

# Tenterfield Heritage Strategy

2015-2018



Adopted: 23 April 2014  
(Res No. 107/14)

## **Introduction**

This Heritage Strategy has been prepared in accordance with the guidelines developed by NSW Department of Environment and Heritage. This strategy is based on the Heritage Branch “Recommendations for Local Council Heritage Management” and has been prepared in consultation with Tenterfield Shire Council’s Heritage Advisor; Ms Deborah Wray. The strategy is linked in its structure to the annual reporting template which is another requirement of the Heritage Branch as part of its ongoing monitoring of local government heritage advisor and grant funding arrangements.

Tenterfield Council has operated an active heritage program for **17** years and a heritage strategy was initially adopted by Council in 2008. This strategy will be reviewed again in 2018 to assist and guide future directions for heritage management in the Tenterfield Shire Council.

## **Background**

Tenterfield Shire Council is responsible for a 713,439 hectare rural area which straddles the Great Dividing Range. Tenterfield township is 770 km north of Sydney and has a population of 3500 (Census 2011). There are six other smaller population centres spread across the shire including Drake, Jennings, Torrington, Legume, Liston and Urbenville with a total population across the shire of 7024 (Census 2011).

The Shire contains a wide variety of heritage assets, both tangible and intangible, which require special consideration, ranging from Indigenous sites on private land to Bald Rock National Park, items of heritage on the State Heritage Register and Local Environmental Plan and other sites/buildings which may be collectively significant but are not identified for formal listing.

The purpose of this document is to provide a heritage strategy to be used by Council and linked to its overall strategic planning. The strategy aims to protect and properly manage identified heritage assets, and promote a greater understanding of the cultural, economic and social value of heritage by the community.

## HERITAGE STRATEGY 2015-18

### **1. Operate a Heritage Committee to deal with heritage matters in the Tenterfield Shire Council area.**

*Aim: To promote the conservation and maintenance of Tenterfield Shire's heritage.*

#### **Actions:**

- Support and promote the operation of the Tenterfield Shire Heritage Committee in highlighting community concerns and providing advice to Council staff and elected officials.
- Continue to enable the Committee to provide input into local heritage assistance grants, development proposals and other community heritage initiatives.
- Ensure that grant opportunities are utilised and made known to the community.
- Review the list of assets owned by Council and associated bodies and encourage the allocation of adequate funds for long term maintenance and help to identify priorities.

### **2. Identify Heritage Items in the Tenterfield area and list them in the Local Environmental Plan**

*Aim To identify all places of heritage significance (buildings, sites, and moveable items ) in the Tenterfield Shire and implement measures to protect their integrity and significance.*

#### **Actions**

- Continue to develop and expand data available on individual properties identified in the LEP listings.
- To formulate a statement of significance for each item and upload the information to the State Heritage Inventory database.
- Identify any other items or precincts of heritage character which would benefit from statutory heritage protection, and consider the impacts of NSW SEPP complying and exempt development policies on non -protected areas with heritage character and significance.
- Review the findings of the Tenterfield Main Street Heritage Study 1997.
- Work with the NSW Department of Environment and Heritage to review potential sites for consideration of State Heritage Register listing status.
- Support community heritage groups including National Trust of Australia (NSW) and the Tenterfield and District Historical Society to articulate concerns about development which could impact on heritage items and their context.

### **3. Appoint a Heritage Advisor to assist Council, the community and owners of listed items.**

*Aim To achieve enhanced awareness and understanding of the importance of heritage conservation in Tenterfield Shire, and the need for new development to be sympathetic to these values.*

#### **Actions:**

- Make the community aware of the Heritage Advisory service through local newspaper, council newsletters or council web pages.
- Provide free heritage advice to the community through Council's Heritage Advisor.
- Utilise the advice of the Heritage Advisor in the assessment of Development Applications, or works likely to impact on heritage items or places of significance.
- Utilise the advice of the Heritage Advisor to assist Council with the preparation of other related planning and development documents and initiatives.

### **4. Manage heritage in the Tenterfield area in a positive manner**

*Aim To take a pro-active approach to the management of heritage in the Shire*

#### **Actions**

- Link wider Council strategic land use planning and corporate council policies to achieving heritage conservation goals, e.g. community vision plans, budgetary planning and consideration of land use zoning provisions.
- Continue to apply LEP and DCP heritage provisions to the assessment of development proposals.
- Consider how the recommendations of the Tenterfield Main Street Study can be successfully implemented.
- Adopt a flexible and performance based approach to dealing with issues in development proposals such as car parking and building requirements, to maximise heritage conservation outcomes.
- Update and review of Heritage Management Plan 2002 with reference to concepts in Main Street Masterplan, LEP and Conservation Areas
- Monitor rural signage across the Shire.
- Rural villages and/or community halls- identification of village character and precincts

**5. Operate a Local Heritage Fund to provide a small grants program to encourage local heritage projects.**

*Aim To increase community participation and pro-active conservation works to heritage assets in the local area.*

**Actions**

- Continue to operate the Tenterfield Local Heritage Fund to provide assistance to owners of heritage assets.
- Allocate Council funds to run the programme and optimise grant funding opportunities.
- Consider how the grant programme might be supplemented through corporate sponsorship to meet potential increased future demand from additional heritage listings.

**6. Run a Main Street Program**

*Aim To develop measures for the protection, enhancement and promotion of Tenterfield main street and provide opportunities for Council to work with business owners and the community to achieve this.*

**Actions**

- Review the findings of the Tenterfield Main Street Heritage Study by Suters Architects Snell Pty Ltd February 1997. Integrate this with the new civic enhancement committee, the heritage committee work and property/ business owners.
- Continue to operate the Tenterfield Main Street Heritage Fund (loan scheme).
- Consider methods to increase participation in conservation works to properties in the main street. Consider how the loan programme could be supplemented or modified to provide grants e.g. through business or other sponsorship
- Explore any Council incentives for carrying out conservation works which enhance historic properties in the main street, for example rate rebates
- Require a very high standard of design for any new or infill developments that respect the context of the precinct.
- Identify buildings which are considered vulnerable or a high priority for restoration or maintenance works and liaise with property owners to ensure that they are aware of grant incentives and heritage advisory services. Contact non resident landlords to make them aware of the initiatives.
- Implement and enforce the provisions of Council's *Signage and Outdoor Advertising Policy* (28 August 2013). Monitor signage in the main street and develop strategies to deal with any non compliance and signage which is unsympathetic with the precinct.

- Work closely with tourism providers and other agencies to ensure that the Main Street heritage values are actively promoted and include business owners in this initiative.

## **7. Present Educational and Promotional Programs**

*Aim To actively assist and promote cultural heritage projects and awareness in the shire.*

### **Actions**

- Continue to develop Council's web pages to include local history and the cultural heritage of the Tenterfield area, heritage listings, and information on conservation.
- Continue to maintain strong links with the three museum groups in the shire on joint promotions and activities to promote cultural tourism.
- Work with the Tenterfield School of Arts and the Tourist Association to maintain a strong awareness of Tenterfield as the "Birthplace of Our Nation" and to participate in community events associated with this theme and other nationally recognised historical and social associations.
- Upgrade interpretative material with particular emphasis on street signage and the website.
- Promote the heritage facilities operating in the shire and assist in pursuing funding opportunities.
- Send relevant Council staff to heritage conservation courses when possible.
- Consider running a heritage maintenance course for owners of heritage properties by skilled local builders/experts.
- To produce a comprehensive history of the Tenterfield Shire in either a printed or electronic version
- Prepare a column with one old photo and some history provided for local paper in relation to locally listed items on an as needed basis

## **8. Set a good example to the community by properly managing places owned or operated by Tenterfield Shire Council**

*Aim To maintain a register of Council Heritage Assets and to ensure adequate funds to be allocated to enable proper maintenance and long term protection.*

### **Actions**

- Identify and maintain a list of all items/places/trees of heritage significance which are in Council's ownership.
- Assess long term maintenance requirements and provide for these costs to be identified in Council budget planning.

- Develop a protocol for Council staff who are responsible for these assets in order that they are aware of heritage conservation legal requirements and best practice issues for maintenance and management.
- Ensure that any works requiring consent are dealt with in the correct manner to set an example to the community. Carry out Statements of Heritage Impact where required as part of the infrastructure planning process where heritage assets are likely to be impacted upon.
- Prioritise the preparation of Conservation Management Plans for significant Council owned or managed heritage buildings.
- Prepare a simple plan of management for historic cemeteries covering broad aspects of care and conservation.
- Identify, record and catalogue any significant historic equipment, relics, documents, photographs, and paintings etc that are owned by or are under the care of Council. Prepare a simple plan of management for the particularly significant items.
- Prepare interpretative material where appropriate.

## **9. Promote sustainable development as a tool for heritage conservation**

*Aim to promote sustainable development as a tool for heritage conservation*

### **Actions:**

- Promote and encourage adaptive re-use, infill or sympathetic additions to historic buildings in favour of demolition and rebuilding. Use the pre DA process to actively support this policy.
  - Consider providing a 'heritage rebate' on DA charges and fees for positive projects that support those principles in Tenterfield Shire, e.g. changes of use.
  - Encourage owners to adopt sustainable building principles including the provision of water tanks, solar panels and solar hot water and other emerging technologies and work with the heritage advisor to find sensitive solutions to any installations on heritage buildings or sites.
  - Promote and expand Councils commitment to the purchase, stock piling and re-sale of historic building materials in particular 'Tenterfield' Bricks and salvageable architectural detailing.
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