



South Australian Heritage Council

Report on Heritage Protection 2022 Summary



Palm House Adelaide Botanic Gardens. Photo: Kaylee Clancy.



Introduction

Under section 5A of the *Heritage Places Act 1993*, an important function of the South Australian Heritage Council is to provide advice (especially from a strategic perspective) to the Minister for Environment, Climate and Water on ‘*matters relating to 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.*’

This Report on Heritage Protection 2022, prepared with the assistance of Heritage South Australia, Department for Environment and Water, sets out the Council’s strategic advice on ‘trends, opportunities and shortcomings’ that will inform the management of the South Australian Heritage Register, our State Heritage Places (SHP) and our heritage more generally.

Underpinning the work of the Council is its commitment to reconciliation. The Council has specifically committed to work with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to identify and protect State Heritage Places and achieve better equity and truth telling.

The South Australian Heritage Council supports any initiatives that seek to bring about significant positive change for heritage protection, conservation and management in South Australia, including:

- policy and legislative change that enables an integrated system for local and state listings
- separation of powers between the listing and development of Heritage Places in South Australia, with separate Ministers, remains vital to the ongoing protection for our State’s heritage
- engaging and consulting with First Nations on heritage listings, where relevant
- a fit for purpose South Australian Heritage Register with information to provide certainty and clarity to owners, users and developers
- a funding model to underpin heritage that benefits owners, creates jobs and skills and incentivises redevelopment of our heritage
- encouraging and facilitating adaptive re-use of places with heritage value so that their future is assured
- supporting heritage tourism as an important economic driver
- reducing red-tape associated with heritage management.

With this lens the Council wants to draw attention to seven key themes that are important for South Australia and in our opinion will bring about the most benefit to the South Australian community and Government.

Theme 1

Enhancements to the Heritage Places Act to strengthen protection and streamline listing pathways

Recommended Actions:

- A legislative reform process for the Heritage Places Act 1993 is commenced and a Bill is introduced to Parliament.
- Streamline and integrate heritage listing pathways for State and Local heritage places/areas.
- A new fit for purpose on-line SA Heritage Register.

Theme 2

Refine the Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act and Planning and Design Code to support positive heritage outcomes

Recommended Actions:

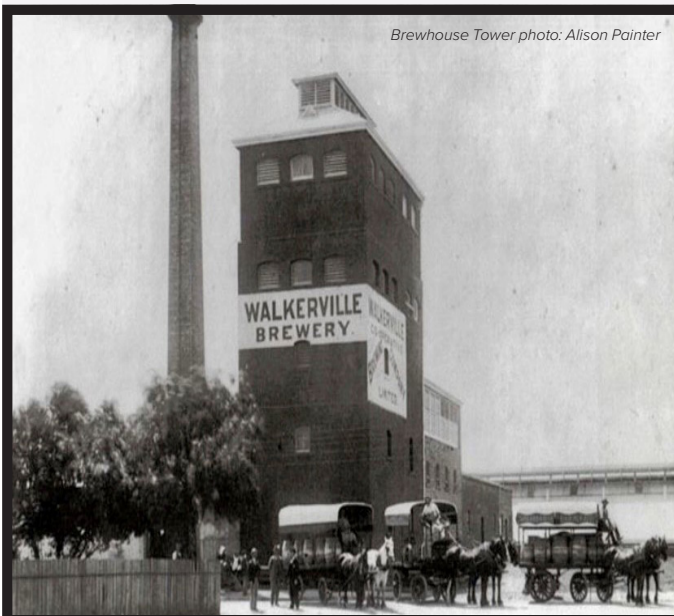
- Develop and further refine the Planning and Design Code through the creation of new heritage policies.
- Implement an adaptive re-use code amendment.
- Streamline and integrate heritage listing pathways for State and Local Heritage Places/Areas with improved supporting heritage information about those places.

Theme 3

Provide a high quality South Australian Heritage Register

Recommended Actions:

- Source Government funding to develop a fit for purpose on-line SA Heritage Register and quality mapping that depicts the entry clearly
- Secure Government funding to enable an audit of State and Local Heritage Places that will:
 - Provide accurate information about the heritage values of currently listed State and local heritage places, to be captured in the South Australian Heritage Register and a publicly-searchable database
 - Promote the value of adequate Local Heritage Place information to Councils.
 - Increase resources to improve the capacity of the on-line Register.



Brewhouse Tower photo: Alison Painter



The West End brewery (formerly named Southwark, Nathan, Walkerville and originally Torrens side brewery) demonstrates 135 years of brewing on the same site. The Brewhouse Tower is a State Heritage Place and the Copper Kettle is a State Heritage Object.

Image to the left: Copper kettle, showing riveting and rounded base.

Theme 4

Develop a sustainable funding model that provides financial support for heritage.

Recommended Actions:

- Investigate the potential role of the South Australian Heritage Fund as envisioned in the *Heritage Places Act 1993*.
- Commit to ongoing funding for Heritage Conservation and Heritage Tourism Grant Programs which will:
 - acknowledge the public value of heritage
 - leverage private and community-based investment into heritage conservation and activation
 - help to sustain specialised trades and skills in South Australia
 - underpin economic activity (including in the regions) given strong evidence which demonstrates that heritage activity has a strong employment multiplier and creates jobs.

Establish an Embodied Energy Fund:

Green Industries SA (GISA) has indicated that there is huge opportunity in the ‘circular economy’, which has direct application to heritage places.

An Embodied Energy Fund for State Heritage Places not only would contribute to the ‘circular economy’, it would also recognise life cycle, embodied energy and energy efficient design principles of our heritage building stock. It could have a significant role in investor decision making concerning demolition versus adaptive reuse of heritage building stock.

A program that levies or taxes the demolition of existing buildings recognising the embodied energy loss could go into an Embodied Energy Fund which could provide an offset for those developers who want to adaptively reuse and repurpose older building stock.

Over time, an Embodied Energy Fund has the potential to create significant funds, which could be invested by Government and gain interest revenue.

Investigate sharing existing lottery funding to include an allocation for heritage:

Without adequate funding, heritage protection and conservation, policy reform and innovative strategies are not able to be delivered within constrained budgets.

Heritage lotteries are a proven way to support effective heritage programs, as illustrated by such lotteries in Western Australia and in England.

Funding from a lottery for heritage would make South Australia’s strong heritage agenda possible, which includes programs that will boost visitor and regional economies; develop jobs and skills; and improve the way we do business.

A Heritage Lottery of some form has had the strong support by the community and continues to be evident by the findings of the Expert Panel for Planning Reform and the ERDC Heritage Inquiry of 2019.

Theme 5

Improve the understanding of the economic and public value of heritage, including heritage tourism.

Recommended Actions:

- Invest in research on the economic contribution and public value of heritage.
- Encourage South Australian Tourism Commission, Tourism Industry Council of South Australia and Tourism Research Australia to capture data that better reflects heritage tourism.
- Establish opportunities to work with the Government, community, businesses and stakeholders to:
 - Develop case studies that realise the economic potential that heritage places contribute to the South Australia economy. Continue to implement the ‘Activating Heritage’ program within the Department for Environment and Water, to demonstrate a significant return on investment and improved heritage protection outcomes.
 - Assist with the implementation of a Heritage Tourism Action Plan.
 - Develop an annual Government owned Heritage Open Day program
 - Audit Government owned heritage to determine condition and required conservation actions and options for best use.

Theme 6 Increase access to skills and trades for heritage conservation

Recommended Actions:

Develop heritage skills and trades to grow jobs and add value that will:

- encourage heritage trades training development and heritage conservation modules within related tertiary qualifications
- support the National Trust of South Australia to establish the Australian Artisan Trades Academy and other programs such as Construction Industry Training Board heritage trades initiative
- drive demand for trades in declining regional communities by restoring the main street of towns, which then re-establishes strong community identity and pride with flow on benefits of stronger regional economies and creation of tourism destinations
- re-establish the Metro and Regional Heritage Advisory Service, a program which co-funds a local heritage professional in the community to provide expertise that stimulates demand for conservation works. There is some evidence that for every dollar invested by State Government, Local Government and Outback Communities Authority matches it with a further \$2-\$3 and the community contributes up to \$10
- increase demand for heritage trades through conservation and heritage tourism grants.

Theme 7 Develop a Heritage Strategy for South Australia

Recommended Actions:

- Invest in the development of a Heritage Strategy. The Strategy should be a bipartisan and enduring document which realises the vision for heritage protection and conservation in South Australia. It should describe how we are going to achieve that vision and include a strong economic model underpinning the strategy based on thinking and decisions for 5 generations, not 5 years.

For more information, please contact:

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