

Warrumbungle Shire Council

Community Heritage Strategy

2021-2024

Warrumbungle Shire Council Community Heritage Strategy 2021-24

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Introduction

The Warrumbungle Shire Community Heritage Strategy 2021-2024 has been prepared to meet the requirements of the NSW Heritage Grants Local Government Heritage Adviser Program to support local government heritage management in NSW. The purpose of this document is to provide a summary of the strategies Warrumbungle Shire Council will employ to guide heritage management for the years 2021-2024.

The Warrumbungle Shire covers 12,380 square kilometres with an approximate population of 9,500 people and includes the towns of Baradine, Binnaway, Coolah, Coonabarabran, Dunedoo and Mendooran, and a number of smaller villages and localities including Bugaldie, Cobbora, Kenebri, Leadville, Merrygoen, Neilrex, Uarbry and Ulamambri. The shire also includes extensive nature conservation areas including parts of the Warrumbungle National Park, Coolah Tops National Park, Pilliga Nature Reserve and related nature reserves. It is home to the Gamilaroi and Wiradjuri people. Warrumbungle is a Gamilaroi word meaning crooked mountain.

The nine recommendations of the Heritage Branch publication *Recommendations for Local Government Heritage Management* have been reviewed and utilised in the preparation of this heritage strategy as follows:

Recommendations

Recommendation 1

Engage with interested and relevant community bodies to deal with heritage matters in your area.

Aim:

- Increased community participation, awareness and appreciation of heritage in the Warrumbungle Shire.

Actions:

- Actively engage with relevant community organisations or persons to assist Council in raising awareness of heritage conservation within the community and provide advice to Council when necessary.

Measures:

- Council to engage a Heritage Advisor Service every 2 years.
- Occurrences of advice provided by Heritage Advisor.

Recommendation 2

Identify the heritage items in your area and list them in your local environmental plan.

Aim:

- Increased knowledge and proactive management of heritage in the Warrumbungle Shire.

Actions:

- Continue to assist the adoption by Council of recommended items listed by the Warrumbungle Shire Council Community Based Heritage Study on the LEP heritage schedule.
- Work with NSW Office of Environment and Heritage to review potential items for consideration on the State Heritage Register.

Measures:

- Minimum of 15 – heritage site visits undertaken by Heritage Advisor (*site visits also made in conjunction with the Community based heritage study*).

Recommendation 3

Appoint a heritage adviser to assist the council, the community and owners of listed items.

Aim:

- To increase community participation and proactive heritage and urban design management in the Warrumbungle Shire.

Actions:

- Continue to offer a Heritage Advisory Service to assist the community and Council on heritage matters in the Warrumbungle Shire.
- Continue to seek the input of Council's Heritage Adviser in the assessment of development applications likely to have an impact on heritage items and within Heritage Conservation Areas.
- Heritage adviser to assist Council in the preparation of strategic planning documents such as Heritage Main Street Studies and Conservation Management Plan for Council owned assets.

Measures:

- Every 2 years Council to actively seek NSW Heritage Government for Heritage Advisor Grant.
- Engagement of a Heritage Advisor Service every 2 years.
- Minimum of 5 – heritage/urban design advice given by Heritage Adviser (*advise provided to business owners, individuals, community organisation members on small scale developments and how best to maintain heritage and reduce impacts on heritage significance*).
- Minimum of 6 – Heritage Advisor to provide advice on Council DAs for heritage/urban design projects.

Recommendation 4

Manage local heritage in a positive manner.

Aim:

- Proactive heritage and urban design management within the Warrumbungle Shire.

Actions:

- Continue to offer a Heritage Advisory Service within the Warrumbungle Shire.
- Investigate opportunities for advertising the availability of free heritage advice to the community including the Council website, local media and through promotion by Community Development Coordinators.
- Council to adopt a flexible approach to building and planning requirements for heritage buildings.
- Review heritage provisions in the Warrumbungle Shire Development Control Plan.

Measures:

- Minimum of 5 – heritage site visits undertaken by Heritage Adviser (*site visits also made in conjunction with the Community based heritage study*).
- Council's LEP is reviewed every 5 years for inclusion of heritage items conjunction with the Council's heritage study.

Recommendation 5

Introduce Small Heritage Grants to provide small grants to encourage local heritage projects.

Aim:

- Increased community participation and proactive conservation and management of heritage within the Warrumbungle Shire.

Actions:

- Continue to offer Small Heritage Grants every year to encourage owners to undertake conservation and maintenance works and to be involved in heritage related projects such as interpretation and education.
- Council to consider maximising the budget allocated for heritage funding in order to promote good conservation practice and to meet increasing demand.
- Council to actively promote successful completed projects to encourage good conservation practice in the community.

Measures:

- Every 2 years Council to actively seek NSW Heritage Government for Local Heritage Grants.
- Minimum of 3 – small heritage projects funded as part of the Local Heritage Grant Fund received.

Recommendation 6

Run a heritage main street program.

Aim:

- Council, owners and the community actively participate in attractive and well managed heritage main streets.

Actions:

- Heritage adviser to assist Council in the preparation of Heritage Main Street Studies for the towns within the shire including Binnaway, Coolah, Coonabarabran, Dunedoo and Mendooran.
- Heritage adviser to work with Council to implement the recommendations in the Baradine Heritage Main Street Study.
- Encourage property owners and tenants to seek local and associated funds for projects which are consistent with Main Street Study recommendations.

Measures:

- Minimum of 6 – items undertaken to promote heritage within the main streets of towns in the shire.
- Minimum of 15 – heritage site visits undertaken by Heritage Adviser (*site visits also made in conjunction with the Community based heritage study*).

Recommendation 7

Present educational and promotional programs.

Aim:

- To increase awareness and appreciation of heritage by the Council, owners and the community within the Warrumbungle Shire.

Actions:

- Continue to provide support to the regional library to assist in maintaining and upgrading its local history records and collection.
- Hold seminars for Council staff, local community, building owners, developers, and trades people on the value of heritage conservation works and of funding assistance available.
- Update heritage section on Council website including links to Heritage NSW maintenance series publications.
- In conjunction with local historical societies and progress associations develop heritage walking trails within the main towns of the Shire including interpretive signs or building plaques.

Measures:

- Information is readily available from the visitor's information centres and local historical societies.
- Council media utilised to inform/educate heritage within the LGA.
- Engagement with local progress associations in preparing heritage walks/signs.

Recommendation 8

Set a good example to the community by properly managing places owned or operated by the council.

Aim:

- A Council proactively conserves and manages its heritage assets.

Actions:

- Prepare Conservation Management Plans/Strategies for Council owned heritage properties.
- Develop a priority works schedule for all works and provide an annual budget for basic maintenance and repairs.
- Incorporate heritage guidelines and procedures within Council public cemeteries policy. Oversight of maintenance and repair practices needs to be undertaken.

Measures:

- Continuation of conservation management strategies and maintenance checklist used for Council owned buildings to support heritage aesthetics.
- Annual works budget secured for heritage asset maintenance and repairs.

Recommendation 9

Promote sustainable development as a tool for heritage conservation.

Aim:

- Proactive heritage and sustainable development within the Warrumbungle Shire.

Actions:

- Encourage building owners to adopt sustainable building principles including energy efficiency, the provision of water tanks, solar panels and solar hot water heating.
- Council to incorporate heritage provisions within the Warrumbungle Shire Development Control Plan to guide the installation of solar panels and water tanks on heritage items and places within the heritage conservation areas.
- Continue to encourage and support compatible adaptive re-use, or infill or sympathetic additions to heritage places and within Heritage Conservation Areas generally.

Measures:

- Minimum of 2 –urban design / regeneration DA approvals.
- Minimum of 1 – heritage development application approval for infill and/or addition works.



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