



HERITAGE

Achievements/commitments

Heritage Directions (2003) identified a number of strategies to address complexity and duplication within the planning and heritage systems in South Australia. Department for Environment and Heritage, Planning SA and a number of other agencies have been working to progress these strategies and identify mechanisms to reduce red tape to improve services to property owners, developers and the community.

Heritage Directions also contains strategies that are being implemented with the aim of building capacity within local government to look after local heritage places.

Capacity has been enhanced for Aboriginal groups to manage their heritage and to address their own priorities for recording and conserving sites of significance to them. Training programs have been and continue to be conducted, in conjunction with Flinders University, for groups in situ across SA in site recording and conservation. Aboriginal people are able to work in partnership with developers and exploration companies, leading to increased recording and reporting of sites.

Some funding for Aboriginal participation in maintaining heritage sites is being provided through natural resource

management projects such as the South Australian Arid Lands Arid Rivers Natural and Cultural Heritage Program, site conservation planning at Chowilla in the Murraylands and through grant funding from the Eyre Peninsula NRM Board.

Protected Zones, with an entry permit process, have been established for two of the state's significant shipwreck sites in Gulf St Vincent (Zanoni and ex-HMAS Hobart).

Trends

- Number of State Heritage Places in the South Australian Heritage Register has INCREASED.
- Number of local heritage places designated in council development plans has INCREASED.
- The number of sites listed on the Central Archive (including the Register of Aboriginal Sites and Objects) has INCREASED.
- The number of protected South Australian shipwrecks has INCREASED.
- Documentation of geological heritage has DECREASED.

Recommendations for Action

- R7.1 Provide councils with a simplified process, and appropriate safeguards, for listing and removal of places from a local heritage schedule.
- R7.2 Consolidate heritage legislation
- R7.3 Review the Aboriginal Heritage Act to improve the recording and protection of cultural heritage.

Moving forward

The consolidation of currently separate pieces of heritage legislation would likely improve the coordinated management of heritage in South Australia. Consistency of standards for recording and conserving cultural heritage is necessary to improve conservation outcomes. A review of the Aboriginal Heritage Act 1988 should be conducted to incorporate these and other best practice conservation techniques.

Heritage legislation should be amended to include the identification and conservation of geological and landscape cultural heritage within the broader context of heritage management in this State.

Improved legislation to simplify council planning processes is necessary to enhance the protection of local heritage and reduce the administrative burden on local government.

Management of heritage buildings must be flexible enough to encourage their adaptive re-use and retention as a sustainable alternative to creating new developments, avoiding the loss of embodied energy associated with redevelopment.

There are reducing numbers of skilled craftspeople working in heritage conservation. This has and will affect the management of heritage properties in South Australia. It may be necessary for the government to engage with relevant non-government organisations and training providers to determine the feasibility of targeted assistance to these professions.

Further information

Australian Heritage Directory
www.heritage.gov.au/

DEH Heritage website
www.heritage.sa.gov.au/

Department of Premier and Cabinet, Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation Division
www.premcab.sa.gov.au/dpc/departement_aard.html

Heritage Planning Bulletin
dataserver.planning.sa.gov.au/publications/704p.pdf

PIRSA Geological Monuments
www.pir.sa.gov.au/minerals/geology/geological_monuments

Ships' Graveyards of South Australia
www.shipsgraveyards.sa.gov.au



Sturt Street School, an example of adaptive reuse. Photo: Woodhead Architect