

**SOUTH AUSTRALIAN HERITAGE COUNCIL**

**MINUTES**

The 164<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the South Australian Heritage Council (the Council) was held at 12 Cadell St, Goolwa on Thursday 19 March 2026.

*Statement of Acknowledgement*

*The Chairperson acknowledged that the that the land that the Council members meet on today is the traditional lands for Ngarrindjeri people and that the Council respect their spiritual relationship with their country. The Chairperson also acknowledged the Ngarrindjeri people as the custodians of the Goolwa area.*

**SA Heritage Council:** Chair: Ms Sandy Verschoor Members: Mr David Brooks, Ms Eleanor Walters, Mrs Deborah Lindsay, Mr Jamie Botten, Professor Gini Lee, Mr Simon Weidenhofer, Mr Tim Lloyd and Dr Stephen Schrapel.

**Secretariat:** Mr David Hanna, Executive Officer, Heritage South Australia, Department for Environment and Water (DEW), Ms Bev Voigt Manager, Heritage South Australia (DEW) and Ms Kym Pryde, Director, Planning and Heritage (DEW).

**1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES**

Ms Verschoor, Chair, welcomed all to the 164<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Council.

There was an apology from Ms Michelle Toft.

Ms Verschoor acknowledged the end of the term of membership of Mrs Deborah Lindsay, Dr Stephen Schrapel and Mr Simon Weidenhofer at the end of March, this therefore being their last meeting and thanked all three members for their excellent contributions during their time on the Council.

**2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA AND DECLARATION OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

**Agenda**

The agenda was adopted.

**Declarations of conflict of interest**

There were no conflicts of interest declared.

**3. PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES**

The Council considered the draft minutes of the 12 February 2026 meeting and approved them subject to a minor amendment provided to Mr Hanna.

**RESOLUTION:**

The South Australian Heritage Council:

- **Approved** the minutes of the 12 February 2026 meeting subject to a minor amendment.

**4. ACTION ITEMS**

The Council noted the status of the action items.

**RESOLUTION:**

The South Australian Heritage Council:

- **Noted** the action items.

**5. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

Ms Verschoor mentioned she was interviewed for ABC television regarding heritage. She was not sure when it will be aired.

Ms Verschoor noted that the number of members in the new Council is reduced and there is no alternate member.

Ms Pryde noted that, for the new Council, if there is need for expert assistance on a particular matter, the Council can seek such assistance where required.

**RESOLUTION:**

The South Australian Heritage Council:

- **Noted** the Chair's report.

**6. IN CAMERA DISCUSSION**

The Council had an in-camera discussion pursuant to section 7 (6) of the *Heritage Places Act 1993*.

*In camera text removed for publication purposes.*

**7. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION / DECISION****7.1 Project updates for 2025/26**

The Council welcomed Mr Blazeby, DEW to the meeting. Mr Blazeby noted that progress was made on Council projects; contemporary heritage legislation and policy, a fit-for-purpose digital heritage register, better heritage information, protection through listing, the community heritage conservation grants, and the five projects funded under the 'community education and support' project.

The Council noted there is likely to be an underspend of money in relation to some of the community education and support projects and that the Council could consider how this money should be reallocated.

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The Council noted it had received a request from ICOMOS to be a sponsor for the upcoming meeting to be held in Burra in May. The Council agreed that it would become a gold sponsor of the ICOMOS event using unspent funds.

The Council discussed and agreed that the remainder of the unspent funds would be allocated to the heritage conservation grants.

**RESOLUTIONS**

The South Australian Heritage Council:

- **Noted** the status on each of the projects being delivered through the “Protecting Heritage for the Future” Program.
- **Noted** the progress of the “Community Education and Support” sub-projects.
- **Determined** allocation of unspent funds to become a gold sponsor of the ICOMOS conference in Burra in May and the remaining towards heritage conservation grants.

**7.1A Annual Heritage Forum topics**

Mr Blazeby, DEW, introduced the agenda paper and summarised the suggestions made for a topic for the 2026 heritage forum.

The Council expressed general support for a forum on the integration of local and state heritage listings notwithstanding the lack of ministerial support for progress on the topic.

The Council discussed an outline for the forum consisting of an explanation to participants of what is involved in the current system of local heritage listings, a consideration of its efficiency, and a discussion of a pathway to integrating local heritage listings into the state heritage listing process if appropriate.

The Council agreed it would be beneficial to obtain input from stakeholders. The Council iterated that its preferred model would be for implementation of local listings to stay the responsibility of Local Government with the formal approval process changed to align closer to how State heritage listings currently occur.

The Council agreed to hold the forum on pathways to integration of local and state heritage listing process in early June.

Action: DEW to convene a working group to proceed with the organisation and planning of this forum.

**RESOLUTIONS**

The South Australian Heritage Council:

- **Noted** the options for an annual heritage forum
- **Noted** that the 2026 heritage forum is proposed to be held in June 2026.
- **Determined** a topic for the 2026 heritage forum as above.
- **Nominated** Ms Verschoor, Professor Lee and Ms Walters to be part of a working group for this event.

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## 7.2 Fit for purpose SA Heritage Register

Ms Pryde, DEW, spoke to options for the Council to upgrade the South Australian Heritage Register.

The Council discussed and agreed that it would support a bid to Government to fund a fit for purpose South Australian Heritage Register.

The Council resolved it did not want to divert funds from its Protecting Heritage for the Future program component “Community Education and Support” as this was the only avenue for Council to fulfil other functions under the *Heritage Places Act 1993* such as outreach to the community through regional visits, its blue plaques program and heritage forums.

Council members discussed how Artificial Intelligence could play a role in developing a fit for purpose South Australian Heritage Register.

Action: SAHC requested that DEW progress a bid to government to fund a fit for purpose South Australian Heritage Register.

Council noted DEW’s recommendation that the government’s Digital Investment Fund and the SA Heritage Fund could be funding resources applied to prior to or in conjunction with a budget bid allocation to support this work.

Council said the responsibility should sit with government to procure a new digital South Australian Heritage Register, noting Council has a responsibility to maintain the Register (i.e. make sure it had appropriate information) but not to ensure an appropriate Register exists.

Action: The Chair will arrange to meet with Ms Pryde and the DEW Chief Executive to discuss this matter.

### RESOLUTIONS:

The South Australian Heritage Council:

- **Noted** that the maintenance of the South Australian Heritage Register is a responsibility of Council under Part 3 of the *Heritage Places Act 1993*.
- **Noted** DEW has been exploring the provision of a new digital heritage Register as per the *Protecting Heritage for the Future* commitment that seeks a ‘fit for purpose’ Register that helps owner and community understand why each Place is protected with maps, other useful information and images.
- **Considered** DEW and Council’s current budget allocation and situation to support the delivery of the Register project.
- **Supported** a funding bid through government to support the delivery of the Register project.

## 7.3 Listing process review update

Dr Bird, DEW, was welcomed to the meeting. Dr Bird provided a summary of the updates applied to the listing process including templates for Summary of State Heritage Place documents and all correspondence.

Council thanked Dr Bird for this work and approved the recommendations.

**RESOLUTIONS:**

The South Australian Heritage Council:

- **Noted** the update on the heritage listing process review.
- **Approved** applying changes to Summary of State Heritage Place document for State Heritage Places confirmed in the Register since 10 April 2025.
- **Determined** that the intent for the 2013 Summary of State Heritage Place is that the part called Register Entry forms the Entry in the Register under s14(1) and the part called Commentary on the Listing forms content of the Register under s14 (sentence 24).
- **Endorsed** Council correspondence and heritage listing templates.

**7.4 Communications Strategy – Action Plan**

Mr Blazeby, DEW, provided an overview of the action plan. It was noted the action plan will be a working document.

Council discussed and requested:

- some further commentary regarding timeframe / achievability of actions;
- a column added to the table that details collaboration;
- consideration of how Council can link in with the University of Adelaide, in particular its research programs in communication terms; and
- clarify “business as usual” in the action plan and consider resource requirements of this.

Mr Brooks noted that the State Library is working on history projects that have overlap into the heritage sphere.

Action: DEW to organise a meeting with Mr Brooks to discuss collaboration.

Council noted the action plan and agreed to it being provided to Council members again at its May 2026 meeting.

**RESOLUTIONS:**

The South Australian Heritage Council:

- **Noted** the communications strategy action plan.
- **Noted** this document would be provided to Council members again in May 2026.

**7.5 Risk Register**

Mr Blazeby, DEW, noted that a working group of Council had reviewed and updated the Risk Register out of session.

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The second page of the Risk Register had not been provided to Council members when their papers were converted to PDF format from Excel. The Council asked for it to be circulated out of session.

Council approved the Risk Register, noting it would consider the second page of the Risk Register out of session.

**RESOLUTIONS:**

The South Australian Heritage Council:

- **Approved** updates made to the Risk Register 2026 noting there would be an out of session review of the second page of the Register to ensure changes made by the working group were satisfactory.
- **Noted** the Risk Register be reconsidered as a minimum annually or if and where necessary.

**8 ITEMS FOR NOTING****8.1 Correspondence**

Noted.

**RESOLUTION:**

The South Australian Heritage Council:

- **Noted** the Correspondence.

**8.2 Delegations Report**

Noted.

**RESOLUTION:**

The South Australian Heritage Council:

- **Noted** the Delegations Report.

**Any Other Business**ICOMOS Conference

Ms Pryde noted there will be an ICOMOS Conference held in Burra in May 2026. The Council noted one member can be sponsored to attend with Ms Pryde and Ms Verschoor. Ms Eleanor Walters indicated an interest to attend.

**CLOSE OF MEETING**

Ms Sandy Verschoor closed the meeting at 4:20pm.



**Ms Sandy Verschoor**  
**Chair**

**Date: 30 April 2026**