

ITEM 1 WOLLONGONG HERITAGE GRANT FUND ALLOCATION 2020/2021

The Wollongong Heritage Grants program provides assistance for property owners to maintain significant local heritage items. The program was recently bolstered in terms of Council financial commitment and is also supported by the State Government – Heritage NSW. It is a key function of the Wollongong Heritage Reference Group to assess grant applications against funding guidelines and criteria.

This report provides Council with an update on the allocation of the 2020/2021 Wollongong Heritage Grant Fund. Funding for 2020/2021 has been allocated in accordance with Council's Financial Assistance Policy. Under this Policy details of the funding allocations are made public via a report to Council.

This report also provides a brief summary of the completed projects which were supported under the 2019/2020 grant program.

RECOMMENDATION

The Wollongong Heritage Grant Fund allocation for 2020/2021, which has been finalised in accordance with Council's Financial Assistance Policy be noted.

REPORT AUTHORISATIONS

Report of: Chris Stewart, Manager City Strategy

Authorised by: Linda Davis, Director Planning + Environment - Future City + Neighbourhoods

ATTACHMENTS

- 1 2020/2021 Wollongong Heritage Grant Fund Project Summary and Funding Allocation
- 2 2019/2020 Heritage Fund Project Summaries and Funding Allocation

BACKGROUND

Council's Financial Assistance Policy provides for the Wollongong Local Heritage Grant Fund. This Council funded program is aimed at supporting owners of heritage items in maintaining and conserving their properties.

In 2019/20, Council increased the funding allocation to the Local Heritage Grant Fund from \$30,000 to \$60,000. This has created a dramatic increase in the number of grant applications and projects that were able to be funded through the program from previous financial years. In the 2018/2019 financial year, prior to the funding increase nine applications were received, this number more than doubled to 23 applications in the 2019/2020 financial year coinciding with the funding increase.

Council has also been successful in obtaining an additional \$5,500 in supplementary funding to support Council's contribution through the NSW Heritage Grant Fund for the last two financial years. Applications for Heritage funding are invited annually and assessed in accordance with the requirements of Council's Financial Assistance Policy.

The program provides a meaningful incentive for heritage owners to undertake maintenance and conservation works to their heritage properties. The fund has been operating for over 20 years and has supported many worthwhile projects.

The Financial Assistance Policy requires the funding allocation to be reported to Council for Council's information.

PROPOSAL

2020/2021 FINANCIAL YEAR SUMMARY

The 2020/2021 program was advertised broadly from February to April 2020 along with Council’s other Financial Assistance Programs. Letters were also sent to the owners of heritage items inviting applications for financial support toward planned conservation works. Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic the deadline was extended and applications accepted up until the end of April 2020.

A total of 12 applications were received. Following an initial assessment, 11 of the applications received were deemed eligible projects and were assessed in accordance with the scoring criteria by a sub-committee of the Wollongong Heritage Reference Group.

A summary of all applications received, including the allocation of funding, is provided as Attachment 1.

Council was able to support all eligible applications this financial year with the total project value exceeding \$142,000. Funding agreements have now been finalised and some projects have already progressed. The remaining projects will continue to be finalised throughout the 2020/2021 financial year, with project completion due for all projects by the end of May 2021.

2019/2020 FINANCIAL YEAR SUMMARY

In 2019, Council supported 16 projects and all works were completed and grants acquitted prior to 30 June 2020. A total of \$68,695 was expended by Council, supporting projects with a combined total project value of over \$205,000. Details of supported projects and works are provided in Attachment 2 to this report for Council’s information.

PLANNING AND POLICY IMPACT

This report contributes to the delivery of Our Wollongong 2028 goal “Objective 1.4 – We recognise and celebrate our heritage”. It specifically delivers on the following -

Community Strategic Plan	Delivery Program 2018-2022	Operational Plan 2020-21
Strategy	4 Year Action	Operational Plan Actions
1.4.1 Programs and projects that achieve proactive heritage management, education and promotion are developed and implemented	1.4.1.1 Work in partnership with others to promote a diverse range of heritage education and promotion programs	1 Continue to deliver the Heritage Assistance Grant Program

RISK MANAGEMENT

The provision of funding to support eligible heritage conservation projects in accordance with Council’s Financial Assistance Policy presents minimal risk to Council, particularly given that payments are only made as a reimbursement of expenses following the satisfactory completion of eligible projects.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Council’s \$60,000 expenditure is being supplemented by a NSW Heritage Grant allocation of \$6,500, meaning that the allocation of funding as proposed is in accordance with available budget allocations. It is noted that the proposed expenditure for the 2020/2021 financial year is anticipated to support works valued at over \$142,000 meaning that Council’s investment is resulting in significant flow on expenditure on positive conservation works and outcomes.

CONCLUSION

Council’s Wollongong Heritage Grant Fund continues to provide a meaningful contribution to heritage owners in providing financial support and assistance in the completion of conservation works. Council’s investment is being supplemented by State Government Funding and is supporting and resulting in significant flow on expenditure on Heritage Conservation Projects throughout the Local Government Area. Details on the allocation of expenditure for the 2020/2021 financial year and the completed projects for the 2019/2020 financial year have been provided for Council’s information.

ATTACHMENT 1

2020/2021 Wollongong Heritage Grant Fund Project Summary and Funding Allocation

Project No	Project Name	Project Description	Funding Allocation	Project Value
3	Wollongong Congregational Church, 33 Market Street Wollongong	Repair 10 sandstone windowsills	\$7250	\$14,533
7	Ivy Cliff, 16 Mitchell Road Woonona	Repainting exterior, repairs to window sills and verandah repairs and front fencing repairs.	\$7500	\$15,537
8	Berkeley Pioneer Cemetery Group	Headstone Conservation Works	\$4930	\$9,867
4	Mutual Life Assurance Building, Market Street Wollongong	Polish terrazzo granite entry flooring and general external cleaning and maintenance works.	\$10,000	\$35,850
11	Wye Lodge, 63 Smith Street Wollongong	Repair and paint front windows, paint columns.	\$1250	\$2519
5	Dobinson's Store, Mount Kembla	Roof Repairs	\$10,000	\$22,000
2	Group of Shops, 34 Moore Street Austinmer	Repointing of front façade Stage 2 and 3 (Completed 2020 with approval)	\$8490	\$16,984
9	Terrace, 56 Campbell Street, Wollongong	Replace iron handrails, replace verandah floorboards, replace gutters and downpipes, repair cracked render on façade and gutter replacement	\$5250	\$10,723
6	Woonona/Bulli School of Arts, Princes Highway Woonona	Restoration of rendered entry façade	\$4400	\$8800
10	House and Shop, 123 Military Road Port Kembla	Roof Repairs	\$2240	\$4494
1	Clifton School of Arts, Lawrence Hargrave Drive, Clifton	Replace 1990s plaque with Stainless steel etched plaque installed.	\$390	\$795
	<i>Daisybank House, Princes Highway Dapto</i>	<i>Allocated for General Maintenance Works</i>	<i>Up to \$3280</i>	<i>Minimum \$6560</i>
Ineligible: Already completed without necessary approvals	House and Shop, 123 Military Road	External Repainting	Nil	\$17,550
		TOTAL	\$65,500	\$142,057 *Eligible Projects Only

ATTACHMENT 2

2019/2020 Wollongong Heritage Grant Fund Summary of Completed Projects

Project No	Project Name	Project Description	Funding Paid	Project Value
1	Seacroft House, 457-459 Princes Highway, Fairy Meadow	Restoration works including repairs to roofing and cladding and front verandah	\$10,000	\$109,773
2	Bramble Hall, 45 Underwood Street, Corrimal	Repair external cladding and external repainting	\$9800	\$19,900
3	242 Princes Highway, Bulli	Exterior repainting and repair of timber weatherboards	\$6000	\$12,600
4	"Hillside" 12 Edward Street, Wollongong	Repair of front windows	\$5000	\$11,008
5	Terrace 48 Campbell Street, Wollongong	Exterior façade repainting and roof replacement	\$5000	\$32,026
6	Bellambi Station Masters Residence, 1 Bellambi Lane, Bellambi	Roof Repairs	\$5000	\$10,650
7	Northern Uniting Church, 191 Princes Highway Bulli	Replacement of external pavement and landscaping to prevent structural damage to external sandstone	\$10,0s00	\$20,669
8	Alice Villa, 117 Corrimal Street, Wollongong	Preparation of Conservation Management Plan	\$3500	\$7250
9	Berkeley Pioneer Cemetery, Investigator Drive Unanderra	Headstone conservation works	\$2800	\$5685
10	Woonona Bulli School of Arts, 479 Princes Highway, Bulli	Cleaning and repointing to northern external wall	\$2500	\$5500
11	Figtree 58, Redman Avenue, Thirroul	Figtree conservation works	\$1495	\$2990
12	Shop 34 Moore Street, Austinmer	Repointing of parapet and cleaning (Stage 1)	\$2500	\$5093
13	Clifton School of Arts, 338 Lawrence Hargrave Drive, Clifton	Replace downpipe and overflow system	\$1600	\$3240
14	Inness Fallen, 13 Kembla Street, Wollongong	Paint front verandah and repairs to front deck, as well as clean sandstone path	\$2000	\$6065

15	10 Fowler Street, Bulli	Repair and repainting of exterior window frames	\$1000	\$2180
16	Interbane, 8 Lawrence Hargrave Drive, Stanwell Park	Painting of external window sills on eastern side	\$500	\$1200
		TOTAL	\$68,695	\$205,661