

# **Warrumbungle Shire Heritage Strategy 2014-2017**

## **Introduction**

This Heritage Strategy for 2014-2017 has been prepared to meet the requirements of the Heritage Branch, Office of Environment & Heritage Three Year funding agreement to support local government heritage management in NSW.

Warrumbungle Shire includes the townships of Coonabarabran, Coolah Baradine, Binnaway, Dunedoo, Leadville and Mendooran, and numerous other localities and villages including Cobborah, Goolhi, Kenebri, Rocky Glen and Uarbry. The shire also includes extensive nature conservation areas including parts of Warrumbungle National Park, Coolah Tops, and the Pilliga National Park and related nature reserves. It also includes the scientifically important Siding Springs Observatory and Anglo-Australian Telescope.

The Warrumbungle Shire Heritage Strategy contains a series of objectives designed to ensure the effective management of the shire's cultural heritage. The strategy covers the following key performance areas and outcomes proposed by the Heritage Branch, Office of Environment & Heritage:

1. Caring for our heritage.
  - Increased community participation, awareness and appreciation of heritage
  - Increased community participation, and proactive heritage urban design and management
  - Proactive heritage and urban design management
  - Increased community participation, and proactive conservation and management of heritage
  - Council, owners and the community actively participate in active, attractive and well managed heritage main streets
  - Council proactively conserves and manages its heritage assets,
  - Proactive heritage and sustainable development within the Council area.
2. Knowing and valuing our heritage
  - Suggested knowledge and proactive management of heritage
3. Valuing our heritage
  - Increased awareness and appreciation of heritage by the Council, owners and the community
  - Proactive heritage and sustainable development

Implementation of the Heritage Strategy will be the responsibility of relevant Council Managers and the Warrumbungle Shire Heritage Advisor. The Heritage Advisor will be responsible for review of the Heritage Strategy.

## **1. Caring for our heritage**

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### **1.1 Increased community participation, awareness and appreciation of heritage**

**Aim:**

To encourage the community to be actively involved in the conservation and promotion of the cultural heritage of the Warrumbungle Shire.

**Actions:**

- Prepare and adopt a Council heritage policy.
  - Maintain a list of suitably qualified heritage consultants.
  - Maintain a list of suppliers to support heritage management.
  - Promote good heritage practice among community groups and managers of heritage items.
  - Assist community groups to properly manage heritage places under their control by providing timely advice and assistance with management planning.
  - Maintain and promote a local heritage fund to assist owners of heritage items in conserving their places of significance.
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### **1.2 Increased community participation, and proactive heritage urban design and management**

**Aim:**

To encourage an ongoing dialogue between Council and the community regarding urban design and management of streetscapes in the Warrumbungle Shire.

**Actions:**

- Provide free advice to property owners, including on-site consultations as required.
- Provide heritage/urban design advice to Council and property developers.
- Provide advice on heritage/urban design issues prior to Development Applications being prepared.
- Provide Council with heritage/urban design advice on development applications.

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### **1.3 Proactive heritage and urban design management**

**Aim:**

To encourage the conservation of the heritage values important in the Warrumbungle Shire when making decisions affecting urban design.

**Actions:**

- Encourage the conservation of heritage values in the management and development of places by waiving or reducing Development Application fees, and adopting a flexible approach to planning and building requirements for heritage places listed in the Warrumbungle Shire LEP.
- Implement the recommendations of the Baradine Heritage Main Street Study.
- Undertake Heritage Main Street Studies in other towns and villages within the shire.

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### **1.4 Increased community participation, and proactive conservation and management of heritage**

**Aim:**

To engage with and support the community in managing and promoting heritage places within the Warrumbungle Shire.

**Actions:**

- Establish and promote a local heritage fund to support conservation and restoration works on heritage places.
- Support the development of heritage projects that contribute to local tourism, including;
  - A forest industry heritage trail in Baradine and the Pilliga,
  - Promotion of the rail heritage of Binnaway,
  - Continue to support community initiatives such as Camp Cypress, Burra Bee Dee Mission and Sculptures in the Scrub.
- Support the establishment of an information sharing network for owners of heritage homesteads and woolsheds.

## **1.5 Council, owners and the community actively participate in active, attractive and well-managed heritage main streets**

### **Aim:**

To create vibrant, attractive and welcoming main streets in the towns and villages of Warrumbungle Shire.

### **Actions:**

- Implement the recommendations of the Baradine Heritage Main Street Study.
- Undertake Heritage Main Street Studies in other towns and villages within the shire.

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## **1.6 Council proactively conserves and manages its heritage assets**

### **Aim:**

To ensure that Council is seen to be taking leadership in the responsible management of the community's heritage assets.

### **Actions:**

- Prepare conservation management plans/conservation management strategies for Council owned heritage items.
- Ensure annual works budgets cover heritage asset maintenance and repairs.
- Review management plans and activities for Council owned heritage items to ensure the cultural heritage of the items is protected.
- Monitor the condition of Council owned heritage items consistent with the requirements of conservation management plans/conservation management strategies.
- Monitor the condition & maintenance of non-Council owned heritage items during travel around the shire to undertake other tasks.

## **1.7 Promote sustainable development as a tool for heritage conservation**

### **Aim:**

To encourage practical approaches to heritage conservation to support sustainable development.

### **Actions:**

- Work with property owners and developers to:
  - Encourage the adaptive re-use of heritage structures, rather than demolition and re-development.
  - Encourage re-generation projects and urban design that respect the cultural heritage of the shire.
  - Ensure infill development meets accepted sustainability requirements.
- Provide pre DA advice on matters affecting the sustainability of buildings.
- Provide learning resources and learning opportunities for sustainability and heritage awareness to Councillors, Council officers, owners of heritage properties and the community.

## **2. Knowing and valuing our heritage**

### **2.1 Increased knowledge and proactive management of heritage**

**Aim:**

To identify and appropriately record the cultural heritage of the Warrumbungle Shire.

**Actions:**

- Continue the process of identifying and recording Aboriginal heritage items in the Warrumbungle Shire.
- Continue the process of recording heritage items in the Warrumbungle Shire.
- Continue to engage with community groups to identify heritage items.

### **3. Valuing our heritage**

#### **3.1 Increased awareness and appreciation of heritage by the Council, owners and the community**

**Aim:**

To ensure that the community of the Warrumbungle Shire understands and cares for its cultural heritage.

**Actions:**

- Make heritage information available for the Warrumbungle Shire by maintaining heritage information brochures and links to other relevant websites on Council's website.
- Work with community organisations to develop and conduct heritage promotional events.
- Ensure relevant Council Officers have skills appropriate to the effective management of cultural heritage by;
  - Preparing and providing briefings on relevant cultural heritage principles and practices.
  - Providing relevant learning resources and information regarding learning opportunities.