

## MOREE PLAINS SHIRE COUNCIL

### HERITAGE STRATEGY 2008-2011

#### 1.0 Introduction

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

Moree Plains Shire Council includes the villages of Ashley, Garah, Boomi, Weemelah, Mungindi, Boggabilla, Pallamallawa, Biniguy, Gurley and Terry Hie Hie as well as a substantial rural area focussed upon the city of Moree and is commercial conservation area. The Shire also includes extensive nature conservation areas, substantial Aboriginal Heritage and sites subject to the RAMSAR Convention on Wetlands.

The purpose of this document is to provide a summary of the strategies Moree Plains Shire Council will employ to guide heritage management for the financial years 2008/9, 2009/10 and 2010/11.

The NSW Heritage Office publication *'Eight suggestions on how local councils can promote heritage conservation'* was utilised in the preparation of this summary heritage strategy.

Implementation of the Heritage Strategy will be the responsibility of relevant Council Managers and Moree Plains Shire Council Heritage Advisor. The Heritage Advisor will be responsible for review of the Heritage Strategy in accordance with NSW Heritage Office guidelines.

The Strategy seeks to

- \* Increase participation, awareness and appreciation of heritage by all sectors of the community
- \* Increase awareness and appreciation of heritage management by the Council and its staff
- \* Increased community understanding and proactive heritage and urban design and management
- \* Ensure heritage is integral to cultural tourism and sustainable development

#### 2.0 Caring for Our Heritage: Conservation and Maintenance

*Aims:* \* To promote and encourage the conservation and maintenance of the Shires' heritage.

- \* To encourage the community to be actively involved in the conservation and promotion of the cultural heritage of the Shire.

*Actions:*

- To continue to offer a Heritage Advisory Service.
- To continue to offer a Small Grants Heritage Fund to encourage owners to undertake conservation and maintenance works.
- To continue to facilitate and support the Heritage Working Group.
- To prepare and adopt a Council heritage strategy.
- To complete the public consultation program relating to the Moree Plains Community Based Heritage Study in a cooperative and positive process that involves the property owners.
- To promote and assist good heritage practice among community groups and managers of heritage items and places and within conservation areas.

### **3.0 Knowing our heritage: Education and Community Awareness**

*Aim:* \*To raise community awareness, knowledge and proactive management on issues related to heritage conservation and management within the Shire.

*Actions:*

- To continue to work with community groups to promote and be an active part of the annual Heritage Festival each April.
- To provide on-going support and liaison with community groups, such as the village associations, historical societies and interest groups, on issues affecting heritage conservation in the Shire.
- To investigate hosting an educative seminar every second year for the community that includes information on how to maintain older buildings, commencing with the Art Deco theme and Interwar era shop fronts.
- To provide opportunities to Council staff to attend relevant heritage related training courses and seminar.
- To establish links with local schools to encourage use of local history material in the school curriculum, and especially focusing upon the Inter-war era and Art Deco style.
- To assist Council and the wider communities
  - in conserving local village places, such as cemeteries, churches and halls,
  - to properly manage heritage places under their control, and
  - by providing timely advice and assistance with management planning and maintenance issues.

### **3.0 Valuing Our Assets: Identification and Protection**

*Aims:* \* To identify and protect all buildings and places within the Shire that are considered to be of heritage significance.

\* To ensure the community understands and cares for its cultural heritage.

*Actions:*

- To progressively update the Moree Plains Heritage Inventory on an annual basis, with assessment of additional site nominations.
- To provide assistance to the NSW Heritage Office in the identification and listing of state significant buildings and places within the Shire on the State Heritage Register, commencing with progressing the nomination of the Moree Spa Baths, and those subject to international agreements.
- To support and continue to enhance the Art Deco character of the Moree CBD and Conservation Area.
- To continue to promote, develop and make available brochures for the Shire on a range of heritage conservation issues, commencing with "Art Deco Shop Front Repairs and Restoration" and the "Moree Art Deco walking tour"
- To upgrade the heritage information page on the Council's web site, with links to other relevant websites.

### **4.0 Council Proactively Conserving and Managing its Heritage Assets**

*Aims:* \* To ensure the Council is seen to be taking leadership in the responsible management of the community's heritage assets.

\* To insert within the Council's Asset register a specific notation dealing with heritage management, inclusive of appropriate plans to conserve those properties into the future.

*Actions:*

- Develop a Heritage Assets Register for all Council owned heritage properties.

- Prepare a Conservation Management Strategy (CMS) for Council owned heritage properties
  - including maintenance schedules, and
  - to complete one plan per financial year depending upon the availability of funding, commencing with the Memorial Hall.
- Ensure annual works budgets cover heritage asset maintenance and repairs.
- Review governmental Plans of Management and where appropriate to ensure heritage matters are addressed.
- Investigate preparation of a Council Outdoor Staff Heritage Policy or procedure
  - to ensure that Council's outdoor staff are made aware of any histories, sites or features that may be included in future works programs and
  - to encourage works crews to notify the Development Services Division of Council of any items of significance that are located within road reserved of public parks.
- To identify sites where interpretive signage could be prepared to convey the historic significance of Council owned sites or places.
- To support Council staff in implementing relevant aspects of heritage management within each village.
- Ensure relevant Council Officers have skills appropriate to the effective management of cultural heritage by
  - Preparing and providing briefings on relevant cultural heritage principles and practices.
  - Providing relevant learning resources and information regarding learning opportunities.
- To monitor the condition of Council owned heritage items consistent with the requirements of conservation management plans/strategies.

## **5.0 Cultural Tourism Development**

*Aims:* \* To promote and integrate heritage into cultural tourism programmes and opportunities.

\* To create vibrant, attractive and welcoming main streets in the CBD and Shire villages

*Actions:*

- To continue to participate in the development of tourism opportunities related to the Art Deco history of Moree town.
- To continue to implement and develop the main street programme in Moree CBD
- To integrate European and Aboriginal Cultural heritage into the Moree Shire Tourism Strategy
- To liaise with Council's tourism officer to investigate opportunities to develop a corporate image for interpretive signage that is to be used consistently throughout the Shire to identify heritage sites and places.
- To continue to promote and identify new opportunities for cultural heritage tourism through the ongoing promotion and identification of sites and tours at the Moree Plains visitor information centre.
- To develop various Moree Plains village heritage walking routes within villages
- To continue to investigate and seek funding opportunities for the implementation of heritage tourism projects within the Shire.
- To explore the possibility of developing main street programmes in villages
- To continue to provide support to community and tourism groups in the development of cultural heritage tourism projects and programs.
- To continue to support the Regional Museum Advisors program.

## **6.0 Promoting Sustainable Development as a Tool for Heritage Conservation**

*Aims:* \* To encourage practical approaches to heritage conservation to support sustainable development.

*Actions:*

- Work with property owners and developers to:
  - Encourage the adaptive re-use of heritage structures, rather than demolition and re-development.
  - Encourage re-generation projects and urban design that respect the cultural heritage of the Shire.
  - Ensure infill development meets accepted sustainability requirements.
- Provide pre DA advice on matters affecting the sustainability of buildings.
- Provide learning resources and learning opportunities for sustainability and heritage awareness to Councillors, Council officers, owners of heritage properties and the community.

## **7.0 Development assessment and urban design**

*Aims:* \* To provide policies and plans appropriate to the assessment of applications that relate to sites and places of heritage significance.

\* To encourage an on-going dialogue between Council and the community regarding urban design and management of streetscapes in the Shire.

*Actions:*

- To continue to provide free heritage and urban design advice to property owners and developers including on-site consultations as required.
- To continue to encourage advice to be sought on heritage and urban design issues prior to lodgement of Development Applications.
- To continue to seek the input of Council's Heritage Adviser in the assessment of applications likely to impact on the heritage significance of buildings and places.
- To continue to assist Council with heritage and urban design advice for a variety of situations and applications.
- To flag all items of heritage consideration on the Council database, so that heritage related issues are noted at pre-lodgement and development application lodgement.
- To transfer existing database information to the appropriate State Heritage Inventory format.
- To assist Council in implementation of its planning template in regards to heritage and urban design matters and appropriate management mechanisms to protect heritage places and archaeological sites.

## **8.0 Aboriginal Heritage**

*Aims:* \* To provide policies and plans appropriate to the assessment of applications that relate to sites and places of Aboriginal heritage significance.

*Actions:*

- To adopt the Moree Plains Shire Council Aboriginal Heritage Study.
- To include on the LEP schedule those places recommended in the study.
- To encourage an Aboriginal representative to be actively involved in the Heritage Working Group, or if a separate Aboriginal Heritage Group exists the Heritage Advisor attend its meetings.
- To develop or adopt a standard brief for dealing with Aboriginal places based on existing guidelines.