

BATHURST REGIONAL COUNCIL

HERITAGE STRATEGY FOR THE BATHURST REGION



2008/09-2010/11

i) Introduction

This document has been prepared to meet the requirements of the NSW Heritage Branch, Department of Planning, 3 year funding agreement to support local government heritage management in NSW.

Bathurst Regional Council covers approximately 3,815 square kilometres and includes the villages of Hill End, Sofala, Wattle Flat, Sunny Corner, Georges Plains, Rockley, Trunkey Creek, Raglan, Perthville and Eglinton and Bathurst City.

The purpose of this document is to identify the strategies Bathurst Regional Council will employ to guide heritage management for the financial years 2008/09, 2009/10 and 2010/11. The 9 recommendations of the Heritage Branch, Department of Planning, publication *Recommendations for Local Council Heritage Management* have been reviewed and utilised in the preparation of this heritage strategy.

1.0 Establish a heritage committee to deal with heritage matters in the Bathurst Region

Aim:

- Increased community participation, awareness and appreciation of heritage in the Bathurst region.

Actions:

- In accordance with Council's policies, the relevant historical groups, including the National Trust, (Bathurst Branch), Bathurst District Historical Society, the Aboriginal Land Council, owners of heritage items and other interest groups, are to be informed of specific heritage matters that will be of interest to the group or individual.

2.0 Identify the heritage items in the Bathurst Region and list them in the Local Environmental Plan

Aim:

- Increased knowledge and proactive management of heritage in the Bathurst region.
- To identify and protect all buildings and places within the Bathurst Region that are considered to be of heritage significance.
- Continue to develop a twice yearly newsletter to inform key groups and the general community.

Actions:

- Implement the recommendations of the Bathurst Regional Heritage Study 2007 in the Comprehensive LEP.
- Maintain and update the State Heritage Inventory Database as new items of heritage significance are discovered and as new information becomes available for existing items.
- Investigate methods for identifying further items of historical significance and include new found items in the State Heritage Inventory database.
- Undertake a Desktop Aboriginal Heritage Study to identify potential Aboriginal sites that may be of significance since European settlement.
- Undertake an Archaeological Study concentrating on the Bathurst city area, but also including other areas of early settlement.
- Complete the Bathurst Conservation Area Management Strategy. This Strategy will incorporate a database on every building/property located

within the Bathurst Conservation Area. The database will provide a description of the property, information on its history, an assessment of the property's current condition and ratings of the property's significance and the significance of streetscapes within the conservation area. The pilot study has been completed and adopted by council. It is envisaged that the Strategy will be ongoing as it is proposed that once all of the residential blocks within the Bathurst Conservation Area have been completed, the strategy will then concentrate on properties within the CBD of Bathurst, (previously excluded). The Strategy also has the potential to include properties within the village conservation areas.

- Continue to provide assistance to the Heritage Branch, Department of Planning, in the identification and listing of state significant buildings/places within the Bathurst Region on the State Heritage Register.

3.0 Appoint a heritage advisor to assist Council, the community and owners of listed items

Aim:

- To increase community participation and proactive heritage and urban design management in the Bathurst region.

Actions:

- Continue to offer a Heritage Advisory Service to the Bathurst Regional Council area.
- Continue to seek the input of Council's Heritage Advisor in the assessment of applications likely to impact on the heritage significance of buildings and places.
- Continue to undertake joint site visits with the Heritage Advisor and town planner.
- Continue to provide input for pre DA meetings.
- Assist in the review and preparation of the Comprehensive DCP to provide historic and urban design input for the villages and the City of Bathurst.

4.0 Manage local heritage in a positive manner

Aim:

- Proactive heritage and urban design management within the Bathurst region.
- Promote the conservation and maintenance of the Bathurst Region's heritage.
- Ensure that owner's of heritage items or properties within conservation areas are not discriminated against those properties which are not.
- Provide policies and plans appropriate to the assessment of applications within conservations areas or which relate to places of heritage significance.

Actions:

- Review the urban design component of the Comprehensive DCP to provide urban design input for new infill development and new residential estates.
- Continue to offer a Heritage Advisory Service to the Bathurst Regional Council area.

- Continue to offer a Region Heritage Fund of \$37,500 per year to encourage owners to undertake conservation and maintenance works.
- Continue to waive the Development Application and Construction Certificate fees for the repainting of buildings and the reinstatement of verandahs.
- As part of the review of exempt development, ensure that the owner's ability to carry out proposed projects is not limited because of heritage listings or by being located within a conservation area.
- Enable more development associated with heritage items or conservation areas to be considered as exempt development.
- Ensure that the Comprehensive LEP has appropriate controls for the assessment of applications for conservation areas or places of heritage significance.
- Continue to seek the input of Council's Heritage Adviser in the assessment of applications likely to impact on the heritage significance of buildings or places.
- Complete the preparation of the Bathurst Conservation Area Management Strategy which will provide the Council, developers and the community with sound strategies for the management of the Bathurst Conservation Area and village conservation areas, in the future.
- Continue to implement existing Council policies and plans including the Infill Development Policy for new developments and the Structural Assessment Policy for demolition proposals and to continue to develop policies to address issues relating to heritage management.
- Finalise the Statement of Heritage Impact Guidelines, making it applicable to development within the Bathurst region.

5.0 Introduce a local heritage fund to provide small grants to encourage local heritage projects

Aim:

- Increased community participation and proactive conservation and management of heritage within the Bathurst region.

Actions:

- Continue to offer a Region Heritage Fund of \$37,500 per year to encourage owners to undertake conservation and maintenance works and to be involved in heritage related projects such as interpretation and education.
- Continue to offer funding to heritage items, places within conservation areas or items of historical significance.
- Broaden the criteria for projects, in accordance with the *Eligibility for Funding*, as defined in the Heritage Branch publication *How to Establish a Local Heritage Fund*, such as the indexing of historical records or the restoration of historic road structures to meet the needs of the types of restoration projects within the community.

6.0 Run a main street program

Aim:

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

Actions:

- Continue with the implementation of the Bathurst CBD Beautification Scheme over the next 10 years.

7.0 Present educational and promotional programs

Aim:

- To raise community awareness and appreciation through education on heritage related issues and management within the Bathurst Region.
- To promote cultural heritage and museum development opportunities.

Actions:

- Continue to run an educative seminar every second year for the community that includes information on how to maintain older buildings. Seminars are to be held in 2009 and 2011.
- Continue to promote and develop the range of brochures for the Bathurst Region in respect of heritage conservation issues and different components of the region's history, e.g. Aboriginal and Chinese history.
- Continue to provide support to the Bathurst Branch of the National Trust in the running of the Bathurst Heritage Awards.
- Continue to develop a twice yearly newsletter for the community and increase the mailing list for the newsletter to include owners of heritage items.
- Continue to liaise with and involve community groups, such as village associations, the National Trust, and the Bathurst District Historical Society, on issues affecting heritage conservation in Bathurst and Bathurst Region.
- Provide opportunities to Council staff to attend relevant training courses.
- Prepare a database on heritage items and places of historical significance accessible to the public, which is to be accessed through Council's website.
- Continue to participate in the development of tourism opportunities related to Cobb & Co.
- Continue to manage and promote Ben Chifley's Cottage.
- Continue the development, management and support of the conservation of the museum buildings housing the Australian Fossil and Mineral Museum, Home of the Somerville Collection.
- Continue the development and management of the Rockley Mill Museum, Rockley.
- Continue the management, development and promotion of the National Motor Racing Museum.
- Continue to provide support to the Bathurst Historical Society Museum.
- Continue to develop the annual Autumn Heritage Festival and the Autumn Colours Promotion.
- Continue to provide support to community and tourism groups in the development of cultural heritage tourism projects and programs.
- Continue to promote and identify new opportunities for cultural heritage tourism through the ongoing promotion and identification of sites and tours at the Bathurst Visitor Information Centre.
- Maintain the Bathurst and Kelso Heritage Trails and identify opportunities to expand these trails.
- Complete the development of a tourist / community project commemorating "One hundred people buried at Bathurst Region Cemeteries" (which are those cemeteries within the former Evans Shire Council but now within Bathurst Regional Council).

- Prepare a tourist/community project identifying “Origins of One Hundred Street Names within Bathurst”.
- Prepare a heritage trail linking the villages and places of historic interest in the local government area. Once the trail route is determined, seek funding for the preparation of tourism products such as a promotional video, maps, brochures and interactive material such as an audio CD.
- Prepare a heritage cycling trail brochure for Bathurst City and the villages.

8.0 Set a good example to the community by properly managing places owned and operated by Council

Aim:

- Increased community participation and proactive conservation and management of heritage within the Bathurst region.
- To maintain the Bathurst Regional Council Heritage Asset Register and prepare appropriate plans to conserve those properties into the future.

Actions:

- Prepare one Conservation Management Plan per financial year for Council owned properties, depending upon the availability of funding.
- Identify sites where signage should be prepared as has happened at the old boiler on the roadside adjoining the Rising Sun Inn, Limekilns and Duncan’s Trough, Stringybark Hill.
- Continue the implementation of the Bathurst CDB Beautification Scheme over the next 10 years.
- Complete the update and maintain Council’s Heritage Asset Register, ensuring all of the former Evans Shire Council buildings are included in the register.
- Prepare guidelines for owners of heritage items who want to prepare a CMP.

9.0 Promote sustainable development as a tool for heritage conservation

Aim:

- Proactive heritage and sustainable development within the Bathurst region.

Actions:

- Encourage appropriate change of use for heritage buildings to ensure the ongoing use and maintenance of these buildings, in accordance with the recommendations of the Bathurst Regional Heritage Study, 2007.
- Implement the recommendations of the Bathurst Regional Heritage Study, 2007, in the Comprehensive LEP to ensure that incentives are provided at the local level and in addition to the generic heritage clause in the Standard Document.
- Ensure that the Comprehensive LEP and the Exempt Schedule do not discriminate against owners of heritage items or places within conservation areas.