

WOLLONGONG HERITAGE STRATEGY 2015-2017

SUMMARY OF KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

Introduction

This document provides a brief summary of key outcomes and achievements implemented under the Wollongong Heritage Strategy 2015-2017 and the associated operational delivery plan, the Heritage Implementation Plan 2015-2017. It is noted that this document only highlights the more significant achievements.

These 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.

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

- Wollongong Heritage Advisory Committee continued to meet bimonthly throughout the period up until the election on 9 September 2017. 9 regular bi-monthly meetings were held during the two year implementation period.
- The Committee provided advice and input on a wide range of Council projects and policies.
- The Sandon Point Joint Management Partnership met regularly and finalised the Sandon Point Joint Management Agreement. The Management Partnership continues to meet regularly to support decision making.

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

- Council continues to manage a heritage list of approximately 500 heritage items.
- The Heritage Schedule Review Project is progressing –Heritage Inventory Forms have been revised and made available online within the NSW Heritage Inventory for all 500 existing items.
- Over 100 nominated potential heritage items have been preliminarily reviewed and inventory forms completed. Councillors were briefed on the progression of the Heritage Schedule Review Project in late 2018 and the project will be the subject of a Council report in late 2019.

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 now employs a full time Heritage Coordinator and a Heritage Officer.
- Heritage staff completed over 500 development referrals, attended 60 formal pre-lodgement meetings, provided advice to 20+ investigations of illegal works to heritage items, and provided heritage input to 200+ REFs for Council’s capital and operational projects.
- Council’s Museum Advisor continued to provide advice to Council and the Illawarra Museum Network under a joint funding arrangement with Museums and Galleries NSW.

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

- The Wollongong Local Heritage Grant Fund provided \$90,000 (\$30,000 per year) in funding support toward 17 heritage projects with a total work value of over \$350,000.
- Waiver of DA fees was provided to 20+ (Checking with John Wood) heritage conservation projects.

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 has been successful in obtaining funding for the 2015/16 and 2017/18 financial years from the Office of Environment and Heritage funding streams to support the Local Heritage Grant Program and the Heritage Advisor Program.

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.
- The Sandon Point Plan and McCauleys Beach of Management was adopted by the Joint Management Group and the Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit (AHIP) has now been obtained from the Office of Environment and Heritage to progress a range of conservation works within the Sandon Point Aboriginal Place.
- The Hill 60 Masterplan was adopted by Council. A draft Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report and draft Conservation Management Plan for the Hill 60/MM Beach State Heritage Precinct is currently being finalised to support the progression of approvals.
- The draft Conservation Management Plan for State Heritage listed item Gleniffer Brae is in the process of being finalised by Council.

Strategy 7 – Implement heritage education and promotion programs

- Delivery of the Wollongong Tramway and North Beach Kiosk Heritage Interpretation material was finalised.
- The Puckey's Estate Heritage Interpretation Plan was finalised.
- Virtual Museum platform "Wollongong Heritage and Stories" was established in 2016.
- Heritage Festival programs developed with brochures produced for promotional events including Heritage tours, Gleniffer Brae events/tours, Puckey's Ghost tours, exhibitions etc.
- Wollongong Heritage Trail and Wollongong Museum Trail brochures are regularly distributed from Destination Wollongong and elsewhere.

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

- Heritage advice was provided in relation to over 200 Council projects.
- Initial Conservation works to Bulli Miners Cottage completed.
- The call for proposals for the adaptive re-use of the Bulli Miners Club were finalised by Council. Negotiations have been continuing with the preferred proposal.

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 20 projects utilising these incentives during the implementation period.