

South Australian Heritage Council

Member Duty Statement



What is the South Australian Heritage Council?

The South Australian Heritage Council (the Council) is an independent decision-making body appointed under the *Heritage Places Act 1993* (the Act). The Council is made up of between 6-8 heritage professionals with specialised experience and expertise in disciplines such as history, architecture and planning, heritage conservation, property development and public administration. Advocacy, legal and legislative experience is also highly desirable. The Council also includes a person with knowledge of or experience in heritage conservation chosen from a panel of 3 such persons submitted to the Minister by the Local Government Association of South Australia.

Purpose

The Act makes provision for the identification, recording and conservation of places and objects of non-Aboriginal heritage significance. The key objectives and principles of the Act underpin the functions of the Council.

Heritage South Australia within the Department for Environment and Water (DEW) supports both the Council and the Minister for Climate, Environment and Water to:

- identify and protect South Australia's heritage places and related objects.
- promote an understanding and appreciation of South Australia's heritage.
- support the conservation of places and related objects of State heritage significance.
- encourage the sustainable and adaptive re-use of heritage places in a manner consistent with high standards of conservation practice, such as the Australia ICOMOS's Burra Charter.

The Opportunity

'Our Heritage, shaped by nature and history, is an inheritance passed from one generation to the next. It encompasses many things – the way we live, the traditions we hold dear, our history and our values.'

Australian Heritage Commission

The responsibility of the Council is to protect, conserve and promote heritage into the future.

The Council is committed to achieving this by engaging with the community and stakeholders to ensure places that demonstrate our state's natural features, unique architecture, and history are valued and protected by the community for future generations. The Council will also form meaningful alliances with Government, businesses, NGO's and the community.



Government of South Australia
Department for Environment
and Water

Being a member of the Council provides you with the opportunity to promote the understanding of the significant contribution that our heritage makes to the liveability, character and social identity of our state, as well as the role it can play in job creation and the economy, including our low carbon economy, tourism offering and food and wine culture.

A primary challenge of the role will be to continue to lead in changing the perception of heritage conservation as a 'blocker' to development, often triggered by moves to protect a place of heritage importance when it appears to be under threat, to that of an enabler that contributes to tourism, business development and job creation.

Key outcomes:

- Please refer to the [SA Heritage Council Strategic Plan](#).
- Visionary heritage reform is developed in consultation with local government, business, NGOs and the community and provided to the Minister to take heritage legislation into the 21st century.
- The public and economic value of protecting and conserving heritage is more widely understood.
- The community and stakeholders are meaningfully engaged in the protection and conservation of our state's heritage.
- The quality and integrity of the SA Heritage Register is improved.

The functions of the SA Heritage Council as defined by the Heritage Places Act 1993

- 1) The Council has the following functions:
 - (a) to provide advice (especially from a strategic perspective) to the Minister on matters relating to —
 - (i) 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; and
 - (ii) the development and effectiveness of heritage conservation programs, policies, initiatives and incentives; and
 - (iii) the operation and enforcement of this Act; and
 - (iv) other issues referred to the Council by the Minister for consideration and report;
 - (b) in connection with the administration of this Act—
 - (i) to administer the *South Australian Heritage Register*; and
 - (ii) to identify places, and related objects, of State heritage significance, and to enter them in the Register; and
 - (iii) to identify areas of State heritage significance, and to promote their establishment, in appropriate cases, as State Heritage Areas under the *Development Act 1993*; and
 - (iv) to initiate or support community awareness programs that promote public understanding and appreciation of the State's heritage, taking into account the objects of this Act; and

- (v) to promote the objects of this Act in such other manner as the Council thinks fit, including through the work of other bodies or persons;
 - (c) to provide advice (especially from a strategic perspective) to the Minister to whom the administration of the *Development Act 1993* is committed on matters relating to—
 - (i) the interpretation or application of the criteria set out in section 23(4) of that Act (and, if appropriate, the consideration of any potential amendment with respect to those criteria); and
 - (ii) other matters on which that Minister is required to consult with the Council under the provisions of that Act;
 - (d) to perform any other function assigned to the Council by or under this or any other Act.
- 2) The Council may —
- (a) establish criteria that are to be taken into account when determining whether an area should be established as a State Heritage Area; and
 - (b) establish guidelines that are to be used in the interpretation or application of —
 - (i) the criteria that apply under paragraph (a);
 - (ii) the criteria set out in section 16.
- 3) The Council must establish and maintain a list of persons who are recognised by the Council as being appropriately qualified (including by virtue of their skills or experience) for the purposes of this Act, or for the purposes of those provisions of the *Development Act 1993* that are relevant to heritage.

Meetings and member commitment

- Meetings occur approximately every five weeks. Usually there is no meeting in January.
- Meeting time: currently held on a Thursday morning for a 2- 4 hr period.
- Meeting dates for 2026 will be advertised on the Council's webpage here: [Department for Environment and Water - Agendas and minutes](#)
- Sitting fees are payable in accordance with [Department of Premier and Cabinet Circular 16](#). Travel and accommodation allowances may be paid subject to government travel policy. Out of session work is also payable for working groups and approved activities.
- Meeting materials such as an agenda and papers will be provided electronically before each meeting in line with the Government's commitment: *Digital by Default*.
- Members are required to review meeting material before meetings.
- The Council Chair and Deputy Chair have additional responsibilities between meetings including speaking to the media around listing decisions and advocacy.
- Appointments are up to three years. Members are eligible for re-appointment at the end of their term.
- All new members of the SA Heritage Council will receive an induction to help them understand their role and responsibilities.