

Local Heritage Survey

Council is responsible for deciding what places are included in a Local Heritage Survey (LHS). The LHS helps to identify local heritage places on a Heritage List.



What is a Local Heritage Survey?

A Local Heritage Survey (LHS) lists places of cultural heritage significance within the City of Rockingham. A key objective of a LHS is providing an accessible public record that captures historical information.

Project Background

The City is reviewing its Local Heritage Survey. Since the last review, the legislation has changed from the *Heritage of Western Australia Act 1990*, to the *Heritage Act 2018*. The *Heritage Act 2018*, requires all Local Governments in Western Australia to survey all places for heritage, and to update the survey. The LHS (previously known as the Municipal Heritage Inventory) is a guiding document describing places that have cultural heritage significance.

These places tell the story of the City of Rockingham, from its early acknowledgment of Nyoongar heritage values and the enduring connection to the land, through to early Dutch history from 1619, to early colonial history in 1829, the late colonial period 1850–1885, the Gold Boom period 1886–1914, the Inter-War Years 1915–1949 and the Post-War Modern Period 1950–2017. Our heritage is part of our identity and it's what we inherit.



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When does a place have heritage value?

Heritage values for the LHS are identified in the *Western Australia Guidelines for Assessment of Local Heritage Places November 2022* (Heritage Council).

Heritage can have more than one value and may have a range of values. 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.

What is the City of Rockingham doing?

The Council is responsible for selecting places on a LHS representing our heritage.

A LHS is the main document, which identifies what heritage places exist in the locality. It is also a publically accessible record of places, which have 'cultural heritage significance' in the district.

How often is a Local Heritage Survey Reviewed?

The City follows the Heritage Council *Guidelines for Local Heritage Surveys August 2022*, which allows for a range of options for adding and amending information. Changes can include administrative updates, place-specific reviews, and a general review. The process for administrative reviews includes updates to record minor changes, which are made without community consultation, however, for place-specific reviews and a general review, the City encourage views from its community about heritage. This reflects the City's approach to adopting current standards and best practice.

Our heritage is being reviewed in 2024, which also corresponds with the City's preparation of a Local Planning Strategy. A general review may occur subsequently within intervals of five to eight years.



What is Cultural Heritage

A 'place' or 'area' can be of significance to a locality if it has one or more heritage values defined by the Heritage Council of Western Australia, based on the *Burra Charter* (2013), which are:



Aesthetic value through its architectural style, contribution to the streetscape through its design, scale and setting, including any distinctive features.



Social value through making a contribution to the local 'sense of place' and identity such as places of worship, community halls, or schools as well as privately owned places such as hotels, cinemas and sporting venues.



Scientific value through identified or potential archaeological deposits, which may reveal early construction techniques and design techniques.



Associated values other values may apply.



Historic value through its association with an influential or prominent person in the history of the district, illustrating the historical development of the district.

A place does not need to demonstrate all the values – it may be of cultural heritage significance if it meets any one of these.

What are Management Categories?

Some places are more important to the community, while others have been lost over time with only the site remaining.

The assessment of a place identifies heritage values and whether a place meets the threshold for inclusion in the LHS. A qualified and experienced heritage professional engaged by the City prepares this work overseen by the City's Heritage Reference Group (HRG).

For existing local heritage places already on the MHI, this document helps the City to prepare the LHS and Heritage List with updated assessments and new Classifications of Significance and Management Categories.

The 2024 Management Categories are as follows:

- ▶ Exceptional significance
- ▶ Considerable significance
- ▶ Some/moderate significance
- ▶ Little significance



What happens if my place is nominated?

If your place is nominated, it will be assessed in a review of the LHS, for cultural heritage significance. The City's Heritage Consultant will provide the assessments and recommendations for the Heritage List from the nominations as part of the LHS review.

The City will contact you if Council decide to support the draft LHS for public comment, and to advise you that your place has been nominated and is being considered for inclusion in the LHS, and likewise within the Heritage List. While property owners are invited to participate, the assessment of a place will be determined on the 'cultural heritage significance' of the place.

The City's Heritage Reference Group (HRG) also guides the approach. Council makes the final decision as to the inclusion of places in the Heritage List.

What happens if my place is already on the LHS?

The LHS review provides the ability to reassess any changes made to the place and its condition. Proposals to change information can result from new research undertaken during the preparation of the LHS, completion of approved development works, or updated information from the owner, community or other source. In some cases, this will result in a reassessment of the heritage values of a place, with the potential for this to be reflected in the LHS and Heritage List. Management Categories for places are also being reviewed.

If a place appears on the LHS, there is no change to the normal development process and requirements, as the LHS does not have a statutory implication for planning and development.

What happens if my place is included on the Heritage List?

It has implications for owners who propose to alter or develop their property, including demolition. An application seeking Development Approval is required to assess the impact of the proposal on the values. The place must also be maintained to ensure that there is no actual or imminent loss or deterioration of the structural integrity of the local heritage place.

The LHS review guides inclusion on the Heritage List based on the level of cultural heritage significance of a place.

What heritage practices apply?

Local Planning Policy No.3.3.21 - Heritage Development and Design (LPP3.3.21) guides the conservation and development of places. The City applies the development principles contained in *State Planning Policy No.3.5 - Historic Heritage Conservation and the Burra Charter*.

Before externally painting a place, removing fabric and making alterations, owners are encouraged to speak with the City's Planning Services to guide the approach. General Maintenance involving regular repair of the place to avoid decay is exempt from Development Approval, as listed in LPP3.3.21.



Can I get financial help if my place needs repair?

The City's Community Grants Program offer Heritage Assistance Grants (HAG) to encourage the conservation and documentation of places on the City's Heritage List (with some exceptions applying). HAG's are for the conservation and documentation of places on the City's Heritage List, with some exceptions applying. Applicants are encouraged to contact the City's Planning Team on **9528 0333** before submitting an application. The City's *Planning Procedure No.1.30 - Heritage Assistance Grant Guidelines* can be used as a guide when submitting an application.

For State Registered places, the State 'Heritage Grants Program' offers funding assistance for the conservation, future planning and promotion of heritage places. There are two primary funding streams under the program, State Heritage Grants and Community Heritage Grants. Applicants are encouraged to contact the Heritage Grants Team via 6551 8002 before submitting an application.

When a State Registered place has approved funding under the State Heritage Grants Program, it may affect the eligibility under the City's HAG.

How do I research a place?

The City's libraries have books on the history of the City of Rockingham and offer services to help you explore your locality.

The City's website provides detailed research resources, including maps, plans, photographs and links to Library books.

You can find out more by visiting **rockingham.wa.gov.au/heritage**



How is Nyoongar Cultural Heritage reflected?

The City reflects Nyoongar heritage when those places already include cultural heritage values, such as Lake Richmond. The *Heritage Act 2018* requires that it does not apply to places with values solely on account of their connection with Aboriginal tradition or culture. Aboriginal cultural heritage is protected under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972* regardless of whether or not the place is a registered site.



Other resources include:

Rockingham Museum holds artefacts, photographs and objects that reflect the City's history and are a value source of historical information.

Trove for early newspaper articles covering a date range from the 1800s up to 1954 and images from a range of collecting institutions.

State Records Office for access to detailed maps and plans of specific areas as well as archival records on suburb development.

WA Post Office Directories for information by locality, individual surname, government service, and by trade or profession in Western Australia during the period 1893-1949.

Rates Books are freely accessible through ancestry.com for information about property owners and occupiers in Perth, Western Australia from 1880-1946.

State Library of Western Australia for photographs, archival records, maps and plans, oral history interviews and telephone directories relating to people and places in Western Australia.