

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN HERITAGE COUNCIL

MINUTES

The 150th Meeting of the South Australian Heritage Council (the Council) was held on Level 10, 81 – 95 Waymouth Street, Adelaide on Thursday 10 October 2024.

Statement of Acknowledgement

The Chairperson acknowledged that the land that the Council members meet on today is the traditional lands for Kurna people and that the Council respect their spiritual relationship with their country. The Chairperson also acknowledged the Kurna people as the custodians of the Adelaide region and that their cultural and heritage beliefs are still as important to the living Kurna people today.

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

Secretariat: Mr David Hanna, Executive Officer, Heritage South Australia, Department for Environment and Water (DEW) and Ms Beverley Voigt, Manager, Heritage South Australia (DEW).

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

Ms Verschoor welcomed all to the 150th meeting of the South Australian Heritage Council (the Council).

There were nil apologies.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA AND DECLARATION OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Agenda

The agenda was adopted.

Declarations of conflict of interest

There were no declarations of conflict of interest.

3. IN CAMERA DISCUSSION

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

Text removed for publication.

4. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION / DECISION

4.1 Policies for review

Council noted the cover paper related to policies that had been provided to them for review and then proceeded to consider each document in turn.

RESOLUTION:

The South Australian Heritage Council:

- **Noted** the information contained in the cover paper.

4.2 Policy: Complaints

It was noted that no changes had been suggested in relation to the Policy: Complaints. The Council noted it was satisfied that no changes were required.

RESOLUTION:

The South Australian Heritage Council:

- **Noted** that no changes were required.

4.3 Guideline: Handling Complaints

Council reviewed this Guideline and approved the reduction of time for responding to a complaint from 45 working days to 20 working days.

RESOLUTION:

The South Australian Heritage Council:

- **Approved** the suggested amendment to the Guideline: Handling Complaints.

4.4 Complaints Fact Sheet and Form

Council reviewed this Fact Sheet and Form and agreed that the Fact Sheet would be updated to reflect that complaints needed to be provided in writing. Council also requested that the reference to 45 working days be changed to 20 working days to reflect the change to the associated guideline.

RESOLUTIONS:

The South Australian Heritage Council:

- **Approved** the suggested amendments to the Fact Sheet and the further changes agreed to as per above.
- **Noted** that the updated Fact Sheet and Form will be loaded to the Council's webpage.

4.5 Guideline: Communication with nominators

The Council considered the suggested changes to this Guideline and approved them with the addition of text that Heritage SA will advise the nominator when the Council will be considering their nomination and they are welcome to attend.

RESOLUTION:

The South Australian Heritage Council:

- **Approved** the amendments to this Guideline: Communication with nominators, subject to the additional change outlined above.

4.6 Procedure: Better Heritage Information

Council reviewed the draft Procedure and approved the changes proposed. The Council also requested that the reference to "pink files" on page two, be changed to "Research materials held by DEW."

RESOLUTIONS:

The South Australian Heritage Council:

- **Approved** the Procedure: Better Heritage Information subject to the change above.
- **Noted** that, subject to the suggested changes, the Procedure will be loaded to the Council's webpage.

4.7 Vacant Places report

Mr Blazeby noted that the Council resolved to undertake research and data analysis regarding select vacant State Heritage Places to answer the question 'what issues are faced by the owners of SHPs in using such buildings?', to establish the extent of vacancy and the reasons for such vacancy. The research was restricted to Government owned state heritage places, in particular buildings with the ability to be occupied.

The project was divided into two parts, pilot testing and expanded research.

The pilot testing involved the random selection of 20 State Heritage Places in regional and metropolitan locations. From the 20 State Heritage Places selected for the pilot study, property managers of 16 State Heritage Places were interviewed.

An expanded research exercise was then undertaken and this report had been provided to Council members with their agenda package.

Mr Blazeby said the report indicates that the Government Owned Heritage Grants scheme is not widely known.

Council indicated the report was sobering to read considering the issues about occupying a State Heritage Place.

Council noted it appreciated the Alexandrina Council example that was provided in the report. It demonstrates the amount of work it takes to get a collection of heritage buildings fit for use.

Council reflected that it would have been beneficial to ask owners to reflect on the positive stories associated with State listing as well as the challenges, but acknowledged this was not part of the brief. The report shows clearly that owners need support and encouragement.

Council agreed it would be appropriate to do a review of the Government Owned Heritage Fund to ensure it is fit for purpose and being accessed by owners.

Of the four recommendations made in the report, two have legislative barriers to change:

- The Construction Code and Disability Discrimination Act are Commonwealth legislation and therefore the ability to influence change is limited.
- The *Retail and Commercial Leases Act 1995* places the responsibility of care and control of its building on the owner and cannot be transferred to the tenant (in most circumstances).

DEW has committed to a broader consultation and awareness campaign of the Government Owned Heritage Fund starting with a communication from the DEW CE to the CE's of other agencies.

The Council thanked Heritage SA for facilitating this report.

Action: Provide the report to the Minister under cover letter. The cover letter will include the objective of the report.

Action: Council agreed it would look at sourcing a document that describes best practice and best use for State Heritage Places (success stories). The example of Singal Point was provided regarding good heritage outcomes.

RESOLUTIONS:

The South Australian Heritage Council:

- **Noted** the stage 2 vacant places report.
- **Noted** the response to the report's recommendations.
- **Agreed** to provide the report to the Minister.

4.8 Amendment to Blue Plaque Project

Heritage SA recommended that the following words be added to the Procedure to enable an expanded offering of plaques to owners: "The Council, at its 10 October 2024 meeting,

agreed that Heritage SA will offer plaques firstly to new confirmations of State Heritage Places and then work backward in time until the funding is fully allocated.”

Council agreed with this recommendation and approved the update of the Blue Plaque Procedure.

RESOLUTIONS:

The South Australian Heritage Council:

- **Approved** the amended procedure for Blue Plaques.
- **Noted** that the updated Procedure will be made available through the Council's webpage.

4.9 Reconciling with the Frontier – Dr Skye Krichauff

Ms Verschoor welcomed Dr Skye Krichauff to the meeting.

Dr Krichauff noted that a project which collates numerous accounts of conflict between colonists and Aboriginal people in South Australia during the colonial era (pre-1836 to 1890) has resulted in an interactive map for the public to access through the web.

The website is titled 'The South Australian Frontier and its Legacies'. The website is a digital resource that includes a geo-linked Story Map.

Dr Krichauff demonstrated the interactive map via the data projector. Dr Krichauff noted that the aim of this site is to widen public awareness of, and dialogue about, frontier conflict as part of South Australia's colonial past. The content draws upon digitised colonial collections held by these partner organisations and other national libraries. It also draws upon the contemporary accounts of Aboriginal people from different regions of what is now the state of South Australia.

It was noted that 'Frontier conflict' is interpreted broadly as both interpersonal violence and cultural violence. The projects shows how knowledge of the past has been transmitted through generations and the enduring impacts of colonisation in the present.

The Council appreciated the presentation and thanked Dr Skye Krichauff for her time.

RESOLUTION:

The South Australian Heritage Council:

- **Noted** the presentation by Dr Skye Krichauff on the website: “The South Australian frontier and its legacies”.

ITEMS FOR NOTING / DECISION

5.1 Previous Meetings Minutes

Council considered and approved the draft minutes from the 5 September 2024 meeting without amendment.

It was noted that Ms Toft had provided a few typos to Mr Hanna prior to the meeting and these had been accounted for in the revised minutes.

RESOLUTION:

The South Australian Heritage Council:

- **Approved** the minutes of 5 September 2024.

5.2 ACTION ITEMS

Noted.

RESOLUTION:

The South Australian Heritage Council:

- **Noted** the status of the action list.

5.3 Chairperson's Report

Ms Verschoor noted there will be a Climate Change Conference and there is an opportunity for the SA Heritage Council to submit a paper and / or attend the conference to share information about how built heritage helps to limit climate change as opposed to new buildings.

It was noted that a meeting date is yet to be set with the State Aboriginal Heritage Committee.

The next meeting of Heritage Chairs and Officials of Australia and New Zealand will be held in Canberra in late November. Ms Verschoor and Ms Voigt will both attend.

Ms Verschoor noted she will be meeting with Mr Craig Holden, State Planning Commission. Council suggested that Ms Verschoor raise the matters of adaptive reuse code amendment, sliding scale of development application fees and the lack of protection for Local Heritage Places.

RESOLUTION:

The South Australian Heritage Council:

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

5.4 DEW Report

Noted.

RESOLUTION:

The South Australian Heritage Council:

- **Noted** the DEW Report.

5.5 Correspondence

Draft Greater Adelaide Regional Plan

Submissions are invited on the draft Greater Adelaide Regional Plan. It was noted that consultation closes on 4 November 2024.

Action: Mr Botten and Mrs Lindsay will prepare a response for the broader Council to consider.

Draft Management Plan for Martindale Hall

It was noted that Council did not have any particular feedback and would not provide a submission.

RESOLUTION:

The South Australian Heritage Council:

- **Noted** the Correspondence.

5.6 Delegations Report

Noted.

RESOLUTION:

The South Australian Heritage Council:

- **Noted** the delegations reports.

5.7 Celebrating 150 meetings of the SA Heritage Council

It was noted that this meeting is the 150th meeting of the Council.

The South Australian Heritage Committee was the first body to deal with heritage matters in South Australia. The *South Australian Heritage Act 1978* established the 12-member Committee.

The name was changed to the State Heritage Authority, which was established under the aegis of the *Heritage Act 1993*, which came into operation on 15 January 1994.

As a result of the Heritage (Heritage Directions) Amendment Act 2005, the Heritage Places Act 1993 was amended to replace the State Heritage Authority with the South Australian Heritage Council.

Ms Verschoor noted that the first meeting of the South Australian Heritage Council was held on 23rd February 2006 and the Chair of that meeting was Mary Marsland. The first meeting was held at 1 Richmond Road, Keswick.

The following 3 places were Confirmed at the first meeting:

- Former Powder Magazine Keeper's Residence, Water Tank, Toilet, Fence, Garden and Curtilage, Adelaide.
- Slab Hut built by Ferdinand von Mueller and House, Bugle Ranges.
- St Andrew's Anglican Church (including Front Fence, Eastern Side Fence, Clock and Peal of Bells, Walkerville.

RESOLUTION:

The South Australian Heritage Council:

- **Noted** the snapshot provided relating to 150 meetings of the South Australian Heritage Council.

6 Any Other Business

Nil.

CLOSE OF MEETING

Ms Sandy Verschoor closed the meeting at 1:30pm.



Ms Sandy Verschoor

Date: 14 November 2024

Chair