

City of Greater Geraldton Council Policy

1.3 HERITAGE

SUSTAINABILITY THEME

Community

OBJECTIVES

The overall aim of this policy is to highlight the importance of heritage to the identity and character of the City, while providing guidance for the protection, conservation and enhancement of the City's identified places of cultural heritage significance.

Specifically, Council Policy 1.3 Heritage:

- Provides for the establishment of the Heritage Advisory Committee, whereby advice and recommendations may be made to Council on the development of heritage assets, services and facilities, and contemporary heritage issues within the City;
- Promotes a wider appreciation of the region's heritage and its value in cultural, educational and economic terms; and
- Creates a structured long term approach to the delivery and management of heritage services and City owned heritage assets by following recommendations set in the *City of Greater Geraldton Heritage Strategy*.

POLICY STATEMENT

This policy applies to members of the Heritage Advisory Committee and to employees of the City of Greater Geraldton.

POLICY DETAILS

The *Heritage Act 2018* and associated Regulations, along with adopted planning schemes, provide clear policies and guidelines which provide the legislative framework for the City's statutory obligations.

The *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972* protects all Aboriginal Heritage sites in Western Australia, whether or not they are registered with the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage.

The City of Greater Geraldton wishes to be the exemplar local government in the Midwest Region of Western Australia in relation to heritage management. The City values our cultural heritage and our creative community.

Our residents have a strong sense of belonging and value our region as a unique location to live and work. The historic fabric of the Greater Geraldton area is well recognized for its important contributory role in the story of Western Australia, and that its significance warrants protection for future generations.

Principles of sustainability will guide current heritage management decisions to help retain a rich variety of social, economic and environmental outcomes.

To assist this, Council Policy CP 1.3 Heritage aligns with the *City of Greater Geraldton Heritage Strategy* which provides a number of prioritised actions, based around the themes of *knowing, protecting, supporting and communicating*. The Heritage Advisory Committee will base its recommendations to Council on those prioritised actions as outlined by the Heritage Strategy.

In addition, this Policy recognises that the Local Heritage Survey (LHS) (formerly known as the Municipal Inventory) as adopted by Council on 15 December 2015 (Item DRS241) as the Heritage List, or any subsequent updated version, will guide the identification and recording of places that are, or that might become, of cultural heritage significance.

The LHS is a starting resource for local heritage planning and in itself has no statutory role. The LHS helps local governments make decisions that reflect local heritage values, and supports the creation of a heritage list or heritage areas, which identify places to be protected under the local planning scheme.

The City recognises the use of the HERCON factors to assess cultural heritage significance. HERCON is based on the values of the *Burra Charter (Australia ICOMOS Charter for Places of Cultural Significance, The Burra Charter, 2013)*.

KEY TERM DEFINITION

Heritage means something inherited from the past and valued enough today to leave for future generations (National Trust of Western Australia). Heritage encompasses natural, historic and Aboriginal tangible and intangible elements. Heritage is expressed through places – buildings, landscapes, public parks and gardens, archaeology, infrastructure, monuments and public art. It is also represented in objects, artefacts, archives, photographs, maps, drawings; as well as our traditions, events and celebrations, people's memories, artist's expressions, Dreaming stories and the more subtle marks of past people and their cultures (*CGG Heritage Strategy 2017-2022*, p. 6).

HERCON Criteria means national criteria for the assessment of heritage significance adopted by Environment Protection and Heritage Council of the Australia and State/Territory Governments in April 2008.

ICOMOS means International Council on Monuments and Sites which is a non-government, not for profit organisation of cultural heritage professionals. The mission of the Australia ICOMOS branch is to lead cultural heritage conservation by raising standards, encouraging debate and generating innovative ideas.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Heritage Advisory Committee will use this policy in their consideration of heritage matters, when engaging with key stakeholders regarding heritage matters and when providing advice and recommendations to Council for the progress of this Policy.

Employees of the City will ensure their actions and activities are consistent with this Policy as well as the Heritage Strategy, in accordance with budget adopted by Council.

WORKPLACE INFORMATION

Heritage Act 2018

Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972

Heritage Council of WA Strategic Plan 2019-2023

Heritage Advisory Committee Terms of Reference

City of Greater Geraldton Heritage Strategy, 2017-2022

Australia ICOMOS Charter for Places of Cultural Significance (The Burra Charter), 2013

National Standards for Australian Museums and Galleries (Version 1.5, 2016)

POLICY ADMINISTRATION

Directorate		Officer	Review Cycle	Next Due
Development and Community Services		Manager Libraries, Heritage and Gallery	Biennial	2024
Version	Decision Reference	Synopsis		
4.	DCS535 25/10/2022	Policy Review		