

# What is Heritage?

**Our heritage is part of who we are. It's what we inherit, appreciate today and pass on to future generations. They can then understand what came before them.**

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**The City's local heritage framework exists to understand, protect, sustain and celebrate our heritage.**

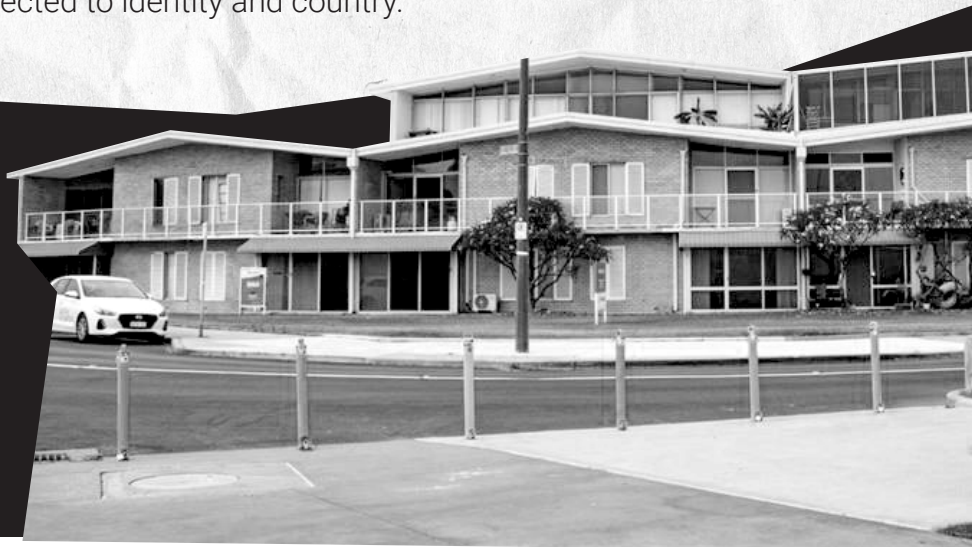
When you hear the word 'heritage', sometimes it refers to an old building, relic, fossil or a famous painting in a museum, but that's not always the case.

Heritage is more than just buildings in the 'built environment'. Heritage can be tangible, something that we see and touch like the cultural landscape, natural environment, monuments, artefacts, records or precincts. It can also be intangible like language, traditional skills, stories, songs, oral history and knowledge.

Nyoongar Cultural Heritage includes knowledge, practices, people, objects and places that are valued, culturally meaningful and connected to identity and country.

## **Heritage places are not always old**

Over time the 'cultural heritage significance' of a place or object can change when it has been more fully documented and better evaluated. Heritage places though are not just old, they can be recent or distant, and within our lifetime.





## Heritage can seem ugly to some and pleasing to others

'Heritage values' can differ between people and groups, so opinions are not always shared. What is considered to be aesthetically pleasing can change over time. There are many examples of heritage places from different Australian architectural styles, and places with many changes over decades that some people may find unpleasant to look at, however, they are of 'cultural heritage significance'.

## Heritage benefits

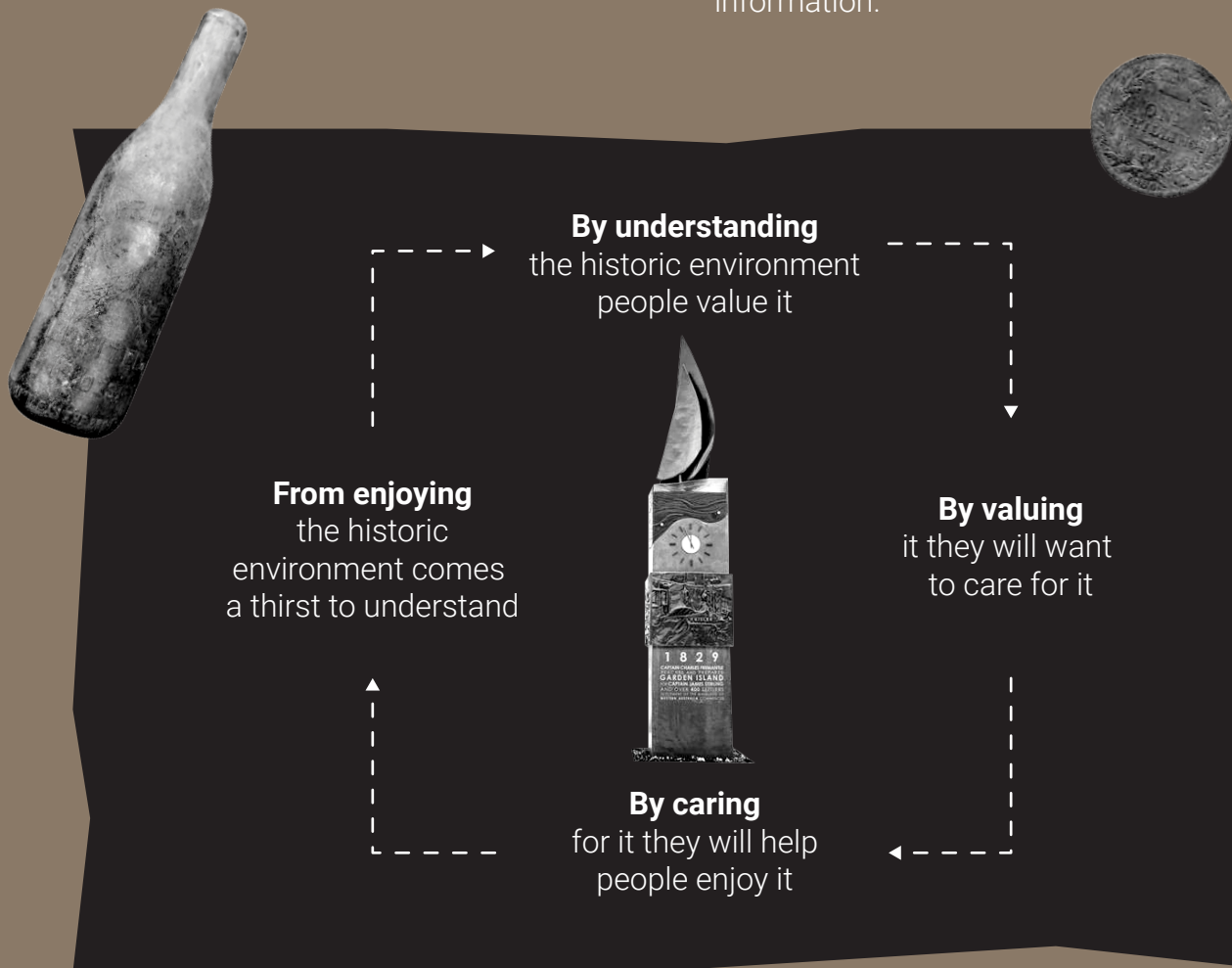
There are many benefits to conserving and understanding protected heritage. Heritage includes social values from the present and accepted as being important to our identity. People can have a connection to heritage from where they live. Heritage can also be a living record of events in our history and learning together. The aesthetic value of a heritage building can add to the character of a place.

'Heritage values' and 'cultural heritage significance' are two concepts that are often used interchangeably, however, they provide a basis for the care and management of heritage places.

'Heritage values' describe the cultural meaning found in heritage and help explain why heritage is important to our communities.

Heritage can have more than one heritage value, and may have a range of values for different individuals like a former owner, groups such as 'historical society' or to the general community.

The 'cultural heritage significance' of a place or object is the sum of all the heritage values that can be recognised in that place or object. This can change over time with use and new information.



# Common Questions

## **If heritage is only protected locally, does that mean it is not as important as state heritage?**

No. Most heritage places are identified at the local level. Heritage places recorded on the Heritage List of the City of Rockingham Town Planning Scheme No.2 are highly valued within the local community.

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## **What is the difference between a local 'Heritage Survey' and a 'Heritage List'?**

The City is required under the Heritage Act 2018 to prepare a 'Heritage Survey' to identify places of 'cultural heritage significance' in the community. A key function is to inform the preparation of a 'Heritage List' and 'Heritage Areas' under the local planning scheme. A 'Heritage Survey' is not used as a basis for decision making.

A 'Heritage List' is established in a legal sense, associated with the City's local planning scheme which regulates land use and development. The 'Heritage List' or 'Heritage Area' helps guide decision making.

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## **Can I undertake additions or renovate heritage buildings?**

Yes. The degree of change will be guided by the significance of the place. Heritage doesn't mean that a place must be 'frozen' in time. Changes to places are guided by the City's Heritage Development and Design Policy and include expert advice. For some places, guidance is prepared through a Conservation Management Plan.

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## **If a place is identified as heritage can it still be used?**

Yes. It is important that heritage buildings are used as it means these places will be maintained and looked after.

## **Who determines 'Heritage'?**

Ultimately the Council determines what heritage is included in the 'Heritage Survey' and 'Heritage List' following review of submissions received during public consultation with owners, groups and the community. The City's Guidelines to Establishing a Heritage List Policy and expert independent advice from the City's Heritage Advisor guides Council decisions.

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## **Can I have a say in whether a place is heritage listed, and what happens to it?**

Yes. Participation is welcomed on heritage matters when the opportunity arises to nominate a place or object for inclusion in the City's 'Heritage Survey' and 'Heritage List'. There are also opportunities to nominate a place separately onto the State Register of Heritage Places.

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## **Do properties always lose value when identified as heritage?**

No. Heritage places that are well conserved can be great places to live, work and visit. Heritage is one of many considerations in determining property values, such as zoning, condition of property and location.

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## **Is financial assistance available?**

Private owners of most heritage listed properties in the City together with not-for-profit organisations can apply for a Heritage Assistance Grant through the City's Community Grants Program. The Heritage Council also offer State Heritage Grants (State Registered Places) and Community Heritage Grants. These funding streams offer funding assistance for the conservation, future planning and promotion of heritage places.

