

NARRABRI SHIRE COUNCIL HERITAGE STRATEGY 2017- 2020



Responsible Department: Development and Economic Growth
Responsible Section: Planning and Regulatory Services
Responsible Officer: Manager Planning and Regulatory Services

Objective

The purpose of this document is to provide a triannual summary of the strategies Narrabri Shire Council (Council) will employ to guide heritage management for financial years 2017-2020.

Within the substantial Narrabri rural hinterland are the villages of Baan Baa, Bellata, Boggabri, Edgeroi, Gwabegar, Pilliga, and Wee Waa. There are also extensive nature conservation areas and Aboriginal sites.

Introduction

This Heritage Strategy seeks to: -

- a) Increase participation, awareness and appreciation of heritage by all sectors of the community;
- b) Increase understanding of heritage management within the community, the Council and its staff;
- c) Increased understanding and proactive management of the Shire's various types of heritages and implementation of urban design; and
- d) Ensure heritage is integral to cultural tourism and sustainable development.

Preparation of this Heritage Strategy meets the requirements of the New South Wales (NSW) Heritage Office and to fulfil funding agreements that support local government heritage management in NSW.

The NSW Heritage Office publication *'Eight suggestions on how local councils can promote heritage conservation'* and the annual reporting criteria were used to prepare this heritage strategy.

Implementation of this Heritage Strategy will be the responsibility of the Development and Economic Growth Department of Council and any Narrabri Shire Council Heritage Advisor/s. The Heritage Advisor will be responsible for review of the Heritage Strategy in accordance with NSW Heritage Office guideline updates.

Policy

1.0 Caring for Narrabri Shire Heritage: Conservation and Maintenance

Aim:

- To promote and encourage the conservation and maintenance of the Shires' heritage.
- To encourage the community to be actively involved in the conservation and promotion of the Shire's heritage.

Action:

- To apply for, and offer the community, a Heritage Advisory Service.
- To consider a Small Grants Heritage Fund to encourage owners to undertake conservation and maintenance works.
- To facilitate and support the establishment of Heritage Working Groups.
- To promote and assist good heritage practice amongst various representative groups and managers involved with heritage places.

2.0 Knowing Narrabri Shire heritage: Education and Community Awareness

Aim:

- To raise community awareness, knowledge and proactive management on issues related to heritage conservation and management within the Shire.

Action:

- To work with community groups to promote and have an active part of the annual Heritage Festival each April.
- To provide support and liaison with community groups and those involved in the Shire's heritage places.
- To provide opportunities to Council staff to learn about relevant heritage related matters and to provide in-house information to staff about best practice.
- To assist Council and the wider communities in conserving local village places, such as cemeteries, churches and halls, and provide timely advice and management assistance, such as maintenance plans.

3.0 Valuing Narrabri Shire Assets: Identification and Protection

Aim:

- To identify and protect all buildings and places within the Shire considered to be of heritage significance.
- To ensure the community understands and cares for its heritage.

Action:

- To progressively update the Narrabri State Heritage Inventory [SHI] data base and periodic assessment of nominations.
- To provide assistance to the NSW Heritage Office in the identification and listing of state significant places on the State Heritage Register.
- To promote and develop brochures on a range of heritage conservation issues for the community and visitors
- To develop a section on Council's website dedicated to heritage within the Shire.
- To continually upgrade information on the heritage section of Council's web site, with links to other relevant web sites.

4.0 Council Proactively Conserving and Managing its Heritage Assets

Aim:

- To ensure the Council is taking leadership in the responsible management of the Shire's heritage assets.

Action:

- Encourage annual works budgets to cover heritage asset maintenance and repairs.
- Review Plans of Management where appropriate to ensure heritage matters are addressed.
- Investigate preparation of a Council Outdoor Staff Heritage Policy or procedure:
 - to ensure that staff are aware of any histories, sites or features that may be included in future works programs, and
 - to encourage works crews to notify key Council Officers of any items of significance, identified such as within road reserved or public open spaces.
- To identify sites where interpretive signage could be prepared to convey the historic significance.
- To support Council staff in implementing relevant aspects of heritage management within the Shire.
- Ensure relevant Council Officers have skills appropriate for the effective management of cultural heritage.
- To monitor the condition of Council owned heritage places consistent with the requirements of conservation management plans and strategies.

5.0 Cultural Tourism Development

Aim:

- To promote and integrate heritage into cultural tourism programmes and opportunities.
- To create vibrant, attractive and welcoming main streets in Narrabri and the Shire's villages

Action:

- To participate in developing tourism opportunities.
- To consider a main street programme in Narrabri and key villages.
- To promote and identify new opportunities for cultural heritage tourism in co-operation with the Narrabri Visitor Information Centre.
- To compile Narrabri heritage routes.
- To seek funding opportunities for heritage tourism projects.

6.0 Promoting Sustainable Development as a Tool for Heritage Conservation

Aim:

- To encourage practical approaches to heritage conservation.
- To support sustainable development and best practice urban design.

Action:

- Work with property owners and applicants to:
 - Encourage the adaptive re-use of heritage structures, rather than demolition.
 - Encourage re-generation projects and urban design inclusive of heritage.
 - Ensure infill development meets accepted sustainability requirements.
- Encourage and provide pre DA advice on sustainability e.g. for buildings.
- Provide learning opportunities for sustainability and heritage to Councillors, staff, owners and the community.

7.0 Development assessment and urban design

Aim:

- To provide policies to assist when assessing applications having heritage and urban design aspects.
- To encourage an on-going dialogue about urban design with Council staff and the community.

Action:

- To provide free heritage and urban design advice to owners and applicants.
- To encourage pre-application advice on heritage and urban design issues.
- Where appropriate seek the Council’s Heritage Adviser input.
- To flag places having heritage values on the Council database, so that heritage related issues are noted at pre-lodgement and assessment.

8.0 Aboriginal Heritage

Aim:

- To provide policies and plans appropriate to the assessment of sites and places of Aboriginal heritage significance.

Action:

- To encourage an Aboriginal representative member on any Heritage Working Groups.
- To consider, in consultation with community representatives, including sites and places of Aboriginal heritage significance on the Shire Local Environmental Plan (LEP) Schedule 5 Environmental Heritage.
- To consider nominations for the NSW State Heritage Register.
- To consider undertaking a Narrabri Shire Aboriginal Heritage Study.

References

- The New South Wales Office of Environment and Heritage
- Sue Jackson-Stepowski, Principal Jackson-Stepowski Heritage Planning

History

MINUTE NUMBER:	MEETING DATE:	DESCRIPTION OF CHANGE: