Who is the South Australian Heritage Council?

The South Australian Heritage Council (the Council) is an independent decision making body appointed under the Heritage Places Act 1993 (the Act). The Council is made up of between 6-8 heritage professionals with specialised experience and expertise in disciplines such as history, architecture and planning, heritage conservation and public administration. Advocacy, legal and legislative experience is also highly desirable.

Purpose

The Act makes provision for the identification, recording and conservation of places and objects of non-Aboriginal heritage significance. The key objectives and principles of the Act underpins the functions of the Council.

Heritage South Australia within the Department for Environment and Water (DEW) supports both the Council and the Minister for Environment and Water (MEW) to

- Identify and protect South Australia’s heritage places and related objects.
- Promote an understanding and appreciation of South Australia’s heritage.
- Support the conservation of places and related objects of State heritage significance.
- Encourage the sustainable and adaptive re-use of heritage places in a manner consistent with high standards of conservation practice, such as the Australia ICOMOS’s Burra Charter.

The Opportunity

‘Our Heritage, shaped by nature and history, is an inheritance passed from one generation to the next. It encompasses many things – the way we live, the traditions we hold dear, our history and our values.’

Australian Heritage Commission

The responsibility of the Council is to protect, conserve and promote heritage into the future.

The Council will achieve this by engaging with the community and stakeholders to ensure places that demonstrate our state’s natural world, unique architecture and history are valued and protected by the community for future generations. The Council will also form meaningful alliances with Government, businesses, NGO’s and the community to facilitate this movement.

It will be important to promote the understanding of the significant contribution that our heritage makes to the liveability, character and social identify of our state, as well as the role it can play in job creation and the economy, our low carbon economy, tourism offering and food and wine culture.

Economic and business challenges for South Australia are front of mind for State Government, driving its economic policy agenda, in combination with strong health, education and social platforms.

A primary objective will be to continue to promote heritage conservation as an enabler that contributes to tourism, business development and job creation.

Key outcomes for the next three years

- Please refer to the SA Heritage Council Strategic Plan but they include:
  - Visionary policy setting is developed in consultation with business, NGOs and the community and provided to the Minister to take heritage legislation into the 21st century.
  - The public value of protecting and conserving heritage is widely understood.
  - Heritage tourism and job creation opportunities are promoted and encouraged.
  - The community and stakeholders are meaningfully engaged in the protection and conservation of our state’s heritage.
  - The quality and integrity of the SA Heritage Register is improved.
The functions of the SA Heritage Council as defined by the *Heritage Places Act 1993*

The Council has the following functions:

a. to provide advice (especially from a strategic perspective) to the Minister on matters relating to —
   i. trends, shortcomings and opportunities with respect to heritage protection at the State and local level and, insofar as may be relevant, at the national level; and
   ii. the development and effectiveness of heritage conservation programs, policies, initiatives and incentives; and
   iii. the operation and enforcement of this Act; and
   iv. other issues referred to the Council by the Minister for consideration and report;

b. in connection with the administration of this Act—
   i. to administer the *South Australian Heritage Register*; and
   ii. to identify places, and related objects, of State heritage significance, and to enter them in the Register; and
   iii. to identify areas of State heritage significance, and to promote their establishment, in appropriate cases, as State Heritage Areas under the Development Act 1993; and
   iv. to initiate or support community awareness programs that promote public understanding and appreciation of the State’s heritage, taking into account the objects of this Act; and
   v. to promote the objects of this Act in such other manner as the Council thinks fit, including through the work of other bodies or persons;

c. to provide advice (especially from a strategic perspective) to the Minister to whom the administration of the *Development Act 1993* is committed on matters relating to—
   i. the interpretation or application of the criteria set out in section 23(4) of that Act (and, if appropriate, the consideration of any potential amendment with respect to those criteria); and
   ii. other matters on which that Minister is required to consult with the Council under the provisions of that Act;

d. to perform any other function assigned to the Council by or under this or any other Act.

The Council may —

a. establish criteria that are to be taken into account when determining whether an area should be established as a State Heritage Area; and

b. establish guidelines that are to be used in the interpretation or application of —
   i. the criteria that apply under paragraph (a); and
   ii. the criteria set out in section 16.

The Council must establish and maintain a list of persons who are recognised by the Council as being appropriately qualified (including by virtue of their skills or experience) for the purposes of this Act, or for the purposes of those provisions of the *Development Act 1993* that are relevant to heritage.

**Meetings and member commitment**

- Meetings occur approximately every six weeks. Usually there is no meeting in January.
- Meeting time: currently held on a Thursday morning over a 2-4 hr period.
- Sitting fees are payable. Travel and accommodation allowances may be paid subject to government travel policy. Out of session is also payable for working groups and approved activities.
- Meeting materials such as an agenda and papers will be provided electronically before each meeting in line with the Government’s commitment: Digital by Default.
- Members are required to review meeting material before meetings.
- The Council Chair and Deputy Chair have additional responsibilities between meetings including speaking to the media around listing decisions and advocacy.
- Appointments are up to three years. Members are eligible for re-appointment at the end of their term.
- All members of the SA Heritage Council will receive an induction to help them to understand their role and responsibilities.