Heritage South Australia

Our heritage is made up of aspects of the past and present that we want to share with future generations. This can include:

- historical buildings and monuments
- relics of agricultural and industrial heritage
- archaeological artefacts and fossils
- caves, mines and volcanic and geological sites
- shipwrecks, lighthouses and whaling stations.

The different types of heritage in South Australia are managed by various government agencies, local councils, peak bodies and legislation.

Heritage South Australia of the South Australian Department for Environment and Water (DEW) is responsible for protecting and conserving built, maritime and intangible heritage of non-Aboriginal cultural heritage significance to South Australia, and for supporting the South Australian Heritage Council to fulfil their legislative function.

DEW’s Heritage South Australia:

- provides strategic and policy advice to Government and the Minister for Environment and Water on priorities, current and emerging issues
- provides policy advice and support to the South Australian Heritage Council in administering the South Australian Heritage Register and promoting heritage within South Australia
- provides technical advice to owners about the management and conservation of their State Heritage Places
- assesses and provides management advice relating to shipwrecks (Commonwealth and State) and their relics
- actively records and registers relics located in South Australia associated with historically significant shipwrecks in Australian waters

The significance of each heritage place and its location helps determine the type of protection needed at World, National, Commonwealth, State and local heritage levels.
In South Australia the various heritage listings include:

- one World heritage place (Australian Fossil Mammal Site in Naracoorte) in the World Heritage List
- nine National heritage places in the National Heritage List
- ten Commonwealth heritage places in the Commonwealth Heritage List
- 2,300 State Heritage Places and 17 State Heritage Areas
- 7,091 Local Heritage Places and 204 Local Heritage Areas.

Maritime Heritage Program
Some of South Australia’s history is reflected along the state’s coast and inland waterways. South Australia has a rich maritime history with more than 800 shipwrecks recorded.

- The shipwrecks provide important information into the state’s maritime history and are havens for marine life. The remains of these vessels are also important education, recreational and tourism assets.

Heritage South Australia manages a maritime heritage program that encompasses land and underwater sites. The program aims to identify, conserve, protect and provide policy advice on the built and maritime heritage of South Australia.

In an effort to preserve these historic wreck sites, Heritage South Australia works with a range of stakeholders to identify, manage, protect and promote South Australia’s maritime heritage.

Conservation Advice
To assist owners in the conservation of their State Heritage Places in South Australia, Heritage South Australia has a number of online publications providing technical information on the maintenance and conservation of heritage places, including masonry, brickwork, rising damp, roofing, painting, signage and advertising and fences. General conservation guidelines are available covering maintenance and repair of older buildings, ruins, graves and cemeteries.

In addition there are several guidelines for best practice approach to managing development affecting State Heritage Places and State Heritage Areas covering Alterations and additions to heritage places (1997), Improving Access to Heritage Buildings (1999), the SA Guide to Developing State Heritage Places (2012) and recently Site Induction Notes (2013).

Specific development guidelines for managing developments in and affecting State Heritage Areas have been published, including:

- Beltana
- Burra
- Colonel Light Gardens
- Solar panel guidelines for the Colonel Light Gardens State Heritage Area
- Gawler Church Hill
- Goolwa
- Hahndorf
- Mintaro
- Moonta Mines
- Mount Torrens
- Penola
- Port Adelaide.

All of these on-line publications are available at: www.environment.sa.gov.au/topics/heritage/conserving-our-heritage

Heritage South Australia is working with other key stakeholders on a number of initiatives and programs, including creating stronger links between Heritage and Tourism, creating a Heritage Tourism Strategy, contributing to the South Australian Planning Reform agenda and exploring new funding models for heritage conservation.

More information
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