

the role of the Heritage Council

STATE HERITAGE REGISTER

DEVELOPMENT APPROVALS

HERITAGE COUNCIL MEETINGS

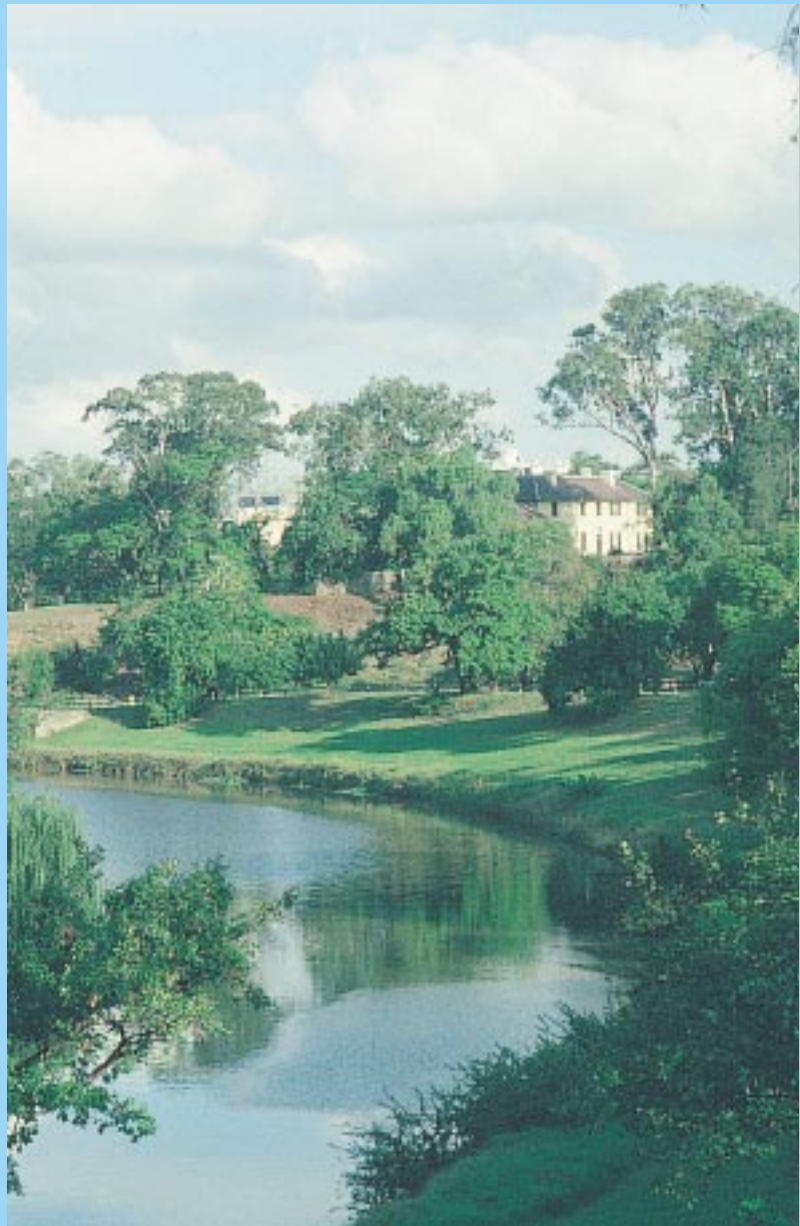
STATE HERITAGE REGISTER
COMMITTEE

APPROVALS COMMITTEE

STRATEGY COMMITTEE

PANELS

STRATEGIC PLAN 2000-2005



THE HERITAGE COUNCIL OF NSW WAS CREATED BY THE HERITAGE ACT 1977. ITS MEMBERSHIP REFLECTS A CROSS-SECTION OF COMMUNITY, GOVERNMENT AND CONSERVATION EXPERTISE.



Members of the Heritage Council of NSW with the Chair, Mrs Hazel Hawke.
Photograph by Paramount Studios

The Heritage Council is appointed by the NSW Government to:

- provide advice on heritage matters to the Minister for Urban Affairs and Planning;
- recommend items of State significance for listing on the State Heritage Register;
- recommend the interim protection of potential heritage items so that an assessment of their significance can be made;
- determine proposed changes to items on the State Heritage Register to retain the items' heritage significance; and
- advise the community on heritage.

STATE HERITAGE REGISTER

The State Heritage Register is a list of heritage items of particular importance to the people of NSW. It includes items of particular importance to specific groups in the community, such as Aboriginal communities, religious groups or people with a common ethnic background. An item is listed on the Register when the Minister for Urban Affairs and Planning agrees to the Heritage Council's recommendation that it is of State heritage significance.

The Heritage Council has developed criteria to assess items to be included on the Register and it advises the community on how to apply them.



The State Heritage Register includes significant 20th century structures such as the Walter Burley Griffin Incinerator at Willoughby.



Aboriginal rangers at Mutawintji National Park, one of the State's most significant cultural sites. The Heritage Council is working with the Aboriginal community to encourage more nominations of sites of Aboriginal significance.
Photograph by Cameron White

DEVELOPMENT APPROVALS

Once an item is listed on the State Heritage Register, major changes to it require the Heritage Council's approval. When considering applications the Heritage Council ensures that the proposed changes retain the item's heritage significance.

The Heritage Council has three different functions in relation to development approvals:

1. CONSENT AUTHORITY

Managing change to heritage items involves choices between those changes that are likely to retain their heritage significance and those which could diminish it.

The Heritage Council is the joint consent authority with the local council (and sometimes with other State agencies) for approving changes to items on the State Heritage Register.

Recognising that unused heritage items can quickly decay through neglect or vandalism, the Heritage Council aims to encourage new uses and practical changes. This maintains the continuing life of heritage items and places.

2. ADVICE TO OTHER CONSENT AUTHORITIES

Other agencies, particularly local councils and the NSW Department of Urban Affairs and Planning, regularly refer matters to the Heritage Council. The Heritage Council's advice on these matters is confined to heritage impacts and related issues, while recognising that the other authority may need to take other factors into account to achieve a practical solution.

3. PARTICIPATION IN COMMITTEES

Heritage Council members are involved in public and private sector committees set up to find solutions for development proposals involving heritage items. The contribution of Heritage Council representatives is directed to retaining heritage significance and to continuing the effective use of heritage places.

HERITAGE COUNCIL MEETINGS

The full Heritage Council meets six times each year. These meetings deal primarily with major policy issues.

There are also three major working committees to which the Heritage Council has delegated its functions. The committees consider proposed State Heritage Register listings, approvals for changes to listed items and strategic issues.

STATE HERITAGE REGISTER COMMITTEE

The State Heritage Register Committee is responsible for recommending items for listing on the State Heritage Register to the Minister and for providing expert comment on planning documents for major heritage places.

APPROVALS COMMITTEE

The Approvals Committee acts in the Heritage Council's consent authority role. It approves, comments on, or suggests amendments to proposed changes to listed heritage items.

STRATEGY COMMITTEE

This committee focuses on strategic issues for the Heritage Council. Its membership comprises the Chair and Deputy Chair of the Heritage Council, the chairs of the State Heritage Register and Approvals Committees and the Director of the Heritage Office.

PANELS

The Heritage Council is also advised by a series of expert panels on a wide range of subjects:



Rose Seidler House, Wahroonga.

Photograph by Lloyd Sharp

- Aboriginal heritage
- fire, access and services
- historical archaeology
- history
- incentives
- maritime archaeology
- movable heritage
- religious property
- technical advice.

STRATEGIC PLAN 2000-2005

The Heritage Council's five-year strategic plan is based on the understanding that the conservation of our heritage assists the community to understand our collective past. Heritage management is therefore the process of selecting those important places and things we have inherited from previous generations and taking care of them for the generations to come.

The plan focuses on five key areas in which the Heritage Council aims to produce major gains for the NSW heritage system over the next five years:

1. KNOWLEDGE OF NSW HERITAGE, ITS SIGNIFICANCE AND CONSERVATION

All those involved in the heritage system need to have access to quality and timely information about statutory-listed heritage items in NSW through the State Heritage Inventory, a computerised database available through the Internet.



The listing of items of particular importance to ethnic communities is a priority of the Heritage Council. Mrs Hazel Hawke joins the Chinese community in celebrating the listing of the Yiu Ming Temple in Alexandria on the State Heritage Register.

Photograph courtesy of South Sydney Council

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2. NSW GOVERNMENT LEADERSHIP IN HERITAGE MANAGEMENT

The NSW State government needs to lead the community by demonstrating best practice in the management of heritage items in public ownership.

3. LOCAL HERITAGE MANAGEMENT

To be effective players within the NSW heritage system, local councils need to integrate heritage conservation into their overall environmental management.

4. VALUE OF HERITAGE TO THE COMMUNITY

Recognition of the value of heritage to the community begins with positive educational experiences in the school system and is expressed through community-based heritage studies and celebrations.

5. CONSERVATION PRACTICE STANDARDS

The Heritage Council has an important role in encouraging high standards in conservation work and the production of user-friendly conservation planning documents.

The strategic plan also addresses the Heritage Council's public advice role and aims to achieve maximum co-ordination between the Heritage Council and the Heritage Office to achieve the best results from their respective roles.



Special heritage materials developed for school students are helping a new generation to develop interest and concern for their cultural heritage.

Photograph by Paramount Studios

GUIDELINES IN THIS SERIES:

- 1 the role of the Heritage Council**
- 2 the State Heritage Register**
- 3 the approvals process**
- 4 presentations to the Heritage Council**

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Cover photograph: The NSW Heritage Council is based in Parramatta, home to early and significant heritage sites such as Parramatta Regional Park and Old Government House.

Photograph courtesy of Parramatta Park Trust