

Background

All local authorities in Western Australia are required under section 103 of the Heritage Act 2018 to prepare a Local Heritage Survey (or LHS) and review and update the document on a regular basis.

The purposes of a LHS by a local government include:

- (a) identifying and prepared recording places that are, or may become, of cultural heritage significance in its district;
- (b) assisting the local government in making and implementing decisions that are in harmony with cultural heritage values;
- (c) providing a cultural and historical record of its district;
- (d) providing an accessible public record of places of cultural heritage significance to its district;
- (e) assisting the local government in preparing a heritage list or list of heritage areas under a local planning scheme.

The original Shire of West Arthur Municipal Heritage Inventory was prepared in 1997 and reviewed in 2009.

The 2022 review has been undertaken in consideration of the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage's guidelines; Criteria for the assessment of local heritage places and areas as recommended in State Planning Policy 3.5 Historic Heritage Conservation.

For each place deemed to be of heritage value, a level of significance and consequent category has been applied. The places with the highest level of significance are recommended for inclusion in the Shire of West Arthur's Heritage List that provides policies and the provisions of the Local Planning Scheme for future conservation. Of the 141 identified places (including sites) identified in the Local Heritage Survey, one place is State Registered: Category 1 and two places are listed as an Interim State Register listing.

Cultural Heritage Significance

Places having cultural heritage significance are important to the community as tangible expressions of their history and identity. They include a diverse range of places (such as buildings, groups of buildings or precincts, structures, landscapes, cemeteries or archaeological and historical sites) that can both individually and collectively tell us about the past that has helped to form the local and broader community.

Typically, they relate to places that have been developed or significantly modified by human activity, but may also include natural landscapes or features where these have been associated with significant historical activities or events (such as local picnic sites, water holes and temporary settlements, etc).

Heritage is important to understand the history, identity and diversity of a local community, often within the context of Western Australia.

When considered together with objects and artefacts, documentary records, works of art, and furniture (commonly referred to as moveable cultural heritage) and with intangible heritage (such as folklore, ideas and memories, skills and practice), these places can enrich people's lives by providing a sense of connection to community and landscape, to the past and to lived experiences.

Assessment of Cultural Heritage

Every place previously listed in the 2008 review of the Heritage inventory has been assessed within the Heritage Council's guidelines; Criteria for the assessment of local heritage places and areas. The four criteria for the assessment are:

- Aesthetic value;
- Historic value;
- Research value; and
- Social value.

The Degree of Significance is then assessed using specific criteria of Rarity, Representativeness, Condition, Integrity and Authenticity.

Management Categories

The assigned Management Categories recognise the varying degrees of importance and intactness of heritage places and provide recommendations to the Shire as to the kind of care that should be taken for each place if the cultural heritage values are to be retained.

- ❖ Category 1 is for places of exceptional significance that are essential to the heritage of the locality.
- ❖ Category 2 is for places of considerable significance that are very important to the heritage of the locality.
- ❖ Category 3 is for places of moderate significance. These contribute to the heritage of the locality but have some altered or modified elements, not necessarily detracting from the overall significance of the item.
- ❖ Category 4 is for places of minor significance, which have some community interest to the history/heritage of the locality.

Local Heritage Listing and Protection

Whilst the Local Heritage Survey provides important recognition and provides documentary evidence of individual places to the local community, these heritage values do not have any statutory protection unless the places are also included in a statutory Local Heritage List or within a Heritage Area, adopted under the operative local planning scheme and/or listed in the State Register of Heritage Places.

Places designated as Management Category 1 or Category 2 are automatically included in the Local Heritage List referenced under the provisions of Local Planning Scheme No. 2. **Alteration or development of Category 1 and 2 places requires a planning approval from the Shire.**

The conservation and development principles to be applied by the Shire of West Arthur are detailed in State Planning Policy 3.5 Historic Heritage Conservation, with the objectives of this policy being:

- To conserve places and areas of historic heritage significance.
- To ensure that development does not adversely affect the significance of heritage places and areas. □ To ensure

that heritage significance at both the State and local levels is given due weight in planning decision-making.

- To provide improved certainty to landowners and the community about the planning processes for heritage identification, conservation and protection.

Places included in Management Categories 3 or 4 may be significantly modified or demolished subject to normal Shire approvals, however photographic and/or written records of the physical elements or historic information relating to the place may be necessary.

Local Planning Policy No 3

Local Planning Policy No3 has been prepared to provide guidance on how the Shire of West Arthur will administer the town planning controls relating to heritage places.

Ownership and Public Access

Inclusion in the Local Heritage List or Local Heritage Survey does not affect ownership and/or permit public access to a private property. A recognised place remains the property of the landowner/manager and normal access arrangements will remain.

Further Information

Any queries regarding the Local Heritage Lists or Local Heritage Survey should be directed to the Shire's Project Officer on telephone no 9736 2222 or email shire@westarthur.wa.gov.au