

HERITAGE POLICY

Policy Number:	3.1.1
Approved by:	Council
Date Approved:	December 2025
Date of Next Review:	December 2026
Applicable to:	Planning and Building Business Unit
Responsible Officer:	Manager Planning and Building
Related Policies:	Nil
Related Documents:	Nil
Statutory Reference:	Wellington Planning Scheme

OVERVIEW

To establish policy to manage heritage identification and protection.

This Heritage Policy seeks to establish processes to identify and protect the best examples of Wellington's heritage and increase community appreciation of that heritage.

Through this policy the Council seeks to give recognition to the heritage assets of the Wellington Shire for the benefit of both present and future residents and visitors.

THE POLICY

- To encourage a community climate of respect for, and appreciation of Wellington Shire's heritage of buildings, gardens, trees and other features of importance.
- To identify and protect the most important aspects of the Wellington Shire's heritage.
- To develop local knowledge and skills in all aspects of researching and conserving Wellington Shire's heritage places.
- To provide persons involved in the conservation of heritage places with expert advice in respect to the most appropriate manner to undertake associated works.

The Wellington Shire Council shall engage a Heritage Advisor to undertake the following as required:

- (a) Under the direction and guidance of Council's Manager Land Use Planning, provide advice to:
 - Council on Town Planning matters;
 - Council and Committees of Management on proposed works in respect of Council owned buildings/places;
 - Private building owners and occupiers on a range of issues, such as paint colour schemes, building alterations and additions, researching techniques and funding availability, at no cost to the property owners/occupier.
- (b) Compile nominations on behalf of the Council for registration on the Victorian Heritage Register and/or Register of the National Estate as required.
- (c) Develop specific guidelines and/or action plans for identified areas of high heritage value, to promote restoration/reinstatement works and ensure building alterations and infill development is compatible with the area's existing scale and character.

- (d) Advise Council on the availability of funding and heritage works/studies and prepare any resultant submissions.
- (e) Prepare a register of council-owned buildings/properties of high heritage value, which identifies the level of significance of those places and gives a brief action plan of any works which should be undertaken.
- (f) Conduct a heritage seminar/workshop for local tradespersons and building owners to help improve heritage skills, knowledge, and awareness in the community.

Council will support the development of heritage brochures which increase community awareness of the heritage of the Wellington Shire.

Where a Planning Permit is required for buildings and works, due only to applicable heritage overlay controls, Council will waive the applicable application fee which may otherwise discourage the undertaking of restoration/reinstatement works, and/or place additional costs on property owners due to the community benefit of imposing heritage controls.

Council will continue to support the operation of museums and Historical Societies within Wellington Shire.

REVISION HISTORY

VERSION	DATE	SUMMARY OF CHANGES
1.0	December 2022	Date of Next Review updated to: December 2024.
1.1	December 2023	Date of Next Review updated to December 2024.
1.2	December 2024	Date of Next Review updated to December 2025.
1.3	December 2025	Date of Next Review updated to December 2026.