

Eurobodalla Shire Council

3 Year Heritage Strategy

2008/09 - 2010/11

Adopted at the Ordinary Meeting of Eurobodalla Shire Council on 27 May 2008



EUROBODALLA SHIRE COUNCIL

Good Government, better living

Our Vision

Our vision is to **manage, promote** and **protect** the environmental heritage of the Eurobodalla Shire for present and future generations.

Introduction

Based on the nine key recommendations from the Heritage Branch of the Department of Planning, this strategy identifies 44 key tasks to be completed before 1 July 2011.

In order to qualify for Heritage Branch funding, Council must adopt this strategy and submit by 30 May 2008.

There is much to be achieved in heritage management in our shire. Ongoing funding and community input is vital to our success in implementing our strategy.

What is Environmental Heritage?

Environmental heritage items includes places, objects and landscapes of historic, cultural, natural, social, spiritual, archaeological, architectural and/or aesthetic significance.¹

Heritage in Eurobodalla

As at May 2008 Council had **273 heritage items** listed on its Local Environmental Plans and three items listed on the NSW State Heritage Register. Most of these items have been listed as a result of Council's Heritage Study which was completed in 1997.

Funding

As at May 2008 funding for heritage tasks had been allocated for the 2008/09 financial year only. Implementation of this strategy is subject to funding allocations which will be part of future Management Plan and budget considerations.

It is intended that funding to deliver the tasks in this strategy will be sourced from both **Council and grant funds**. Council funding allocations are essential to support grant applications in order to maximise the funding available to complete the tasks identified in this strategy.

Key Task

The key task is to complete a **Shirewide Community Based Heritage Study**¹. This will update and augment the existing 1997 Heritage Study which is now over 10 years old.

¹ This is the formal term used by the Heritage Branch of the NSW Department of Planning.

Recommendation 1

Establish a heritage committee to deal with heritage matters in your area

Strategy

Continue to manage and support Council's Heritage Advisory Committee.²

Tasks

1. Heritage Advisory Committee assists with developing heritage policies and strategies and acts as a conduit between the general community and Council.
2. Heritage Advisory Committee advises Council staff and the Heritage Advisor on matters relating to the implementation of the Council's Heritage Strategy and assists council with procuring and allocating funding.
3. Heritage Advisory Committee provides advice on heritage-related matters which are of interest to the community by providing expertise, local knowledge and guidance.
4. Heritage Advisory Committee participates in meetings, field trips and site visits as required in order to expand on knowledge of heritage items within the shire.
5. Heritage Advisory Committee assist with establishing a heritage consultants' directory and a local services and suppliers directory.
6. Heritage Advisory Committee provides advice on strategies to ensure the conservation of items listed in Council's Local Environmental Plan.

Outcomes

- Regular meetings of the Heritage Advisory Committee organised and documented by Council to ensure that the committee is updated on heritage issues and to provide a forum for dialogue related to the conservation of the Shire's heritage.
- Heritage Committee members provide professional advice and dialogue on heritage items, policies, interpretation, studies, issues and strategies.
- Heritage Committee members assist with funding procurement.
- Heritage Consultants Directory and a Local Services and Suppliers Directory completed and available via Council's website.

² Council's Heritage Advisory Committee first met in 2000. It is comprised of 13 community members who represent various historical interest groups, 2 Councillors and support staff. Many members of the committee have specialist skills in conservation, interpretation, documentation, oral history, historical research and architectural design.

Recommendation 2

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

Strategy

To ensure Council's Local Environmental Plan includes an up-to-date list of environmental heritage items.

Tasks

7. Council to provide funding and seek additional grant contributions to complement these funds to complete a Shirewide Community Based Heritage Study. The aims of this study are to: review the existing 1997 Heritage Study³; investigate the list of "Further Investigation Items"; engage with the community on additional potential items; and recommend a list of items to be included in the Local Environmental Plan.
8. Council staff, with the assistance of the Heritage Advisory Committee and the wider community, to engage and work collaboratively with specialist heritage consultants (these could include specialists in mining, Aboriginal, Chinese, archaeological and moveable heritage) to complete the Community Based Heritage Study.⁴
9. Ensure Council's Local Environmental Plan is updated with new/amended heritage items and that property descriptions are kept up-to-date.
10. Complete Stage 4 of the Eurobodalla Aboriginal Heritage Study in 2008/09.
11. Update Council's Local Environmental Plan in 2009/10 to include Aboriginal Heritage Items as per Stage 4 of the Eurobodalla Aboriginal Heritage Study.
12. Complete a Significant Tree Register.

Outcomes

- Community Based Heritage Study completed in 2009/10 and Eurobodalla Shire Council's Local Environmental Plan updated in 2010/11.
- Eurobodalla Aboriginal Heritage Study completed in 2008/09 and Eurobodalla Shire Council's Local Environmental Plan updated in 2009/10.
- Significant Tree Register included in Council's Local Environmental Plan.

³ The 1997 Heritage Study is now over 10 years old and needs to be reviewed to ensure it is up to date and reflects the values of the community. Possible funding sources include the NSW Department of Planning's Planning Reform Fund and the Heritage Branch.

⁴ The Community Based Heritage Study will include an assessment of all items on Council's "Further Investigation List" and include items referred to in Council's Structure Plans. In particular the Moruya Structure Plan recommends the creation of a Heritage Conservation Area in the Page Street area.

Recommendation 3

Appoint a heritage advisor to assist the council, the community and owners of listed items⁵

Strategy

Continue to support and fund a Heritage Advisor to assist Council, the community and owners of heritage listed items.⁶

Tasks

13. The primary task of the Heritage Advisor is to provide professional heritage advice that assists Council to work with the community to ensure that heritage conservation and urban design are well managed and presented in Eurobodalla.
14. The Council supports the Heritage Advisor to ensure that heritage conservation and urban design are well managed and presented in Eurobodalla.
15. Ensure adequate Council funding available to engage a Heritage Advisor and leverage these funds with supplementary grants.

Outcomes

- Professional advice provided by the Heritage Advisor to inform decision-making by staff and owners of heritage items in order to best manage, conserve and protect heritage in Eurobodalla.

⁵ Council has appointed a Heritage Advisor since 1998 with funding assistance provided by the Department of Planning's Heritage Branch. The professional advice that the Heritage Advisor provides is critical to ensuring best practice management for environmental heritage in Eurobodalla. The role of the Heritage Advisor is articulated in the Heritage Advisor Duty Statement.

⁶ Owners of heritage items are offered free advice on the conservation and management of their item.

Recommendation 4

Manage local heritage in a positive manner

Strategy

To research, interpret and conserve the significant heritage items that have shaped the history and development of Eurobodalla.

Tasks

16. Work with Department of Environment and Climate Change (former National Parks & Wildlife Service) and other relevant agencies to map the location of the high country bridle tracks in Eurobodalla Shire and investigate measures to protect and conserve them.
17. Support our local Historical Societies with funding and the continuation of information sharing.
18. Commission and undertake thematic studies including: mining, maritime, transport, forestry and dairy industries; commercial and recreational fishing; the role of rivers; Chinese history; and connections to the high country and tableland.
19. Augment the 1997 Thematic History of the Eurobodalla Shire to emphasise the influence of the natural environment on the development patterns of settlements across Eurobodalla.
20. Complete Stage 2 of the ESC Dairy Industry Study which will document dairy sites and moveable heritage currently at risk and in need of protection.
21. Undertake architectural, photographic and mapping documentation of heritage sites at risk in Eurobodalla.
22. Undertake oral histories to document recollections of the shire's history.
23. Develop interpretation and conservation of granite related sites in the Moruya district.
24. Consider waiving or reducing fees for development applications involving heritage items.
25. Adopt a flexible and sympathetic approach to conservation works or proposals.

Outcomes

- Increased community awareness and engagement in the importance and relevance of the Shire's environmental heritage.
- Councillors and Council staff actively considering heritage as a key consideration in performing their duties.

Recommendation 5

Introduce a Local Heritage Fund to provide small grants to encourage local heritage projects⁷

Strategy

Continue to coordinate and fund a Local Heritage Fund to provide small grants to support owners of heritage items in maintaining and conserving their property.⁸

Tasks

26. Provide Council funding in order to maximise external funding opportunities in support of conservation and maintenance of heritage items through Council's Local Heritage Fund.
27. Advertise and promote the availability of grant funding for heritage items.
28. Provide assistance to owners of heritage items in procuring grant funding.

Outcomes

- Maximum funds employed to assist with conservation and maintenance works of heritage items.
- Increase in the appreciation and value of the Shire's heritage.

⁷ Council has coordinated a local heritage fund since 2005. Council funds the program with the support of the Department of Planning's Heritage Branch.

⁸ Eurobodalla Shire Council is not a particularly wealthy shire and financial support has been appreciated.

Recommendation 6

Run a main street program

Strategy

To protect the conservation values of our villages and hamlets.

Tasks

29. Undertake a Conservation Area Study of Bodalla's main street (north) to assist with the conservation of its character, scenic values, historic building design and other heritage/community values.⁹
30. Undertake a Conservation Area Study of Nelligen's Wharf Street to assist with the conservation of its characters and values.
31. Undertake a Conservation Area Study of Nerrigundah to assist with the conservation of its characters and values.
32. Review and update the 1991 Tilba Conservation Area DCP.
33. Heritage Advisory Committee to provide input into the development of Council's Place Statements which are proposed to be included in a future review of Council's Local Environmental Plan.

Outcomes

- Bodalla's main street (north), Nelligen's Wharf Street and Nerrigundah are documented to best equip Council to achieve appropriate and sympathetic conservation/development outcomes.
- Updated Tilba Conservation Area DCP adopted by Council.
- Place Statements reflect environmental heritage values.

⁹ The RTA have documented a road widening/re-alignment of the Princes Highway which may have an impact on the heritage values and fabric of the Bodalla north village.

Recommendation 7

Present educational and promotional programs

Strategy

Continue to fund and present educational and promotional programs

Tasks

34. Provide training for Council Development Assessment staff in assessing development applications for new development on properties that contain or are adjacent to heritage items.
35. Council staff to continue to attend and participate in the Department of Planning's Heritage Branch's training and educational programs.
36. Provide information on heritage resources, management, heritage tourism and links to relevant websites which would be accessible from a stand-alone heritage link from the main page of Council's website.
37. Facilitate public presentations (eg. guest speakers), exhibitions and information sessions on heritage issues and topics.
38. Completion of a heritage tourism strategy in collaboration with Eurobodalla Tourism.
39. Promote Tilba's 30th anniversary of being a Heritage Conservation Area in 2009.
40. Encourage participation in the annual National Trust Heritage Festival (usually held in March/April).

Outcomes

- Council's staff are better equipped to make informed decisions on heritage management and the implementation of conservation instruments.
- Dissemination to the wider community on heritage and heritage management, procedures, initiatives and techniques in the Eurobodalla Shire area.

Recommendation 8

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

Strategy

To ensure Council owned heritage assets are well maintained and used by the community¹⁰

Tasks

41. Cooperatively manage Council's heritage assets with the community.
42. Ensure Council owned and/or managed heritage items are specifically addressed in Council's Asset Management Plan with actions for conserving the item for its heritage values.
43. The principal focus for this recommendation is to undertake conservation and maintenance works on the Bodalla Hall and its projection equipment.

Outcomes

- Council's heritage assets are well maintained and used by the community.
- Bodalla Hall well maintained with functioning film projection facilities and increased community use.

¹⁰ For example, the conservation works of the Moruya Mechanics Institute Hall (which have been completed as per the Conservation Management Plan for building), has resulted in a Council managed asset that is intensively used and has high exposure within the community.

Recommendation 9

Promote sustainable development as a tool for heritage conservation

Strategy

To encourage the sustainable development of heritage item through the development assessment process.

Tasks

44. Development assessment staff to consider the following when assessing development applications: encouraging and supporting compatible adaptive reuse/infill/sympathetic additions to heritage items; sensitive application of BASIX requirements for new design in a heritage precinct or conservation area; and incorporation of energy efficient design solutions into heritage items for water, energy and waste.

Outcomes

- Owners of heritage items considering sustainable development options when submitting conservation/development applications for approval on heritage items.

Funding

The following funding will be used to achieve the items addressed in this strategy.

The allocation of Council funds will enable staff and the Heritage Advisory Committee to seek additional funding through grants, thereby maximising and leveraging existing Council budgets.

2008/09¹¹

<u>Task</u>	<u>Council</u>	<u>Other</u>
Heritage Assistance Fund	\$8,200	\$8,200
Heritage Advisor	\$14,000	\$7,000
General Heritage Management	CF 07/08	Grants
Historical Society Funding Support ¹²	\$3,000	Grants

2009/10¹³

<u>Task</u>	<u>Council</u>	<u>Other</u>
Heritage Assistance Fund	\$8,200	Grants
Heritage Advisor	\$14,000	Grants
General Heritage Management	\$10,000	Grants
Shirewide Community Based Heritage Study	\$40,000	Grants
Historical Society Funding Support	\$3,000	Grants

2010/11

<u>Task</u>	<u>Council</u>	<u>Other</u>
Heritage Assistance Fund	\$8,200	Grants
Heritage Advisor	\$14,000	Grants
General Heritage Management	\$10,000	Grants
Historical Society Funding Support	\$3,000	Grants

¹¹ These funds are already included in the Draft Management Plan for 2008-13. These grant funds have been confirmed by the NSW Department of Planning's Heritage Branch.

¹² To be funded from the General Heritage Management Budget.

¹³ These estimated costs are based on previous year's allocations and grant contributions.