

FILE NO: PSC2015-00060

TITLE: HERITAGE POLICY

POLICY OWNER: STRATEGY AND ENVIRONMENT SECTION MANAGER

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this policy is to state Port Stephens Council's commitment to ensuring systems are in place to assist in the recognition, protection and promotion of Indigenous and non-Indigenous heritage in the Port Stephens Local Government Area (LGA).

CONTEXT/BACKGROUND:

Heritage is a key element of Australia's identity. It reflects our Indigenous and non-Indigenous spirit and ingenuity through our cultural, built and unique, living landscapes. Heritage is a legacy from our past, informing present and future operations.

The Port Stephens LGA encompasses a rich Indigenous and non-Indigenous history. It is the land of the Worimi people with the area being first noted by Europeans in May 1770. Considerable Indigenous and non-Indigenous land and marine history has been documented in the region, ranging from a vibrant fishing industry, trade and establishment of towns, villages and agricultural activity.

Port Stephens Council supports opportunities to retain local history in a way that positively influences social connections and place making in communities and also recognises the positive economic benefit gained from cultural heritage tourism.

SCOPE:

The Policy is a commitment to:

- 1) Assist in the conservation, protection and interpretation of local and state heritage;
- 2) Recognise and respect heritage, both Indigenous and non-Indigenous;
- 3) Celebrate places, buildings, landscapes and stories of our local communities that provide a link to our nation's heritage;
- 4) Develop partnerships and provide initiatives that enable practical actions to protect and manage heritage places;
- 5) Establish consistent methods of managing heritage matters between Council and the community that are in line with local, State and Federal legislation; and
- 6) Consult with relevant Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities.

This policy applies to land and infrastructure owned by Council or where Council has been appointed trust manager of Crown reserves. It also recognises Council's role in supporting the preservation of significant heritage, including those privately owned, through Council's Local Environmental Plan.

DEFINITIONS:

An outline of the key definitions of terms included in the policy.

Heritage Places, buildings, landscapes and stories related to the history of our community.

POLICY STATEMENT:

Port Stephens Council supports heritage activities in the Port Stephens LGA. This includes the environmental heritage of Port Stephens, conserving heritage items and heritage conservation areas (including associated fabric, settings and views), archaeological sites and Aboriginal objects and Aboriginal places of heritage significance.

POLICY RESPONSIBILITIES:

- 1) Executive Leadership Team: Leadership and strategic direction
- 2) Senior Leadership Team: Leadership through ensuring staff understanding of and compliance with provisions outlined in this policy and associated documentation
- 3) Strategy & Environment Section Manager: Policy implementation & process owner
- 4) Development Assessment & Compliance Section Manager: Planning compliance
- 5) Civils Assets Manager: Compliance of works on Council owned land
- 6) Heritage Advisor: Provide professional advice to Council
- 7) 355 Heritage Advisory Committee: Provide community to Council

RELATED DOCUMENTS:

- 1) Port Stephens Heritage Signs and Trails Guidelines 2015
- 2) Local Environmental Plan 2013
- 3) Development Control Plan 2013
- 4) Port Stephens Cultural Plan 2015-2018
- 5) Draft Port Stephens Council Heritage Strategy
- 6) *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (Heritage Protection) Act 1984 (Common.)*
- 7) *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (NSW)*
- 8) *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Common.)*

- 9) *Local Government Act 1993 (NSW)*
- 10) *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 (NSW)*
- 11) *Heritage Act 1977 (NSW)*
- 12) *Crown Lands Act 1989*
- 13) *Australia ICOMOS Burra Charter 1999*

CONTROLLED DOCUMENT INFORMATION:

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RM8 container No	PSC2015-00060	RM8 record No	
Audience	General		
Process owner	Strategy and Environment Section		
Author	Strategy and Environment Section Manager		
Review timeframe	Two years	Next review date	11 April 2019
Adoption date	24 March 2015		

VERSION HISTORY:

Version	Date	Author	Details	Minute No.
1.0	24/03/2015	Strategy and Environment Section Manager	N/A	056

2.0	11/04/2017	Strategy and Environment Section Manager	<p>Transfer to new corporate policy template.</p> <p>The policy purpose is a transfer of the objectives from Version 1.0.</p> <p>The policy scope is a transfer of the principles and part of the policy statement from Version 1.0.</p> <p>The policy responsibilities is a transfer of the implementation responsibility from Version 1.0.</p> <p>The policy responsibilities has been amended to include ELT, SLT and Development Assessment & Compliance Section Manager.</p> <p>The related documents section is a transfer of the relevant legislative provisions from Version 1.0. The related documents has been amended to include the Port Stephens Heritage Signs and Trails Guidelines 2015, Local Environmental Plan 2013, Draft Port Stephens Council Heritage Strategy, Development Control Plan 2013, Port Stephens Cultural Plan 2015-2018 and Crown Lands Act 1989</p>	086
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