

ITEM 6 PUBLIC EXHIBITION - DRAFT WOLLONGONG HERITAGE STRATEGY 2023-2027

On 28 October 2019, Council adopted the Wollongong Heritage Strategy 2019-2022. Council staff in association with the recently reconvened Wollongong Heritage Reference Group have undertaken a comprehensive review of the Strategy.

This report details the outcomes and achievements under the Wollongong Heritage Strategy 2019-2022 and presents the draft Wollongong Heritage Strategy 2023-2027 and draft Implementation Plan for endorsement to commence exhibition.

RECOMMENDATION

- 1 The draft Wollongong Heritage Strategy 2023-2027 be endorsed for exhibition for a minimum of 28 days.
- 2 The draft Implementation Plan be included as supporting exhibition material.

REPORT AUTHORISATIONS

Report of: Chris Stewart, Manager City Strategy

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

ATTACHMENTS

- 1 Summary Key Achievements Wollongong Heritage Strategy 2019-2022
- 2 Draft Wollongong Heritage Strategy 2023-2027
- 3 Draft Implementation Plan 2023-2027

BACKGROUND

On 28 October 2019, Council adopted the Wollongong Heritage Strategy 2019-2022, which replaced the previous Heritage Strategy for the 2017-2019 period. The strategy informs and gives direction to the work undertaken by Council's Heritage staff and the Wollongong Heritage Reference Group (WHRG) during each implementation period. The strategy is also supported by an Implementation Plan which is provided as an Attachment to the document, and which forms Council's internal delivery plan.

Of the projects listed in the Implementation Plan that supported the Wollongong Heritage Strategy 2019-2022 a wide range of actions were completed (Attachment 1). Some of the highlight achievements from this previous strategy included -

- Local Heritage Nomination Guidelines prepared and made available.
- Heritage Paint and Colour Scheme Guidelines prepared and made available.
- Endorsement of the Gleniffer Brae Conservation Management Plan by NSW Heritage Council.
- Finalised Stage 1 of Heritage Schedule Review (existing items review) and completed the Wollongong City Centre Heritage Study including progression of 15 new listed items.
- Developed an Internal Historic Cemeteries Management Policy Guideline.
- Obtained Section 60 and AHIP approvals for Hill 60 and Sandon Point .
- Adoption and implementation of the Aboriginal Community Engagement Framework.
- Endorsement of the Reconciliation Action Plan.
- Delivery of the Blue Mile Walking Trail.

Further information and a summary of key achievements are provided in Attachment 1.

In addition to the above, a large number of previously identified actions related to core business of Council's Heritage Staff. These included the provision of heritage referral advice for approximately 750 Development Applications, advice to over 100 formal pre-lodgement meetings, as well as the provision of heritage input to over 100 Council works projects, draft Planning Proposals, draft Neighbourhood Plans and other planning studies.

In 2022 the WHRG was reconvened for the current Council term and has assisted with the review of the draft Wollongong Heritage Strategy 2023-2027 (draft Strategy – Attachment 2).

The draft document contains nine strategies which respond to the Heritage NSW guidelines and ensure strategic alignment with State Government objectives. These strategies are consistent with the State guidelines to ensure ongoing financial support through NSW Heritage Grant programs. The rolling grant program assists Council with the costs of administering the Wollongong Heritage Grant Fund and with engagement of a Consultant Heritage Advisor to provide Council's Heritage staff with independent external advice when required. Council has again been successful in obtaining \$25,000 from the Heritage NSW Local Government Heritage Grants for the 2023-2025 funding period.

The documents have undergone slight content revisions to give stronger focus to Aboriginal Heritage and the management of cultural landscapes. In addition, some amendments relating to Council's work around Climate Change and Management of the Open Coast have been made. However, the key strategies embedded in the current plan remain largely unchanged.

The WHRG has also had input into the revision and update of the draft Heritage Implementation Plan 2023-2027 which contains detailed actions to deliver on the commitments within the draft Strategy. This document also details some aspirational projects (currently unfunded) to assist with making funding applications, and to prioritise available resources into the future.

The draft Implementation Plan 2023-2027 is an attachment to the draft Strategy (Attachment 3). The draft Implementation Plan 2023-2027 has shifted slightly in its approach, with actions previously identified as 'ongoing' now identified as 'core business'. This allows project-based actions and key deliverables to be more clearly targeted. These are then identified as being 'resourced' or not within the strategy period. This will assist with informing both business planning and future funding bids and grant applications.

Actions that have been completed under the previous Strategy (2019-2022) have been removed from the updated draft Implementation Plan. Actions that have not been completed or that remain unfunded have been rolled over into the new Plan. Additional actions have been added where necessary to capture key goals for the next strategy period.

PROPOSAL

The draft Wollongong Heritage Strategy 2023-2027 and the accompanying Implementation Plan have been revised to ensure consistency with Council's broader corporate planning approach and to incorporate the shifting focus of Council's delivery program and heritage priorities. The updated draft Strategy and draft Implementation Plan have been prepared in close consultation with the WHRG, and with input from across a range of Council Divisions to ensure consistency with related strategies and programs.

The purpose of this report is to seek Council's support for the formal public exhibition process for the draft Wollongong Heritage Strategy 2023-2027 and the associated draft Implementation Plan. This will ensure that the Community have opportunity to provide broader input to the Strategy.

CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

The draft Wollongong Heritage Strategy 2023-2027 has been prepared in consultation, and with input from a range of Council Divisions including Corporate Planning, Cultural Development, Libraries, Environmental Planning and Community Services.

The WHRG have also had input to the review of the Strategy with discussion occurring at meetings held in December 2022, February and May 2023 and with key inputs being incorporated in the update of the strategic directions.

If endorsed by Council, the draft Strategy and associated Implementation Plan will be exhibited, during which time further community comment will be sought. This will include notification to key stakeholder groups and heritage interest groups including the Illawarra Local Aboriginal Land Council, Illawarra Branch of the National Trust and the Illawarra Historical Society and other groups. This input will be considered in finalising the strategy and reporting back to Council.

PLANNING AND POLICY IMPACT

This report contributes to the delivery of Our Wollongong 2032 Goal 1 We value and protect our environment. Our Wollongong 2032 - Community Strategic Plan.

It specifically delivers on core business activities, including promote and protect heritage, as detailed in the Land Use Planning service.

Further, this report directly responds to the Wollongong Heritage Strategy and Implementation Plan 2019-2022. Strategy 1 Actively involve the community in the management of Wollongong's heritage and Action 1.4 Monitor the implementation of the Heritage Strategy 2019-2022 by undertaking annual reviews of performance against the strategy and implementation plan.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct financial implications associated with the adoption of the recommendations within this report. The Implementation Plan that supports the draft 2023-2027 Strategy acknowledges Council's ongoing core business in Heritage Management, some existing planned projects (e.g. Local Heritage Assistance Grants) and aspirational projects which would be subject to either internal or external resourcing and funding. Planned projects and deliverables identified within the draft Implementation Plan are clearly identified as resourced / funded to manage expectations surrounding their progression. This approach will also assist with supporting future external grant funding applications.

CONCLUSION

The draft Wollongong Heritage Strategy 2023-2027 along with the associated draft Implementation Plan provide a strategic framework for the ongoing management and delivery of Council's Heritage programs and projects. The review and update of the draft Wollongong Heritage Strategy will guide delivery of Council's Heritage work undertaken by staff in collaboration with the Wollongong Heritage Reference Group. The progression of the draft Wollongong Heritage Strategy 2023-2027 will also support the ongoing allocation of funding from the NSW State Government Heritage toward Council's Heritage Programs.

The revised draft Strategy has been refreshed to respond to the shifting focus of the community, as well as to respond to Council's broader work programs. The continued evolution and implementation of the Wollongong Heritage Strategy will support the ongoing conservation, appreciation and awareness of our City's unique and valuable heritage.

WOLLONGONG HERITAGE STRATEGY 2019-2022

SUMMARY OF KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

Introduction

This document provides a brief summary of key outcomes and achievements implemented under the Wollongong Heritage Strategy 2019-2022 and the associated operational delivery plan, the Heritage Implementation Plan 2019-2022. It is noted that this document only highlights the more significant achievements.

Key achievements are noted below and are listed against the nine (9) key strategies to highlight the key outcomes and achievements against the Wollongong Heritage Strategy. Not all actions in the Implementation Plan have been funded and/or progressed over the implementation period.

Strategy 1 – Actively Involve the Community in the Management of Wollongong’s Heritage

- Wollongong Heritage Reference Group continued to meet bimonthly throughout the period up until the election on 4 December 2021. The Group was reformed following a review of various Council Reference Groups and Committees and had their first meeting with the new Membership on 20 October 2022.
- The Reference Group continues to provide advice and input on a wide range of Council projects and policies.
- Council prepared and adopted an Aboriginal Engagement Framework (2021) and an endorsed Reconciliation Action Plan (2021). An Aboriginal Language for Signage Guide was also developed and changes incorporated into Council’s Park and Suburb Signage Style Guide.

Strategy 2 – Maintain an up to date list of heritage items

- Stage 1 of the Heritage Schedule Review Project was finalised in April 2021. Heritage Inventory Forms were revised and made available online within the NSW Heritage Inventory for all 500 existing heritage items. Over 300 amendments were made to Schedule 5 of the Wollongong LEP and over 100 mapping amendments.
- Stage 2 of the Heritage Schedule Review was partially progressed with the City Centre Heritage Study (2022). 15 additional local heritage items were added to Schedule 5 of the LEP in August 2022.
- The remaining Stage 2 Heritage Schedule Review items are intended to be progressed in 2023-24.
- Community Local Heritage Nomination Guidelines were prepared and are now available on Council’s website <https://www.wollongong.nsw.gov.au/about/history-heritage/councils-heritage-work/accordions/nominate-a-local-heritage-item>
- Two State Heritage nominations were progressed, with the Corrimal Coke Works being gazetted on the State Heritage Register in May 2022 and the Mount Kembla Mining Disaster nomination now under active assessment by Heritage NSW.
- Council continues to manage a heritage list of over 500 heritage items.

Strategy 3 – Employ and train staff to manage Wollongong’s Heritage and to provide professional advice to the Community

- In 2017 Council increased its staffing to two full time heritage positions. Council continues to employ a Heritage Coordinator and a Heritage Officer.
- Council adopted the Illawarra Lake Management Coastal Management Plan 2019-2019, which includes an action to explore funding for an Aboriginal Heritage Role within Council to manage the cultural heritage of the lake foreshore and other matters and are seeking funding opportunities.
- Two Interim Heritage Order requests were progressed and an IHO was placed on the Corrimal Coke Works Site and 14 Acacia Avenue, Gwynneville. Both have now lapsed with the Corrimal Coke Works site being added to the Wollongong LEP 2009.
- Council has continued to foster relationships with key community groups including Illawarra Local Aboriginal Land Council, National Trust and Illawarra Historical Society through referring development applications, regular meetings and representation on the Heritage Reference Group.

- Heritage staff continue to complete development referrals, attend formal pre-lodgement meetings, provided advice and initiate investigations of illegal works to heritage items, and provided heritage input to REFs for Council's capital and operational projects, as well as acting as expert witnesses on a growing number of Land and Environment Court cases.

Strategy 4 – Develop and implement programs and projects that aim to achieve pro-active heritage management

- In 2019-2022 the Wollongong Local Heritage Grant Fund provided \$202,000 (approx. \$60,000 per year) in funding support 59 heritage projects with a total work value of over \$691,000.
- Waiver of DA fees was provided to heritage conservation projects as they arise including Bulli Guesthouse adaptive reuse (Resin Brewery) and Wongawilli Mine Managers Residence (Little Preschool).
- Wollongong Heritage Repainting and Colour Scheme Guidelines have now been prepared and will be reported to the Wollongong Heritage Reference Group in 2023.
- Council continues to have input into the NSW State Government Review of the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 and Draft Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Bill (2018).
- Council's Heritage Staff also provided submission on the review of the NSW Heritage Act 1977, and other policy discussions including review of the endorsement of Conservation Management Plans.

Strategy 5 - Provide adequate funding for heritage projects and programs.

- The Wollongong Heritage Grant Fund has been increased to an annual funding allocation of \$60,000 per annum plus annual CPI increase for the 2019/2020 financial year and beyond.
- Council has a \$70,000 per annum recurrent budget to support the Heritage Advisor program. Council currently employs Sue Rosen Associates as the Heritage Advisor, to assist with Stage 2 of the Heritage Schedule Review.
- Council was successful in obtaining funding for all financial years from the NSW Heritage funding streams to support the Local Heritage Grant Program and the Heritage Advisor Program.
- Council has applied for a Caring for State Heritage Grant stream for conservation works to significant buildings within the North Beach Precinct (at outcome is still being awaited).

Strategy 6 – Identify and manage key heritage precincts and streetscapes

- Council continues to manage nine Heritage Conservation Areas listed within the Wollongong Local Environmental Plan.
- Council successfully defended a Land and Environment Court appeal against a refusal of the Thirroul Plaza Development that was found to have an unacceptable impact on the Illawarra Escarpment Heritage Conservation Area.

Strategy 7 – Implement heritage education and promotion programs

- The Heritage NSW, Heritage Festival programs developed with brochures produced for promotional events including Heritage tours, Gleniffer Brae events/tours, Puckey's Ghost tours, exhibition, oral history events etc. continued to be supported by Council
- Destination Wollongong and Inside Industry developed a Blue Mile Walking Tour and Port Kembla History Tour with input and assistance from Wollongong Council Staff.
- Various interpretive elements along the Blue Mile have been installed as works progress. An interpretive sign has been prepared for the upgraded North Beach Surf Life Saving Club Building and will be installed in coming months.
- Council's website was updated in 2019 and all heritage pages were updated with user friendly information, including on heritage grants, development applications, nominating local heritage items and Aboriginal cultural heritage information.
- Stream Hill has been endorsed as the preferred name for a proposed new suburb in West Dapto.
- Archaeological open days were held at the Lang's Corner and IMB Development sites.

Strategy 8 – Implement best practice heritage asset management procedures as a positive example to the community.

- The Sandon Point and McCauleys Beach Plan of Management was adopted by the Joint Management Group and Council, and the Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit (AHIP) was obtained

from the Heritage NSW to progress a range of conservation works within the Sandon Point Aboriginal Place.

- A Section 60 Approval under the NSW Heritage Act 1977 and an AHIP under the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 was obtained for the Hill 60 Reserve State Heritage Precinct in 2021 and 2020. Projects included in the Masterplan have been completed including upgrades to Fisherman's Beach Access Track and Eye on the Horizon Artwork. Funding has now been secured from the Port Kembla Community Investment Fund for the construction for Stage 1 of the Masterplan area.
- The Conservation Management Plan for State Heritage listed item Gleniffer Brae was endorsed by Heritage NSW in May 2023.
- A Historic Cemeteries Management Strategy has been prepared for internal staff use and has been reported to the Heritage Reference Group in 2023.
- A Draft Heritage Asset Management Plan has been prepared for internal consultation.

Strategy 9 – Promote sustainable development as a tool for heritage management

- Council continues to offer incentives for the adaptive re-use of heritage buildings, with DA and CC fee reimbursements, Section 7.11/7.12 Fee Waivers, and flexible use provisions under the Local Environmental Plan. Promotion and uptake of these incentives has been increasing with over the implementation period.
- In October 2022 the Illawarra Local Aboriginal Land Council ran a Bushcare Volunteer information session on cultural heritage with Council's Natural Areas Staff and volunteers, which will become regular training.

Draft Heritage Strategy 2023-2027

Conserving and enhancing our city's rich Heritage

June 2023



Wollongong Heritage Strategy 2023-2027

Protecting and conserving
our city's rich Heritage

May 2023

*The Wollongong Heritage
Implementation and Action
Plan (Appendix 1) is intended
to inform Council's Delivery
Program and Operational
Plan. It contains some items
that are subject to the
securing of funding and
grants and will be subject
to regular review and
evaluation based on available
resources, funding and other
operational requirements.*



Cintra, Austinmer

Contents

Background	4
Council's Planning Process	5
Our Heritage	6
Objectives	7
Wollongong Heritage Strategy	8
Strategy 1 - Community Involvement	9
Strategy 2 - Maintain the List of Heritage Items	10
Strategy 3 - Provide Professional Heritage Advice	11
Strategy 4 - Proactively Manage our Heritage	12
Strategy 5 - Fund Heritage Programs	13
Strategy 6 - Identify and Manage our Heritage Places	14
Strategy 7 - Heritage Education and Promotion Programs	15
Strategy 8 - Heritage Asset Management	16
Strategy 9 - Sustainable Development	17
Implementation Plan	19

Background

Development of a Wollongong Heritage Strategy

With the support of the Wollongong Heritage Reference Group, Wollongong City Council has adopted three previous versions of the Wollongong Heritage Strategy for the periods 2011-2014, 2014-2017 and 2019-2022.

The nine strategies outlined have strategic alignment with the NSW State Government requirements and priorities identified by Heritage NSW.

Updating the Heritage Strategy

The Wollongong Heritage Strategy 2023-2027, has been developed following a review of the 2019-2022 Strategy and Implementation Action Plan, with input from the Wollongong Heritage Reference Group, various Council divisions and following a public exhibition process.

This document provides continued direction and guidance to Council in relation to heritage outcomes for the strategy period.

Policy Statement

Wollongong City Council respects and acknowledges those who came before us, the Traditional Custodians of the land on which our City is built, and all of those who have contributed to the City of Wollongong.

We will do this by working with the community to:

- identify; acknowledge;
- conserve; protect;
- document; record;
- interpret; promote; and manage, the significant: places; objects; records; stories; and memorials, of our past, for the benefit, enjoyment, and appreciation of future generations.



Former Church, Scarborough

Council's Integrated Planning Process

Council has an integrated approach to cultural heritage management.

Council's Plans and Strategies work together to make Wollongong a liveable city for all people.

The Wollongong Heritage Strategy 2023-2027 expands on the Heritage aspects of our **Wollongong Community Strategic Plan - Our Wollongong Our Future 2032 (CSP)** and Goal 1 and 4.

Goal 1 - We Value and Protect our Environment

Goal 4 - There is greater awareness and understanding of Local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture, heritage and histories

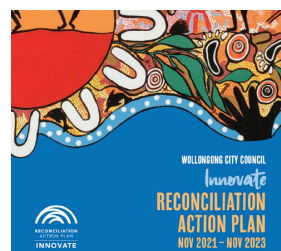
The Wollongong Heritage Strategy 2023-2027 is closely linked to the following supporting documents endorsed by Council, some of which include specific heritage actions:

- > Creative Wollongong Cultural Plan 2019-2024
- > Urban Greening Strategy 2019-2037
- > Reconciliation Action Plan 2021-2023
- > City Centre Urban Design Framework 2019
- > Sustainable Wollongong 2030: A Climate Healthy City Strategy
- > Wollongong Coastal Zone Management Program



Community Strategic Plan

A 10 year plan that identifies our community's priorities and vision for the future



Supporting Documents

A level of interconnected documents that provide further detail about how we are going to achieve positive outcomes for the community



Implementation and Action Plan

Sets out the key priorities for heritage management and includes our approach to implementation

Our Heritage

Wollongong's Heritage

Our History

The Traditional Custodians live and care for Country here in the Illawarra as they have done for thousands of years. In 1815 some of the Illawarra's Traditional Custodians led the first white settlers and their cattle down the escarpment. This marked a new chapter in the story of our area.

Today the knowledge, cultural traditions and dreamings of our Traditional Custodians has been layered with a rich history of timber-getting, farming, coal mining, railway and port building and burgeoning seaside village and holiday communities. All this has occurred in the setting of our beautiful beaches and the magnificent escarpment.

Our Shared Heritage

Wollongong's heritage places include historic buildings, industrial infrastructure, cemeteries, ocean pools and memorials. But our heritage is much more than just architectural forms. Rural lands, mining sites, cultural and natural landscapes of importance to the Aboriginal community are all entwined to form our shared heritage.

Our heritage is the product of thousands of years of Aboriginal custodianship, descendants of the first European settlers and generations of migrants and their families from across the world who moved to the Illawarra and made it their home. It is also continuously evolving as we welcome those drawn to the Illawarra's natural beauty and rich history. This living heritage is a vital part of the cultural fabric that makes up the Illawarra.

These places such as Hill 60 Reserve in Port Kembla, which is listed on the State Heritage Register are significant for their Aboriginal Heritage and shared values.

Our Heritage Places

At the time of adoption of this strategy Council has over 500 heritage sites and cultural landscapes listed in the Wollongong Local Environmental Plan 2009 and through State Environmental Planning Policies.

Of these items, 25 are listed on the NSW State Heritage Register as being items of significance to the state of New South Wales.

Heritage Conservation Areas

There are nine listed Heritage Conservation Areas in the Wollongong Local Government Area:

- Austinmer Conservation Area
- Brownsville Conservation Area
- Bulli Conservation Area
- Old Bulli Conservation Area
- Garrawarra Hospital Conservation Area
- Kembla Heights Mining Village
- Market Street Conservation Area
- North Beach Precinct and Belmore Basin
- Illawarra Escarpment Landscape Area

Declared Aboriginal Places

There are three declared Aboriginal Places under the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 in the Wollongong Local Government Area. These places are Sandon Point Aboriginal Place, Bellambi Point Aboriginal Place and Dharawal Resting Place. Djeera (Mt Keera) and the Five Islands have also been proposed as Aboriginal Places. These Aboriginal Places hold great importance to the Aboriginal Community due to their cultural significance.

"Places of cultural significance enrich people's lives, often providing deep and inspirational sense of connection to community and landscape, to the past and to lived experiences. They are historical records that are important expressions of Australian identity and experience.

These places reflect the diversity of our communities, telling us about who we are and the past that has formed us and the Australian Landscape. They are irreplaceable and precious."

- The Burra Charter

Objectives

There are four key
Objectives that this
Strategy aims to
achieve

- 1 Provide for the long term sustainable management of Wollongong's shared cultural heritage
- 2 Ensure that the Community, including the Wollongong Heritage Reference Group are actively engaged in the development and delivery of Council's heritage policies and priorities
- 3 Provide a formal mechanism for evaluating, and reporting on Council's performance in heritage management
- 4 Provide the supporting policy framework for delivery of the Wollongong's Heritage Implementation Plan 2023-2027



Austinmer Ocean Pool

Our Heritage Strategies

Heritage Strategy

- Strategy 1:** Actively involve the community in the management of Wollongong's heritage;
- Strategy 2:** Maintain an up to date list of heritage items;
- Strategy 3:** Provide qualified and trained people to support the ongoing management of Wollongong's heritage and provide professional planning advice;
- Strategy 4:** Develop and implement programs and projects that aim to achieve proactive heritage management;
- Strategy 5:** Provide funding for heritage projects and programs;
- Strategy 6:** Identify and manage key heritage precincts, streetscapes, cultural and natural landscapes;
- Strategy 7:** Implement heritage education and promotion programs;
- Strategy 8:** Implement best practice heritage asset management procedures as a positive example for the community; and
- Strategy 9:** Promote sustainable development and Caring for Country as tools for heritage management.

Council will strive to achieve its Heritage Policy and Objectives by implementing nine key Heritage Strategies.

Each strategy is linked with a recommendation from the Heritage NSW publication 'Recommendations for Local Council Heritage Management'.



The Imperial Hotel, Clifton

Strategy 1

Actively involve the community in the management of Wollongong's heritage

Heritage NSW Recommendation 1 - 'Establish a Heritage Committee to deal with heritage matters in your local area'

Involving the community in the management of the city's heritage is an essential component of good heritage management. The Wollongong Heritage Reference Group has been convened in numerous formats for a number of decades. The purpose of the Reference Group is to provide community representation and advice in relation to Council's Heritage Management processes.

Council acknowledges that the Heritage Reference Group provides only one means for community involvement in heritage management and that Council must also engage with a diverse cross section of our community in relation to policy decisions that will impact on heritage outcomes.

Council also recognises the need to continually improve our engagement with the local Aboriginal community in relation to Council works projects as well as Council policy programs to build trust and meaningful relationships. Council

has recently developed an Aboriginal Engagement Framework, as part of Council's commitment to engage in a meaningful and consistent way. The Framework is underpinned by local Aboriginal culture, knowledge and heritage.

The Framework can be accessed on Council's website:

https://wollongong.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0027/133785/Aboriginal-Engagement-Framework-accessible.pdf

In recent years, there has been a significant trend within social media toward engagement around issues relating to the history and heritage of Wollongong. Social media provides an opportunity to engage with a broader and younger segment of the community in relation to heritage issues.



Strategy 2

Maintain an up to date list of heritage items

Council has a legislative responsibility to keep a list of its heritage items and places. Council is committed to the ongoing review and update of Schedule 5 of the Wollongong Local Environmental Plan and is focused on ensuring that the Schedule accurately represents those aspects of our City's heritage that are important to the community.

Council is also working to clearly identify and demonstrate the significance of all heritage items through ensuring that the information available on the NSW Heritage Database is accurate and up to date. This database is accessible online by the general public.

Council also acknowledges that there are many sites and places of significance to the local Aboriginal Community that are not listed on Schedule 5 of the Wollongong Local Environmental Plan. These sites fall under the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 and are most appropriately managed by Heritage NSW through the Aboriginal Heritage Information Management Database.

**Heritage NSW
Recommendation
2 - Identify the
heritage items in
your area and list
them in your Local
Environmental Plan**



Sri Venkateswara Hindu Temple, Helensburgh

Strategy 3

Provide qualified and trained people to support the ongoing management of Wollongong's heritage and provide professional planning advice

**Heritage NSW
Recommendation
3 - Appoint a
heritage advisor to
assist the Council,
the community
and owners of
listed heritage
items**

Council will continue to provide a range of heritage services to the community. These services include:

- Heritage planning advice to private heritage owners and general public;
- Advice relating to conservation and adaptive reuse projects;
- Heritage promotion and education programs;
- Providing internal advice on Council projects;
- Continue to grow and maintain the Wollongong Local Studies Library Collection.

Council recognises the importance of providing adequate resources to maintain and deliver these services. Council has two funded full time heritage staff, and continually applies for grant funding from the State Government to contribute to engaging an independent Heritage Advisor.

Council is also committed to the development and implementation of an internal staff training programs as well as the continued implementation of our Reconciliation Action Plan.



Gleniffer Brae, Keiraville (SHR)

Strategy 4

Develop and implement programs and projects that aim to achieve proactive heritage management

Council recognises the importance of proactive heritage management in providing positive heritage outcomes and is committed to the implementation of projects and programs that encourage the active conservation of our City's heritage.

Council aims to achieve this by ensuring that heritage advice and guidance is readily available to the community. Council will continue to promote positive heritage projects through the use of the heritage incentive clauses in the Wollongong Local Environmental Plan.

Council also takes a proactive role in shaping heritage policy and legislation at all levels of government. Council is committed to ensuring that the views of the community, including the local Aboriginal community, are meaningfully represented as part of significant legislative reviews.

Council is committed to maintaining open and effective working relationships with other government agencies including the National Parks and Wildlife Service, Heritage NSW as well as community organisations such as the Illawarra Shoalhaven Branch of the National Trust, Illawarra Historical Society and the Illawarra Local Aboriginal Land Council and our Traditional Custodians to implement cross organisational projects.

**Heritage NSW
Recommendation
4 - Manage local
heritage in a
positive manner**



Former Bulli Guesthouse, Bulli following adaptive reuse project

Strategy 5

Provide funding for heritage projects and programs

**Heritage NSW
Recommendation
5 - Introduce a
local heritage grant
fund to provide
small grants to
encourage local
heritage projects**

Council recognises the importance of funding to support community based and individual Heritage projects as well as to manage our own Heritage assets. Providing funding for a range of projects allows Council to achieve positive heritage outcomes that benefit the entire community. Council is committed to providing assistance to support the delivery of this Strategy and the associated Implementation Plan.

Council has run a successful local heritage grant program for the past 15 years and will continue to support local heritage owners to achieve positive conservation outcomes. Council will also continue to actively pursue available heritage funding from other levels of government, including Heritage NSW Local Government Heritage Grants program.



Coral Vale Dairy Building Adaptive Reuse, Smiths Lane Wongawilli

Strategy 6

Identify and manage key heritage precincts, streetscapes, cultural and natural landscapes

The identification and management of historic precincts and streetscapes is recognised by Council as an important component of heritage management, as well as being interlinked with principles of urban design and strategic planning.

Council also recognises that some of our valued rural landscapes such as the West Dapto Precinct and historic industrial sites including former Collieries and Coke Works are undergoing significant change. As Council delivers green and brownfield urban release areas it is important that heritage values be managed as part of new development.

Council is committed to managing our highly significant Aboriginal Places, cultural landscapes and environmental heritage. Council recognises the significance of both the tangible and intangible values associated with cultural landscapes such

as Sandon Point, Hill 60 and the Illawarra Escarpment that are entwined with the environmental values of these places. It is recognised that all of these places together form interconnected and layered cultural landscapes, which traverse suburb and Local Government Area boundaries and should be managed holistically.

Council is committed to ensuring heritage is a key consideration of town and village planning, neighbourhood planning, and master planning for public places and significant sites with recognised heritage values.

**Heritage NSW
Recommendation
6 - Run a heritage
main street
program**



View of the Illawarra Escarpment and West Dapto Urban Release Area

Strategy 7

Implement heritage education and promotion programs that celebrate our shared history and culture

Heritage NSW Recommendation 7 - Present educational and promotional programs

Council recognises that our heritage places and sites, particularly the Illawarra Escarpment, Wollongong Harbour Precinct and North Beach Precinct as well as a wide range of other significant places, are unique assets to the community that provide opportunities for education, cultural tourism and the ongoing economic development of the region.

Council recognises that educating and promoting our heritage to the community and visitors to our Local Government Area is an important part of proactive heritage management. For this reason Council has committed to the ongoing presentation of education and promotion programs for all ages, related to our shared heritage such as the National Trust Heritage Festival and World Environment Day events.

These programs include an ongoing education program for Council staff, a commitment to ongoing support for local heritage events and festivals, as well as history and heritage tours such as the Blue Mile Walking Tour developed in partnership with Destination Wollongong.

It is also recognised that Council should support the local Aboriginal community to develop and benefit from educational and tourism opportunities, where culturally appropriate, to ensure our rich Aboriginal heritage and culture is shared and celebrated.

It is important to acknowledge that increased tourism can have an impact on cultural values and sensitive ecological areas that must be appropriately managed.



Blue Mile Heritage Walking Tour, Wollongong (Image: Destination Wollongong)

Strategy 8

Implement best practice heritage asset management procedures as a positive example for the community

Council is responsible for the management of over 30 heritage listed buildings, more than 20 heritage listed parks and recreation areas, eight cemeteries, as well as many other heritage items including trees and landscapes, monuments/memorials, ocean pools, historic roads and rail alignments.

In addition to these, Council also maintains a number of assets that have cultural significance but may not be listed as heritage items on the Wollongong Local Environmental Plan 2009. These sites include a wide range of Aboriginal sites and places of cultural significance to the local Aboriginal community.

Additional heritage assets, including archaeological sites, trees and parks along with interpretive elements and places of Aboriginal Heritage significance are increasingly being dedicated to Council for management predominantly through greenfield development of the West Dapto Urban Release Area.

It is important that Council puts in place procedures and processes to ensure that it proactively manages our heritage assets. Best practice heritage management benefits our local community by ensuring our shared history, our iconic public buildings as well as our cultural landscapes are cared for into the future and are accessible for the community.

Heritage NSW Recommendation 8 - Set a good example to the community by properly managing heritage places owned or operated by the council



Glengarry, current used as Wollongong Council waste management centre

Strategy 9

Promote sustainable development and Caring for Country as tools for heritage management

Heritage NSW Recommendation 9 - Promote sustainable development as a tool for heritage management

Council acknowledges that Aboriginal Cultural Heritage is intrinsic to the Illawarra Landscape and our rich variety of flora and fauna. Involving our Aboriginal community in Caring for Country, through implementation of sustainable environmental management is essential to the ongoing management of our significant Cultural Landscapes.

Due to the unique topography of the Wollongong Local Government Area, we acknowledge that climate change poses a significant risk for many of our significance places, particularly those located along the coastline and in flood affected areas. Council is committed to science based planning for future impacts such as erosion of Aboriginal Cultural Heritage sites and inundation of built heritage in coastal areas in consultation with the community.

Council also recognises that the conservation of heritage sites supports the underlying principles of environmentally sustainable development (ESD). Council supports the principles of ESD through the Heritage Incentives clause in the Wollongong Local Environmental Plan that encourage adaptive re-use of heritage buildings and the waiver of development application fees where conservation outcomes are achieved.

Council also acknowledges that opportunities to allow heritage buildings to meet modern sustainability outcomes are increasing through the development of new technologies. These innovations can be balanced with the heritage significance of these sites through appropriate management and decision making, with support and guidance from Council.



Illawarra Local Aboriginal Land Council and WCC undertaking erosion protection works at Bellambi Harbour

Delivery of this Strategy

Implementation Plan

To ensure the successful delivery of the Wollongong Heritage Strategy 2023-2027 the following Implementation Plan has been developed. The Implementation Plan and associated actions are provided as Appendix 1 to the Strategy.

Under each Strategy Council undertakes a number of activities as part of its core business. These are identified in the Implementation Plan, however are not actions for completion.

The Implementation Plan are intended to guide Council in the delivery of the nine strategies detailed in this Policy

Port Kembla Pool (Image Dee Kramer)

Do you have a question for Wollongong City Council?

Phone: (02) 4227 7111

For the hearing impaired: 13 36 77 (Australian Communication Exchange)

Email: Council@wollongong.nsw.gov.au

Please provide written feedback to:

Online:

www.wollongong.nsw.gov.au

Fax: (02) 4227 7277

The General Manager

Locked Bag 8821

WOLLONGONG DC NSW 2500

Australia

Attachment 1: Draft Implementation Plan

Strategy 1 - Actively Involved the community in the management of Wollongong's heritage

Core Business

Hold bi-monthly meetings of the Aboriginal Reference Group and ensure key Aboriginal heritage policy issues are discussed.

Hold quarterly meetings of the Wollongong Heritage Reference Group.

Monitor the implementation of the Heritage Strategy 2023-2027 by undertaking annual reviews of performance against the strategy and implementation plan.

Continue to implement the Aboriginal Community Engagement Framework across Council Project.

Continue to deliver Council's Reconciliation Action Plan and acknowledge the important connections between reconciliation and the recognition of our Aboriginal Cultural Heritage.

Strategy 1 - Implementation Actions

	Action	Responsibility	Resourced
1.1	Explore potential procurement procedures to encourage engagement of Aboriginal contractors for works on key Aboriginal sites.	Heritage and Procurement Staff	Yes
1.2	Conduct reviews of the Wollongong Heritage Reference Group in accordance with the Reference Group Charter as required to ensure the purpose, membership and operation of the Reference Group is effective.	Heritage Staff	Yes
1.3	Explore funding opportunities to develop a Walking on Country pilot program. See Action 9.2 of the Reconciliation Action Plan	Heritage Staff & Community and Cultural Services	No

Strategy 2 - Maintain an up to date list of heritage items

Core Business

Continue to acknowledge the Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System as the key register of Aboriginal Heritage places and sites.

Where sites are identified through planning processes, development applications or heritage studies as being of State Heritage significance, prepare State Heritage nominations for these sites.

Undertake bi-annual reviews to monitor and maintain the schedule of heritage items listed in Wollongong's planning instruments

Strategy 2 - Implementation Actions

	Action	Responsibility	Resourced
2.1	Finalise Stage 2 of the Wollongong Heritage Schedule Review and update the State Heritage Inventory Database accordingly	Heritage and Procurement Staff	Yes
2.2	Explore funding opportunities with the Illawarra Local Aboriginal Land Council to develop a community led Strategic Aboriginal Cultural Heritage studies for the Wollongong Local Government Area to inform Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment priorities and significant Cultural Heritage places and sites	Heritage Staff	No

Strategy 3 - Provide qualified and trained people to support the ongoing management of Wollongong's heritage and provide professional heritage planning advice

Core Business

Develop and implement regular in-house heritage training for Council staff, Councillors and Heritage Reference Group Members to encourage and facilitate a collaborative and cross division approach to heritage management.

Continue to grow, maintain and make accessible the Wollongong Local Studies Library Collection, including acquiring deposits of all complete heritage studies and report.

Prepare and assess Interim Heritage Order requests under delegation from the NSW Heritage Council in accordance with Council's delegations.

Provide professional heritage referral advice in relation to development applications and engage with key community groups (including the ILALC, The Illawarra Historical Society, the Illawarra Shoalhaven Branch of the National Trust) and provide opportunity for their input into development applications with potential heritage impacts.

Identify, investigate and enforce compliance matters relating to illegal development involving heritage places.

Strategy 3 - Implementation Actions

	Action	Responsibility	Resourced
3.1	Explore funding opportunities for the employment of an Aboriginal Heritage role within Council	Heritage and Procurement Staff	Yes

Strategy 4 - Implement programs and projects that aim to achieve pro-active heritage management

Core Business

Continue to provide Heritage comments and input into the State Government's Draft Aboriginal Heritage legislative Reforms.

Provide Conservation Incentives for appropriate development to heritage properties through the Conservation Incentives clause in the Wollongong Local Environmental Plan 2009

Strategy 4 - Implementation Actions			
	Action	Responsibility	Resourced
4.1	Undertake a review of Chapter E11: Heritage Conservation of the Wollongong Development Control Plan 2009	Heritage Staff	No
4.2	Review Chapter E10: Aboriginal Heritage of the Wollongong Development Control Plan 2009	Heritage Staff	No
4.3	Develop a management policy for moveable heritage items and develop a list of significant moveable heritage within the city	Heritage Staff	No
4.4	Run a Local Heritage Grant program for local conservation projects	Heritage Staff	Yes
4.5	Continue to work with our local museums to support the management of their historic collections (See item 3.4.3 of the Cultural Plan to be reviewed in 2024).	Heritage Staff Community & Cultural Services	Yes

Strategy 5 - Provide funding for heritage project and programs

Core Business

Provide a local heritage grant fund for local conservation projects.

Continue to fund a consultant Heritage Advisor to support the role of Council's Heritage staff.

Provide Conservation Incentives for appropriate development to heritage properties through the Conservation Incentives clause in the Wollongong Local Environmental Plan 2009.

Strategy 4 - Implementation Actions

	Action	Responsibility	Resourced
5.1	Continue to seek funding to support a Heritage Advisor position and Council's Local Heritage Grant program through the NSW Heritage fund	Heritage Staff	Yes
5.2	Actively pursue grant funding for heritage projects through available programs when they arise	Heritage Staff	Yes

4

Strategy 6 - Identify and manage key heritage precincts, streetscape, cultural and natural landscapes

Core Business

Continue to acknowledge and identify Heritage Conservation Areas and key cultural, rural, industrial and natural landscapes as part of Council's Heritage Review and through town and village planning studies, planning proposals and other strategic planning processes

Strategy 6 - Implementation Actions

	Action	Responsibility	Resourced
6.1	Explore funding opportunities to develop an Archaeological Zoning Plan for the City (particularly the CBD) and implement procedures through appropriate development controls/mapping	Heritage Staff	Yes
6.2	Explore funding opportunities to develop an Industrial Heritage Study to identify key industrial sites	Heritage Staff	Yes

4

Strategy 7 - Implement heritage education and promotion projects

Core Business

Support local events and festivals which celebrate aspects of Wollongong's Heritage.

Maintain a heritage section on Council's website and provide a user friendly resource of heritage information/guidelines and publications including through the use of social media.

Strategy 7 - Implementation Actions			
	Action	Responsibility	Resourced
7.1	Seek funding to support the development and implementation of a signage strategy for the identification of Heritage Conservation Areas.	Heritage Staff	Yes
7.2	Implement the remaining recommended Heritage Interpretation Works contained within the Blue Mile Heritage Interpretation Strategy	Heritage Staff	Yes
7.3	Develop a Heritage Interpretation Strategy for the Grand Pacific Walk	Heritage Staff ISP	Yes

8

Strategy 8 - Implement best practice heritage asset management procedures as a positive example for the community

Core Business

Incorporate Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal heritage considerations in the planning process for Council works projects and development of Council's Town and Village Planning studies.

Seek independent external heritage advice where appropriate.

Strategy 8 - Implementation Actions			
	Action	Responsibility	Resourced
8.1	Finalise and Implement the Wollongong Heritage Asset Management Strategy for Council's Heritage Assets	Heritage Staff	Yes
8.2	Consider options for the use of the Bulli Miners Cottage property	Heritage Staff	No
8.3	Implement the outcomes of the Hill 60 Masterplan in accordance with the relevant approvals and in consultation with the local Aboriginal community and other stakeholders	Heritage Staff ISP Engagement	Yes
8.4	Prepare a conservation management plan for the Fortifications in the Wollongong Harbour State Heritage Precinct and explore options for their future activation.	Heritage Staff ISP	Yes
8.5	Implement the outcomes of the Sandon Point Aboriginal Place Plan of Management and AHIP in consultation with the local Aboriginal community and other stakeholders.	Heritage Staff ISP Engagement	Yes

4

Strategy 9 - Promote sustainable development and Caring for Country as tools for heritage management

Core Business

Actively encourage the adaptive reuse of heritage sites and offer incentives to this end, including waiver of Development Application & Construction Certificate Fees and Section 94 Contributions and free pre lodgement advice for adaptive re-use projects.

Support Natural Area Management, including 'Bushcare' and similar programs that enhance, reinstate and support 'natural' heritage environments and Places of Aboriginal Heritage significance, and involve Aboriginal workers in these projects where possible.

Carefully consider the potential for Cultural Heritage impacts from climate change in the development and implementation of our coastal management plans and programs.

Strategy 9 - Implementation Actions			
	Action	Responsibility	Resourced
9.1	Develop guidelines and policies related to the provision of solar panels, solar hot water systems, water tanks and other technologies aimed at improving sustainability of heritage buildings	Heritage Staff	Yes

10