Occupational health and safety policy	Page 32
FRD 22	Summary of the financial results for the year	Page 27
FRD 22	Significant changes in financial position during the year	Page 27
FRD 22	Major changes or factors affecting performance	Page 27
FRD 22	Subsequent events	Page 27
FRD 22	Disclosure of government advertising expenditure	Page 33
FRD 22	Disclosure of Information & communication technology expenditure	Page 33
FRD 22	Application and operation of Freedom of Information Act 1982	Page 33
FRD 22	Compliance with building and maintenance provisions of Building Act 1993	Page 34
FRD 22	Statement on National Competition Policy	Page 34
FRD 22	Application and operation of the Public Interest Disclosure Act 2012	Page 34
FRD 22	Details of consultancies over \$10,000	Page 33
FRD 22	Details of consultancies under \$10,000	Page 33
FRD 22	Statement of availability of other information	Page 35
FRD 24	Reporting of office-based environmental impacts	Page 35
FRD 25	Local Jobs First disclosure	Page 33
FRD 29	Workforce Data disclosures	Page 32
Compliance attestati	on and declaration	
SD 5.1.4	Attestation for compliance with Ministerial Standing Direction	Page 37
SD 5.2.3	Declaration in report of operations	Page 4

Legislation	Requirement	Page reference
Financial		
Declaration		
SD 5.2.2	Declaration in financial statements	Page 38
Other requirements under	Standing Directions 5.2	
SD 5.2.1(a)	Compliance with Australian accounting standards and other authoritative pronouncements	Page 46
SD 5.2.1(a)	Compliance with Standing Directions	Pages 29, 37, 62
Other disclosures as requ	ired by FRDs in notes to the financial statements	
FRD 21	Disclosures of Responsible Persons, Executive Officers and other Personnel (Contractors with Significant Management Responsibilities) in the Financial Report	Page 62
FRD 110	Cash Flow Statements	Page 45
FRD 112	Defined Benefit Superannuation Obligations	Page 49
FRD 114	Financial Instruments – general government entities and public non-financial corporations	Page 56
Mater		

Note:

(a) References to FRDs have been removed from the Disclosure Index if the specific FRDs do not contain requirements that are in the nature of disclosure.

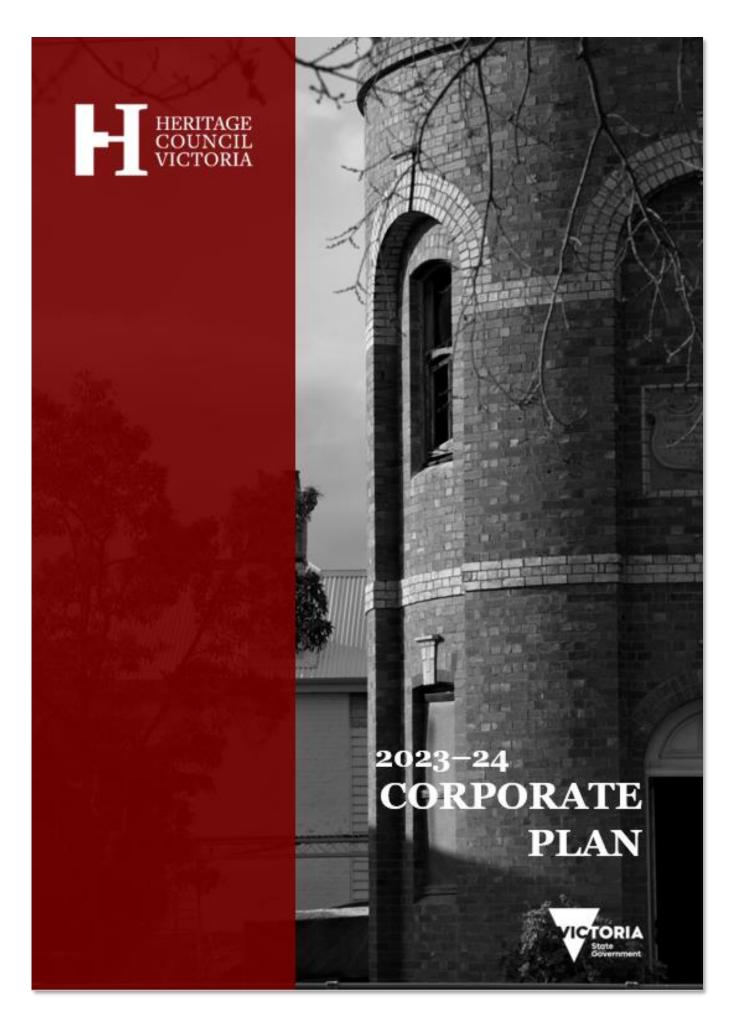
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Heritage Act 2017	Page 35
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Building Act 1993	Page 34
Public Interest Disclosures Act 2012	Page 34
Local Jobs First Act 2003	Page 33
Financial Management Act 1994	Page 46

Appendices

Appendix 2: Heritage Council Corporate Plan 2023-24

In accordance with Schedule 1, s.10(2) of the *Heritage Act 2017*, the Heritage Council's Corporate Plan is included as an appendix in this Annual Report.

It can also be found on the Heritage Council's website: heritagecouncil.vic.gov.au



"To lead in the recognition and conservation of Victoria's cultural heritage."

- Hertage Council of Victoria

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Chair's foreword

As a peak Heritage body, we acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the Country that we call Victoria as the original custodians of Victoria's land and waters, and acknowledge the importance and significance of Aboriginal cultural heritage across the state. We honour Elders past and present whose knowledge and wisdom has ensured the continuation of Aboriginal culture and traditional practices.

The Heritage Council of Victoria is an independent statutory authority which brings together experts across the state to achieve its key function of identifying and protecting places and objects of cultural heritage significance to the State of Victoria. Our principal role is to ensure that Victoria's diverse cultural heritage is enjoyed, managed and protected for current and future generations.

The Heritage Act 2017 governs the work of the Council and Clause 9 of Schedule 1 provides that the Council must prepare a corporate plan each financial year. The Heritage Council Corporate Plan 2023–24 is an important document that sets out the Council's priorities and objectives for the coming year. The Council's overarching mission, to lead in the recognition and conservation of Victoria's cultural heritage, guides our scope of work.

The Council as a body has emerged, like many in the community, from the challenges of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic with more flexible work practices and continues to incorporate the best aspects of the new ways of communicating and engaging with the Victorian community. Continuing to prove itself as an early adopter of technological solutions to changed operating environments, the Council has developed new approaches to a range of promotional content and product launches, and continues to pursue its crucial educational role with vigour. The Council's innovations in its regulatory functions also continue to develop, with the exciting work begun in 2022 on its online hearing platform, the HCV Hub, and the ongoing focus on supporting flexible and accessible public hearings.

The Council in recent years has made outstanding progress in working towards its strategic aims, in particular in the implementation of recommendations of the State of Heritage Review report, the engagement with strategic challenges in the local government heritage sphere, and in relation to the current and future impacts of climate change on built cultural heritage. In addition, the Council continues its productive relationship with Heritage Victoria as we work together to identify and address some of the gaps identifiable in the context of the Victorian Heritage Register.

Our Strategic Plan 2021–25 is in its final years, but it continues to closely guide the focus of our work and our eye on tangible outcomes. The Strategic Plan records the Council's strategic commitments for the next two years and consolidates our focus on a robust and efficient regulatory process, works to strengthen and communicate the Victorian Heritage Register, and the examination of new and emerging issues in heritage. We present our new Corporate Plan outlining the anticipated scope of work for 2023–24 and the steps we will take towards achieving our strategic goals. Taking into account potential challenges in the global economy due to events out of our control, the Council maintains a strong current financial position, with its focus on the prudent management of the Heritage Fund. The Council's budgeting of a moderate operating deficit in 2023–24 allows resources to be prioritised and expended, where appropriate, to achieve the purposes of the Act and aid in the recognition and promotion of Victoria's diverse cultural heritage. The Council is budgeting a return to an operating surplus in subsequent years, partly due to a projected increase in revenue arising from new regulatory processes and fee structures associated with changes to the *Heritage Act 2017* which come into effect in February 2024.

Prof Philip Goed Cheir, Heritage Council of Victoria

1.0 Heritage Council of Victoria

The Council is an independent statutory authority established under the Heritage Act 2017 (the Heritage Act) as the Victorian Government's primary decision-making body on the identification of places and objects of cultural heritage significance to the State of Victoria.

The Council lists places and objects of state-wide cultural heritage significance in the Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) and hears reviews and appeals, principally in relation to registration recommendations and permit decisions made by the Executive Director, Heritage Victoria.

Note: the statutory scope of the Heritage Act covers places and objects of cultural heritage significance to the State of Victoria, but does not apply to a place or object that is of cultural heritage significance solely on the ground of its association with Aboriginal tradition. In this Corporate Plan, the terms 'cultural heritage' and 'heritage' are used generically and interchangeably to refer to the 'heritage' to which the Heritage Act applies, recognising that heritage places and objects may have multiple attributes and values.

1.1 COUNCIL MEMBERS

The Council consists of 10 members and 10 alternate members who represent a broad cross-section of heritage specialists and the community. Members are appointed by the Governor-in-Council on the recommendation of the Minister for Planning. The Hon Sonya Kilkenny MP, Minister for Planning, is the responsible minister. The following chart outlines the Council's membership categories for 2023–24 and members in those positions at 30 June 2023.



1.2 COUNCIL COMMITTEES

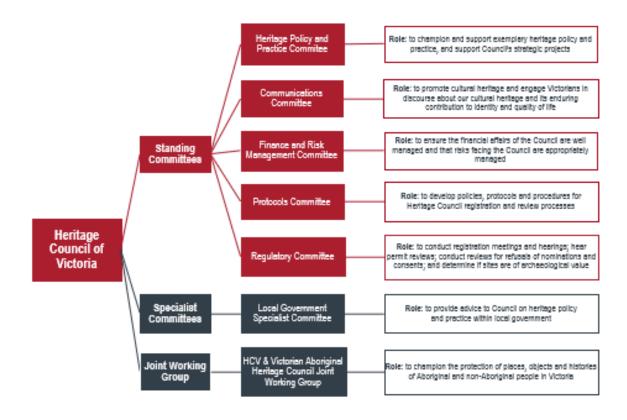
Under Part 2, Division 1, s.13 of the Heritage Act, the Council may establish committees to assist and advise it in fulfilling its statutory functions. There are two types of committees currently in operation:

Standing Committees – consisting of Council members only. Five standing committees have been constituted to ensure the effective operation of the Council, especially in relation to its legislative functions. The Standing Committees meet at least six times per year and, on Council's behalf, undertake some of its most critical and demanding work. This work includes: the conduct of hearings and reviews and the statutory administration of the Act; the management of the Council's finances; the oversight of strategic, educational and promotional activities; and the development of heritage policy and practice.

Specialist Committees – consisting of Council members and external subject-matter experts. Specialist committees advise the Council on cultural heritage matters pertaining to specific subject areas. They meet a maximum of four times per year and provide advice to the Council as needed.

Joint Working Group – a partnership with the Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Council, consisting of Heritage Council of Victoria and Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Council members. The Joint Working Group meets four times a year.

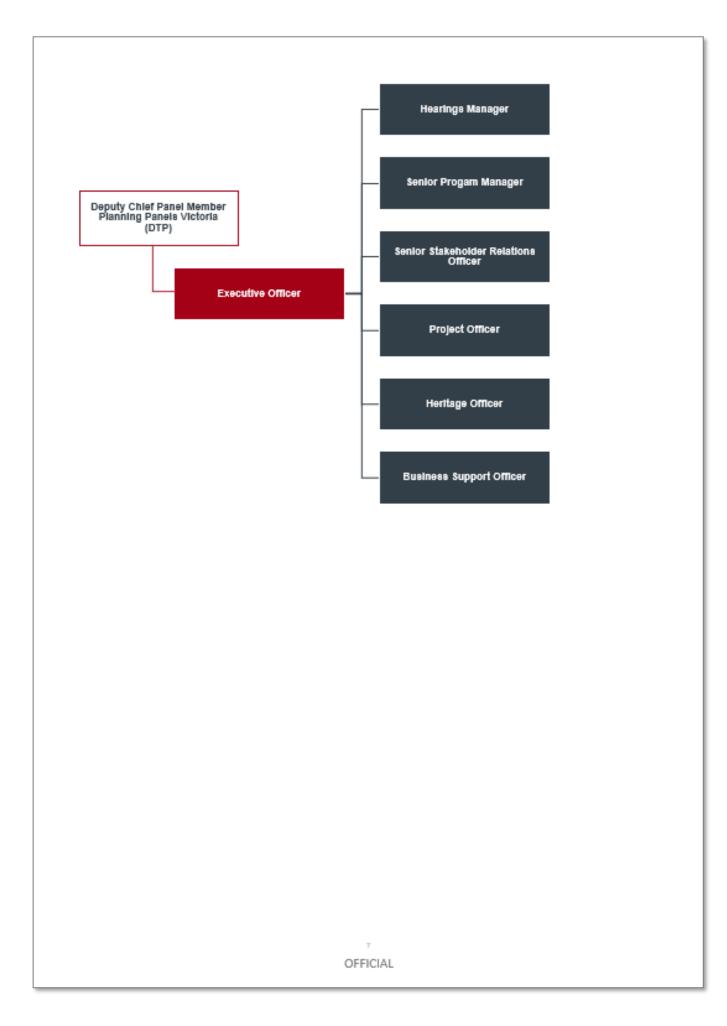
The following chart outlines the committees that will be operating in 2023-24 and their different roles:



1.3 SECRETARIAT

The Council does not employ any staff but is supported by a small Secretariat consisting of Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) employees. It is led by an Executive Officer who is the Council's Accountable Officer and is responsible for day-to-day matters. The Executive Officer reports to the Deputy Chief Panel Member, Planning Panels Victoria, DTP.





2.0 Mission, vision and values

The Council uses the following strategic statements, taken from its Strategic Plan 2021–25, to guide its work. The Council's Strategic Plan 2021–25 and its stated mission, vision and values guide and inform the Council's objectives, priorities, main undertakings and activities as set out in the following sections of the Council's Corporate Plan 2023–24.

2.1 MISSION

To lead in the recognition and conservation of Victoria's cultural heritage.

2.2 VISION

Victorians connect with and value our diverse cultural heritage. We aspire to have:

- Victorian communities, landowners and custodians understanding and valuing our heritage and its contribution to enriching culture
- a heritage system that protects, sustains, and enhances our heritage
- coherent and integrated heritage processes across all levels of government
- transmission of heritage values to current and future generations through effective stewardship and inspirational story telling.

2.3 VALUES

Respect for heritage

We value Victoria's heritage places and objects as an asset to be enjoyed as expressions of the traditions, identities and achievements of our diverse communities and cultures.

Collaboration

We value the knowledge others bring to heritage conservation and encourage the sharing of experience and information.

Innovation

We value exploring new approaches to ensure a more sustainable future for Victoria's cultural heritage.

Skilled practice

We value the skills and resources that enable high-quality heritage management across the state.

OFFICIAL

3.0 Objectives, main undertakings and scope of activities

3.1 CURRENT OPERATING CONTEXT - OVERVIEW

As an independent statutory authority, the Council is extremely conscious of its obligations to the state, the community and Victoria's cultural heritage in undertaking all activities. The Council works very hard to meet community expectations in relation to regulatory and reporting compliance, operational transparency and good governance. As part of its responsibilities, the Council must prepare and present an annual report, in accordance with the Australian Accounting Standards and the *Financial Management Act 1994*. Performance reporting in relation to the objectives and priorities set out in the Heritage Council's corporate plan is now required to be included in its annual report. The Heritage Council's financial statements are audited by the Victorian Auditor-General's Office in accordance with the *Audit Act 1994*.

The potential economic and operational impacts as we emerge cautiously from the COVID-19 pandemic are something the Council keeps a keen eye on, and we expect will continue to be a challenge in responding to the operating environment of 2023–24. The Council is operating a hybrid model with Secretariat staff attending the office two to three days a week (per Victorian Public Service policy) and most committee meetings and hearings remaining online. The Council has returned to in-person regular meetings of the full membership and continues to monitor the potential benefits of changes to work practice, remaining responsive to all contingencies. Seeking to demonstrate leadership as an entity in developing technological solutions to changed operating environments, the Council will continue to respond to community expectations by reviewing its online presence and upgrading content and investing in its online capital where necessary.

While broader economic issues have the potential to impact the Council's work, the Council's financial position remains strong. Considered financial management by the Council continues to allow it to focus on key strategic and operational project outcomes that contribute to the recognition and management of our shared cultural heritage.

3.2 OBJECTIVES

The objectives for 2023–24 are outlined in detail in Section 5 of this corporate plan and are related to the Council's priority activities and performance targets. They correspond to the following five key strategies for achieving the Council's vision over the next five years:

- Wider understanding of cultural heritage.
- Effective and representative Victorian Heritage Register.
- Innovative and sustainable heritage practice.
- Shared responsibility for heritage conservation.
- Improved Heritage Council operations.

3.3 MAIN UNDERTAKINGS

The Council's identified objectives have been informed by the following main undertakings:

Provision of advice

One of the Council's key roles is to advise the Minister for Planning on the State of Victoria's cultural (non-Indigenous) heritage resources and any steps necessary to protect and conserve them.

The Council also has a role in advising and liaising with other bodies and individuals that have responsibilities in heritage protection and conservation in Victoria, including local government, community organisations and heritage owners/managers.

Determination of state-level significance and archaeological value

The Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) provides the state's highest level of legal protection for our cultural (non-Indigenous) heritage. The Council determines which places and objects are of state-level heritage significance and are included in the VHR.

The Council also determines if sites under 75 years of age have archaeological value and should therefore be included in the Heritage Inventory of Victorian archaeological sites.

Hearings and reviews

As prescribed by the Act, the Council conducts hearings or reviews in relation to requests for a review of: the Executive Director's recommendations for inclusion or non-inclusion in the VHR; determinations of permit applications; refusals of nominations for the VHR; and consents for certain activities at archaeological sites.

Promotion of cultural heritage

The Council works to promote public understanding of Victoria's cultural heritage.

Undertaking research

The Council initiates and undertakes research to identify Victoria's heritage and assist in its conservation and interpretation. The Council may do this itself or in partnership with other government or community bodies.

Governance and compliance

As an independent statutory authority with its own financial management responsibilities, the Council has multiple governance and compliance obligations and reporting requirements. Please refer to the Heritage Council's Annual Report 2021–22 for further detailed information.

3.4 MINISTERIAL DIRECTIONS AND EXPECTATIONS

In October 2022, the Minister for Planning set four targets in their Statement of Expectations (SOE) for the Council:

- following launch, the council continue to update the user platform (HCV Hub) for stakeholders involved in council hearings, reviews and other regulatory matters under the *Heritage Act 2017*. Updates should ensure that the platform is user friendly, information is easily understood and accessible, and incorporates all the council's regulatory processes
- improve the IT platforms used to provide publicly accessible information and manage regulatory processes, including through the Heritage Council website
- develop guidance for applicants seeking fee waivers under the Heritage Regulations
- develop communication products to ensure information regarding the council's statutory responsibilities under the Heritage Act 2017 are clearly articulated to its stakeholders and differentiate between regulatory activities under the Planning and Environment Act 1987.

In addition, the Minister has requested that the Heritage Council promote and encourage engagement and participation of a more diverse range of Victorians in matters relating to Victoria's unique heritage, including in relation to events, partnerships, the education sector and recruitment of Heritage Council members.

These targets have been incorporated into the Council's priority activities and performance targets for both 2022–23 and 2023–24 and will be reported on as part of the Council's annual reporting cycle.

3.5 NATURE AND SCOPE OF ACTIVITIES

The Council's Strategic Plan 2021–25 sets out the strategic goals and activities that inform its objectives and main undertakings. The Council's core functions (as outlined in the Act, Part 2, Division 1, s.11) can be found at Appendix A. The Council's core functions and objectives will determine its activities and their scope, as set out in further detail in Section 5. The nature and scope of activities include:

- attending to core statutory functions (making determinations, conducting hearings and reviews) in relation to the VHR, the Heritage Inventory, nominations, permits and consents
- managing the Heritage Fund and publication of the corporate plan and annual report
- reporting annually on the state of Victoria's cultural heritage
- developing guidelines and research in relation to the protection and conservation of cultural heritage
- promoting public understanding of the state's cultural heritage including by conducting public forums, industry
 workshops and developing strategic partnerships such as those with Open House, Design Week and the Australian
 Heritage Festival
- conducting internal reviews, training and analysis in relation to the Council's core functions.

4.0 Financial Projections

For 2023-26

4.1 ESTIMATES OF 2023-26 REVENUE, EXPENDITURE AND OVERALL FINANCIAL POSITION FOR THE HERITAGE FUND, MANAGED BY THE COUNCIL PURSUANT TO \$11(1)(0) AND PART 11 OF THE ACT

Revenue	Budget 2022–23 \$'000	2023–24 \$'000	2024–25 \$'000	2025–26 \$'000
DTP Contribution		0.400	0.470	- 404
Fees Revenue	2,113	2,109	2,476	2,484
CBS Interest	6	72	76	79
Total	2,119	2,181	2,552	2,563
Expenditure	-			
Admin and Remuneration	1,484	1,415	1,462	1,499
Communications	88	135	105	100
Strategic Projects	82	210	220	230
Partnership Projects	15	15	15	15
Grant to Heritage Victoria	395	658	510	510
Legacy Grants and Studies	216	88	-	-
Total	2,278	2,554	2,327	2,369
Overall Position	(159)	(373)	225	194
HCV	Budget		Forecast	
	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26

HCV	Budget		Forecast	
	2022-23 \$'000	2023-24 \$`000	2024–25 \$'000	2025–26 \$'000
Revenue	2,119	2,181	2,552	2,563
Expenditure	2,278	2,554	2,327	2,369
Overall Position	(159)	(373)	225	194

Heritage Council of Victoria has access to funds of \$2.63 million in investments.

Notes on 2023-24 projected budget deficit

- The projected \$372,978 budget deficit in 2023–24 is due chiefly to an increase in the Council's grant of project funds to Heritage Victoria for critical project expenditure related to the purposes of the Act, an increase in strategic communications activity and partnerships to promote the 50th anniversary of the Register and an anticipated increase in necessary operational expenditure and costs for services generally.
- The Heritage Fund holds investments of \$2.63 million and approximately \$3.97 million cash on hand.

Notes on the Council's Financial Projections 2023-26

- Economic conditions are difficult to predict in the current economic climate. In response to the events of the Coronavirus pandemic, for example, the Council had budgeted for a projected decline in revenue which did not eventuate, and revenue remained relatively consistent with previous years. The Council has projected revenue to remain relatively steady over the next three years, accounting for both a decrease in projected permit income but a similar quantum increase in fee revenue arising from new fees, fee structures and regulatory processes arising from changes to the Heritage Act 2017 and the corresponding Heritage Regulations.
- The Council is projecting an operating deficit in 2023–24 due chiefly to the increased grant to Heritage Victoria for critical project work and the increase in the Council's strategic and communications activity, but is projecting to return to an operating surplus approach over subsequent years.
- The Council does not currently receive funding from DTP and has not forecast the need to request additional funding from DTP over the next three years at this stage. However, forecasting is imprecise, and this line has been retained in case the council's financial position changes.
- In addition to the above budgetary considerations, the Council is evaluating a business case for capital expenditure
 of approximately \$300,000 for the redevelopment of the Council's website.

5.0 Objectives, priority activities and performance targets

For 2023-24

The Council's objectives listed below correspond to strategic goals listed in the Council's Strategic Plan 2021-25.

Strategy 1	WIDE	R UNDE	RSTANDING OF CULTURAL HERITAGE	
Goals	 a. More Victorians understand the role that cultural heritage plays in the life of our communities, heritage processes, and the roles and responsibilities of organisations involved in heritage management. b. The stories and narratives of our important cultural heritage places and objects are well told and widely shared. 			
			is recognised as leading public discourse about the , management and celebration of Victoria's cultural heritage.	
Strategic Actions Update the Heritage Council communications plan to promote and encourage engagement and participation of a more diverse range of Victorians in matters relating to Victoria's unique heritage	Goal 1(b)	SOHR ⁴	 Target Outcomes (le: 'Measures of Success') Communications Plan developed and adopted by the Heritage Council that includes events and/or collaborations that are inclusive to people from diverse backgrounds and communities and the education sector Community 'roadshow' event and new content prepared and delivered in relation to the 2024 50th anniversary of the VHR Upgrades to online content and intellectual capital Project to review and redevelop the Heritage Council's website initiated 	
Work with the Minister, Heritage Victoria, National Trust, local government, community heritage organisations and other stakeholders to clarify and communicate roles, responsibilities and processes for heritage	1(a)		 Chair to meet with Minister bi-annually Ongoing formal engagement with Heritage Chairs and Officials through the annual Heritage Chairs and Officials of Australia and New Zealand forum process The engagement of government heritage asset manager stakeholders through project grant funding to Heritage Victoria 	
Engage with Development Victoria, the Property Council (Victoria), Urban Development Institute of Australia, and other property organisations to create opportunities for improved communication, and better recognition of the contribution of cultural heritage to the Victorian economy and development projects	1(c)		 Timing and delivery of engagement with Development Victoria, the Property Council (Victoria), the Urban Development Institute of Australia, and other property organisations agreed 	
Demonstrate the economic and social value of heritage to the community by reference to authoritative data and case studies	1(a)		 Project to assemble and synthesise information on the economic and social value of heritage to the community completed 	

1 SOHR = State of Heritage Review: Local Heritage 2020 report

* PP2 = Promotion Program 2 recommendation from the State of Heritage Review: Local Heritage 2020 report

Strategy 2	EFFECTIVE AND REPRESENTATIVE VICTORIAN HERITAGE REGISTER			
Goals	 a. Victoria's Heritage Register recognises and protects our state-significant cultural heritage. b. The Victorian Heritage Register reflects the diverse range of state-significant cultural heritage valued by communities throughout Victoria. c. The Victorian Heritage Register is accessible and easy to use as a source of useful information about Victoria's state-significant heritage. 			
Strategic Actions Work with Heritage Victoria to improve the functionality of the Victorian Heritage Database so that users understand its purpose and have easy access to current information about places on the Victorian Heritage Register	Goal 2(c)	SOHR ⁴ PI®	Target Outcomes (le: "Measures of Success") Liaison with Heritage Victoria about the functionality of the Victorian Heritage Database through Hermes/VHD working group Overhaul of search functionality and user interface implemented for Victorian Heritage Database	
Analyse the Victorian Heritage Register to better understand current coverage and identify those types of place, demographic group (e.g. gender-related places), historic theme, or geographical area which may be underrepresented and prepare a long-term strategy to address any identified gaps	2(b)		 Scoping study to analyse the current coverage of the VHR to understand those types of place, historic themes, geographical areas or groups defined by social, cultural, ethnic or political identity (including social diversity) which may be underrepresented completed 	
Investigate options for benefiting from community knowledge, affection and enthusiasm as a resource for supporting and extending the Victorian Heritage Register	2(b)		 As above in relation to a scoping study; and, also in relation to 50th Anniversary events 	

1 SOHR = State of Heritage Review: Local Heritage 2020 report

* PI 6 = Practical Improvement 6 recommendation from the State of Heritage Review: Local Heritage 2020 report

Strategy 3	INNOVA	TIVE AND SUSTAINABLE HERITAGE PRACTICE	
Goals	 a. Cultural heritage conservation contributes to sustainable practices and addresses challenges arising from climate change. b. Victoria has a more highly skilled heritage workforce – professional and trade – to support custodians and policy makers. c. The Council identifies, instigates, undertakes or supports projects which develop or demonstrate exemplary heritage practice and/or showcase Victoria's cultural heritage. 		
Strategic Actions Instigate a project to highlight and promote the intergenerational value of heritage in the context of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	3(a) •	arget Outcomes (le: 'Measures of Success') Develop an approach to a working group to consider UN SDGs and intergenerational value of heritage	
Implement a 'Cultural Heritage and Climate Change Project' focused on the effects of climate change on impact Victoria's cultural heritage places and objects and the development of principles, tools and resources to enable their protection and conservation	3(c) •	Development of a Climate Action Plan or Position Statement that sets out what is achievable and realistic for the Council within its remit	
Pro-actively support a national strategic approach to the growing shortage of specialist heritage trade skills, in the context of post-pandemic economic recovery, through the Heritage Chairs and Officials of Australia and New Zealand (HCOANZ)	3(b) •	Propose a review of the findings from heritage trades and training projects report by HCOANZ	

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Strategy 4	SHARED RESPONSIBILITY FOR HERITAGE CONSERVATION		
Goals	 The Council leads a shared approach to recognising, protecting and conserving Victoria's cultural heritage. 		
	 The shared history of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Victorians is recognised and understood. 		
	c. Local government is supported in managing local heritage.		
	 Victorian state government agencies demonstrate high-quality conservation and management of public heritage assets. 		
Strategic Actions	Goal	\$OHR ⁴	Target Outcomes (le: "Measures of Success")
Collaborate with the Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Council through a joint working group to facilitate a common approach which appropriately recognises places of shared histories and promotes a broader understanding of Australia's history	4(a)		 Joint Working Group with the Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Council meeting regularly and scope/terms of reference jointly reviewed
Facilitate best practice local heritage management, guidance and knowledge sharing through forums, workshops, the updated Heritage Council Communications Plan, and the work of the Local Government	4(c)	PI 6 ²	 Annual Local Government Heritage Forum planned and held in May/June 2024.

1 SOHR = State of Heritage Review: Local Heritage 2020 report

* PI 5 = Practical Improvement 5 recommendation from the State of Heritage Review: Local Heritage 2020 report

Strategy 5	IMPROVED COUNCIL OPERATIONS		
Goals	 a. The Council will have adequate resources and will manage its workload to address strategic programs while managing statutory functions effectively. b. Capacity for community participation and transparency of Council processes will be increased. 		
	 The Council will continue to provide robust and effective advice to the Minister. 		
Strategle Actions Examine ways to improve efficiency and to increase available resources, including advocacy for additional staff, greater support for Members and specific project funding	Goal 5(a)	Target Outcomes (le: 'Msasures of Success') Annual review of staff allocation, member costs and strategic funding and implementation of recommendations Options scoped for improved management of member documents	
Implement a systematic annual program for training and capacity-building for Council Members	5(c)	 HCV has implemented an annual program and identifies training and capacity needs to address 	
Develop a user-friendly, publicly accessible, online system for management of documentation associated with hearings and other statutory processes.	5(b)	 HCV Hub delivered and subject to ongoing review and updates to ensure the platform is user friendly, accessible and incorporates all regulatory processes 	
Explore measures to encourage individuals from diverse backgrounds to apply to be appointed as Council members, to increase the Council's overall diversity and in line with the Victorian Government's diversity and inclusion requirements for Victorian Government Boards.	5(b)	 Engage with a diverse range of relevant bodies to encourage their cohorts to consider an application, through advertising notices and direct engagement 	
Implement changes to Heritage Council processes, protocols and the HCV Hub by 1 February 2024 as a result of the Heritage Amendment Bill 2023.	5(a)	 Schedule 2 updated to reflect changes to the Heritage Act 2017 Develop guidance in relation to fee waivers under the Heritage Regulations Update HCV Forms and processes to reflect changes to the Heritage Act 2017. All statutory processes, protocols and forms updated, as required, to reflect changes to the Heritage Act 2017. 	

Appendix A

The Heritage Council's core functions

The Council has the following statutory functions, as set out in Part 2, Division 1, s.11, of the Heritage Act 2017.

- to advise the Minister on the Status of the state's cultural heritage resources and on any steps necessary to protect and conserve them
- to make and publish guidelines in relation to the conservation of cultural heritage
- to promote public understanding of the state's cultural heritage and develop and conduct community information and education programs
- to advise government departments and agencies and municipal councils on matters relating to the protection and conservation of places and objects of cultural heritage significance
- to liaise with other bodies responsible for matters relating to the protection, conservation, management and promotion of Victoria's cultural heritage
- to initiate and undertake programs of research related to the identification, conservation or interpretation of Victoria's cultural heritage
- to include places or objects in the Heritage Register
- to remove places or objects from the Heritage Register, or to amend the registration of a place or object
- to remove sites from the Heritage Inventory
- to conduct reviews of decisions of the Executive Director in relation to nominations, permits and consents
- to develop, revise and publish the assessment criteria to be used in considering the cultural heritage significance of
 places and objects and determining whether those places or objects should or should not be included in the Heritage
 Register
- to adopt, and forward to the Minister, World Heritage Strategy Plans and amendments to World Heritage Strategy Plans
- to determine criteria for assessing whether a place has archaeological value
- to advise the Minister administering the Planning and Environment Act 1987, on proposed amendments to planning schemes which may affect the protection or conservation of cultural heritage
- to manage the Heritage Fund
- to perform any other functions conferred on the Heritage Council under this Act or any other Act.

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