

SA Heritage Register

Place Submission form

South Australian
HERITAGE COUNCIL

South Australian Heritage Council

Submission on whether the entry of **Strait Gate Lutheran Church** should be confirmed in the South Australian Heritage Register

A place is eligible for entry in the Heritage Register if it meets one or more of the criteria in Section 16(1) of the *Heritage Places Act 1993* (Act). Using the table below, please explain why you believe the place should or should not be entered into the Register, using the said criteria. The South Australian Heritage Council invites your submission regarding the entry of this place. For help in making a submission, please refer to the Guidelines for Interpreting State Heritage Criteria, also available online: [Guidelines-for-Interpreting-State-Heritage-Criteria-Final-2024.pdf](#)

Criteria

Criteria under the <i>Heritage Places Act 1993</i> , section 16(1)	Provide evidence or other information to support your submission
a) it demonstrates important aspects of the evolution or pattern of the State's history	The congregation believes this point is difficult to sustain.
b) it has rare, uncommon or endangered qualities that are of cultural significance	The congregation is not aware of any such qualities. It is a place of worship rather than a cultural building.
c) it may yield information that will contribute to an understanding of the State's history, including its natural history	The congregation is of the view that no information would become available by this example of a place of worship.
d) it is an outstanding representative of a particular class of places of cultural significance	To repeat earlier assertions, the emphasis is on a place of worship rather than a cultural place of significance.

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e) it demonstrates a high degree of creative, aesthetic or technical accomplishment or is an outstanding representative of particular construction techniques or design characteristics	The notice itself admits that changes have occurred, such as the addition of external air-conditioning units and the removal of pews. The congregation therefore argues that the building is already an evolved, working structure rather than a pristine, untouched example of 1960s Modernism. The very features the Council praises—such as the unique roofline, sawtooth side walls, and custom clerestory windows—are notoriously difficult and expensive to maintain. By locking these elements under State Heritage protection, the Council is imposing a long-term financial burden on a local parish to preserve structural design choices that may present ongoing maintenance liabilities (such as roof leaks or specialized glass replacement).
f) it has strong cultural or spiritual associations for the community or a group within it	The congregation is concerned that by imposing State Heritage status it overreaches its purpose by prioritizing bricks and mortar over the spiritual mission of the church community. If the physical restrictions of a heritage listing prevent the congregation from adapting the space for modern worship, accessibility compliance (such as disability ramps), or community safety, the listing will actively undermine the very group it claims to acknowledge. As the congregation changes, the building will inevitably require modifications. Forcing a volunteer-run, non-profit church to navigate complex State Heritage approvals and potentially expensive specialized architecture to meet these basic societal standards is an unfair operational and financial penalty. State Heritage listing introduces strict bureaucratic oversight for even minor alterations. This limits the church's ability to quickly and cost-effectively adapt the building to meet modern congregational needs, such as installing contemporary audiovisual equipment, updating lighting, or altering seating configurations for varied ministry uses. The spiritual health of the Light Pass community relies on a flexible, viable church operation, not a state-mandated monument.
(g) it has a special association with the life or work of a person or organisation or an event of historical importance	The association with architect Eric von Schramek is already extensively and securely preserved within South Australia through his highly prominent, permanently listed metropolitan works, such as the Immanuel Lutheran Church in North Adelaide and Immanuel College Chapel. It is structurally unnecessary and administratively unjust to force a small regional congregation to carry the long-term financial and regulatory burden of preserving his broader portfolio. Von Schramek's legacy is well-secured in the state's architectural history archives. Confirming a State Heritage listing on this specific regional asset over-indexes his representation at the direct expense of a local church's operational survival. The burden of preserving his portfolio should not fall on the pockets of this congregation.

Summary:	Strait Gate Lutheran Church Incorporated operates as a faith-based, community-focused non-profit congregation. The imposition of a State Heritage listing introduces regulatory red tape, inflation of maintenance costs due to specialized heritage requirements, and restrictions on building utility. This directly threatens the long-term viability of the congregation. The true 'heritage' of Strait Gate is its living people and its ongoing service to Light Pass, both of which are compromised by treating its active place of worship as a frozen architectural specimen.
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Declaration

The South Australian Heritage Council is committed to transparency in relation to the listing process and wishes to enhance public confidence in the nomination, listing and decision-making process. The Council's policy is to make nominations for State heritage listing and submissions on provisional entries publicly available via webpage or to interested parties. The Council will adhere to the Privacy Principles and your name and personal details will not be released unless authorised or required under the Privacy Principles.

We do not want personal details to be released when this nomination / submission is published on the Department for Environment and Water's webpage, noting the above requirements.

We, the [REDACTED] wish to make a written representation regarding the provisional entry of **Strait Gate Lutheran Church**. The information we have provided is correct to our knowledge.

☒ **We do not support** the confirmation of this provisional entry in view of the concerns raised in the criteria above.

We do wish to appear personally before the Council to make oral representations.

Signature: _____

Date: 30th July 2026

Please attach any relevant documents and be aware that a heritage officer may contact you to discuss your submission.

Please provide your contact details here:

This form must be received by 5pm on **7 August 2026**.

Please return completed submission form to the

Board and Policy Officer, South Australian Heritage Council

Via email: **DEWHeritage@sa.gov.au**

Or via post: **GPO Box 1047, Adelaide SA 5001**