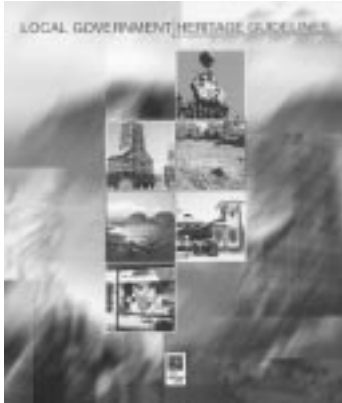


3. Helping Local Government



OBJECTIVE:

Local council will integrate heritage conservation into their overall environmental management

Local Government Heritage

As most of the 20,000 heritage items on statutory lists in New South Wales are of local significance, local government is at the forefront of heritage management in the State. This year the Heritage Office continued implementation of its strategy for the delegation of certain approval functions of the Heritage Council to local councils and the authorisation of certain local councils to make interim heritage orders.

Key achievements in the implementation strategy were:

- promotion and distribution of the publication *Local Government Heritage Guidelines* to all councils in New South Wales. The guidelines assist local councils to manage heritage in their local area;
- creation of a local government resource centre on the Heritage Office website, which includes online access to the new guidelines to assist councils in their role as heritage managers;
- launch of the new guidelines to heritage advisors and local government officers through a series of workshops in rural New South Wales. Feedback indicates that the guidelines are a helpful, comprehensive and well-designed tool;
- preparation of a training module and provision of training workshops to local councils. Participants represented 82% of the 172 local government areas in New South Wales. Full day workshops were presented by consultant David Logan at Dubbo, Randwick, Parramatta, Ballina, Queanbeyan, Wagga Wagga, Orange, Newcastle, Armidale, Wollongong, Willoughby, Coffs Harbour and Sydney City. The Heritage Office subsidised the cost of the workshops for rural councils as part of its commitment to rural heritage. A major achievement for 2002–03, the workshops were a successful strategy to facilitate a closer working relationship between councils, heritage advisors and the Heritage Office.

Delegation of Approvals Functions

In 2002–2003 local councils determined 15 applications using the delegation for items ranging from signage to sheds. The Heritage Office has encouraged local councils referring applications to the Heritage Office to deal with the applications using the delegations wherever possible.

The delegation in the previous reporting year of certain approval functions of the Heritage Council to all local councils in New South Wales enables local councils to be a one stop shop for applications for minor works to items identified on the State Heritage Register that do not “materially affect” the significance of an item. The delegation streamlines the approvals process for minor works, saving applicants time and money.

The Authorisation to Make Interim Heritage Orders

The authorisation to make interim heritage orders applies to 17 Sydney metropolitan councils and 120 rural councils and supports the power of local councils to manage heritage in the local area.

Since gazettal of the authorisation in February 2002 only two local councils authorised to make interim heritage orders over items under threat have exercised the authority to do so.

Protection Through Planning Instruments

Identifying and listing items of heritage significance are only the first steps in protecting and managing those places and objects that we as a community want to keep. Planning instruments provide the framework for managing the approval of major changes so that heritage significance is retained and not diminished. In 2002–2003 the Heritage Office continued to work with local councils to assist them to develop a satisfactory framework for good heritage management.

Local Environmental Plans

The Heritage Act requires that all draft local environmental plans (LEPs) that affect an item of heritage significance contain provisions that will facilitate the conservation of that item.

The Heritage Council and the Heritage Office examine draft local environmental plans and provide advice to councils about whether plans comply with the requirements of the Heritage Act and the Heritage Office’s heritage model provisions. The model provisions provide guidance to councils on the provisions of plans relating to heritage conservation.

During the year the Director of the Heritage Office, as a delegate of the Heritage Council, provided advice to councils on 151 draft local environmental plans. Newcastle and Botany Bay Councils prepared comprehensive local plans which significantly add to their lists of heritage items. Several other councils have prepared plans that include specific heritage provisions to provide increased protection for additional items and heritage conservation areas, including Ashfield, Gosford, Holroyd, Hornsby, Port Stephens, Woollahra and Marrickville.

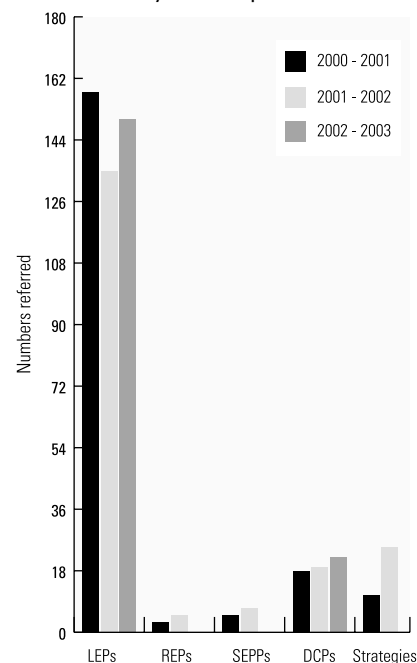
State & Regional Environmental Plans

State Environmental Planning Policies (SEPPs) and Regional Environmental Plans (REPs) were also reviewed by the Heritage Office. These included SEPP no. 59 amendments at the Greystanes Estate and Eastern Creek, its accompanying draft precinct plan and SEPP no. 53 (Metropolitan Residential Development) amendments.

Development Control Plans Masterplans and Strategies

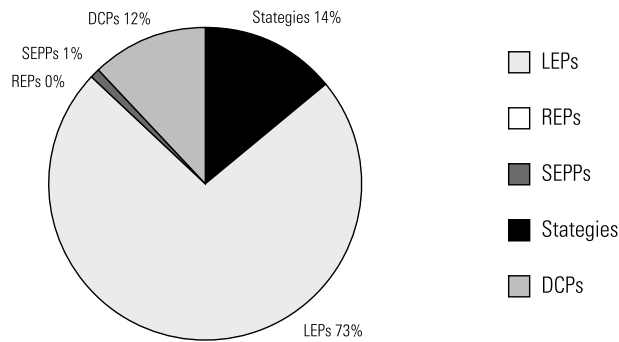
Preliminary advice was provided by the Heritage Office to an increased number of councils undertaking environmental studies, strategies and master plans. In all, 25 master plans and development control plans (DCPs) and 30 strategic/environmental studies were reviewed by the Heritage Office. Advice on settlement strategies was provided to Cessnock, Shoalhaven and Byron Councils and significant heritage-related precinct/masterplans were reviewed for Green Square Town Centre, St Margaret’s East Site at Darlinghurst, Greystanes Estate/Prospect Hill, the former Lidcombe Hospital site, and the Wollongong University Innovation Campus at the former Balgownie Migrant Workers’ Hostel.

Statutory Planning tools
- Three year comparison



The Bogey Hole at Newcastle, c. 1910s. One of Newcastle’s earliest structures, the Bogey Hole was hewn out of a rock platform by convicts on the order of Commandant Morisset in 1819 for his personal use. Newcastle Borough Council took control of the baths in 1863 and opened them up to the public. Photograph courtesy of Newcastle Region Public Library

Planning Referrals 2003



Parramatta Regional Environment Plan

In this reporting year the Heritage Office contributed to the further development of the regional environmental plan (REP) for Parramatta, Sydney's second main centre of business and population, as well as an area rich in heritage.

Following extensive consultation with the Heritage Office, the City Centre Development Control Plan (DCP) and a master plan for Civic Place have been completed and adopted by Parramatta City Council. The DCP establishes a higher level of urban design detail to be incorporated into development proposals. A DCP for the precinct of Harris Park has also been prepared and adopted. These documents give detailed planning guidance for development in these two precincts, both rich in heritage resources and vital for Parramatta's future.

The REP contains objectives relating to ensuring Parramatta's cultural and economic growth, protecting historic places, improving urban design and public transport patronage. The plan contains statutory development controls for zoning, building heights, floor space ratios, solar access and heritage protection.

The REP sets an employment target of 60,000 employees in the Parramatta City Centre by 2021.

The Heritage Office has been an active partner with Planning New South Wales, Department of Infrastructure Planning and Natural Resources and Parramatta City Council in preparing and implementing the REP. The Department of Transport, the Roads and Traffic Authority, the business community and community groups have also been closely involved.

The REP covers the area from Westmead in the west to Rydalmere and Camellia in the east, and builds on the Parramatta Strategy public discussion paper of 1997. As a result of the REP's gazettal in August 1999, the emphasis has shifted from broad-based planning controls to the preparation of more detailed development controls for precincts, development control plans and master plans for key areas within precincts. In particular, master plans have been prepared for Civic Place and North Parramatta. The Heritage Office, with other stakeholders, has been involved in the preparation of these plans.

The Heritage Office has also been actively involved in the preparation of planning controls for the Camellia and Rydalmere precincts. These focus on future development potential and benefits from infrastructure improvements, such as the construction of the Parramatta Rail Link. Draft REP controls have been finalised and are expected to be gazetted later in 2003.

A master plan for the North Parramatta Government sites, including Parramatta Jail, the Norma Parker Centre and Cumberland Hospital East, has also been prepared in consultation with the Heritage Office. This is expected to be finalised later in 2003.

Assistance to Local Councils

One of the major ways the Heritage Office assists local councils is through the local government component of the Heritage Incentives Program. The key elements of this component are \$-for-\$ assistance with community-based heritage studies, heritage advisors and local heritage funds.

Heritage Advisor Program

The Heritage Council has supported the part-time appointment of heritage advisors, both financially and administratively, since 1983. The advisors are consultants with heritage expertise who advise local councils and the local community on heritage matters.

In New South Wales 124 of the 172 councils have heritage advisor positions, of which 91 are in rural areas (there are 126 rural councils) and 31 in metropolitan areas. Sixty-seven councils (38 in rural New South Wales) also employ officers who are knowledgeable on heritage matters. Fifty-four of these councils also have a part-time heritage advisor.

In summary, 81% of the 172 councils have direct access to heritage advisory services, either in-house or through the heritage advisor program.

Heritage Network

This network consists of all advisors and council officers who provide regular advice on heritage matters. It meets in August each year in the Sydney area. This year the annual seminar was held in the State Library. Topics discussed included insurance on heritage properties, the conservation of cemeteries and presentations on the Building Code of Australia and access issues by the Heritage Council's Fire, Access and Services Advisory Panel.

Heritage Advisors E-mail Network

The e-mail network linking heritage advisors, local government officers and the Heritage Office has proved to be an invaluable medium for the exchange of information, the exploration of conservation strategies and the announcement of new initiatives. There are now 349 members on the network. This year the Heritage Office has continued to provide a monthly bulletin to the network summarising announcements and initiatives.

Heritage Short Courses for New South Wales Local Government

The administration of the successful heritage short course program developed by the Heritage Office is now handled by the training unit, Learning Solutions, of LgovNSW. The first course under this arrangement was held in March 1999.

The unit delivered two programs during the year attended by a total of 32 participants including three councillors, two senior managers and local government professionals and one professional from the private sector. The feedback from the courses was excellent and the participants appreciated the continuing interest of the Heritage Office in sponsoring the professional development of councillors and local government staff.

The programs were:

Development Approvals: The Heritage Perspective, 25 October 2002, delivered by David Logan, Director, Godden Mackay Logan;

Heritage Planning in Practice, 6–7 November 2002, delivered by Sue Jackson-Stepowski, heritage consultant and hosted by Bland Shire Council.