

# SOUTH AUSTRALIAN HERITAGE COUNCIL

## MINUTES

The 154<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the South Australian Heritage Council (the Council) was held on Level 10, 81 – 95 Waymouth Street, Adelaide on Thursday 27 February 2025.

### 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 154<sup>th</sup> 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. PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

Two sets of minutes were considered.

Minutes of 12 December 2024 meeting

Minutes of 23 January 2025 meeting

**RESOLUTION:**

The South Australian Heritage Council:

- **Approved** the minutes of the 12 December 2024 meeting and the 23 January 2025 meeting without amendment.

Draft minutes will be provided to Council members two weeks after the meeting is held, for comment. Council to formally approve at the next meeting.

**4. ACTION ITEMS**

Action items were noted.

**5. IN CAMERA DISCUSSION**

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

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**6. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION / DECISION****6.1 Update from Heritage Chairs and Officials of Australia and New Zealand (HCOANZ)**

Ms Voigt spoke to the agenda paper provided to members. The following is a summary of the discussion led by her and Ms Verschoor:

- Climate change and housing pressure are two main issues impacting heritage nation wide. Heritage is seen as an impediment to growth in the housing sector.
- Several jurisdictions have reviewed their heritage legislation. Many are also undertaking reviews or updates of their Heritage Registers.
- Governments are the largest owners of heritage and are challenged to care for them all equally. This is an issue across all jurisdictions.
- The Commonwealth government is still working on a new Australian Heritage Strategy.
- Tasmania has undertaken a review of its Register and it recommended taking the time to do the review slowly and well. 3,000 people are now downloading heritage datasheets per month following their review and update of the Register.
- Public value of heritage working group report: Council can use evidence of the public value of heritage when liaising with stakeholders or Ministers. DEW is undertaking work on an infographic to assist in these communication efforts.
- Insurance for heritage properties is an issue. The case study was buildings impacted by hail damage at Australian National University in Canberra. The

university is negotiating that the costs to address building code rules should be covered under insurance, arguing it was the hailstorm event that caused the need for repairs.

- Several jurisdictions are reviewing their Registers in terms of the threshold for listing. In many cases, there are early heritage listings that would not meet the threshold for listing if they were applied today and therefore there could be an impetus to remove places from Heritage Registers.

Ms Voigt suggested that a discussion with NSW Heritage Council on how they have approached a review of their Heritage Register could be informative.

#### **RESOLUTION:**

The South Australian Heritage Council:

- **Noted** the information provided.

#### **6.2 Discussion on legislative reform theme - objects**

Mr Blazeby spoke to the paper provided to Council on objects.

Mr Blazeby noted that under the *Heritage Places Act 1993* (HP Act), an object can only be protected if it is demonstrated that it is intrinsically connected to a State Heritage Place. It was also noted that there is no avenue to emergency list an Object.

It was proposed that objects not intrinsically linked to a State Heritage Place should be able to be entered in the Register if they meet the criteria under section 16, in the same manner that archaeological artefacts and palaeontological, geological and speleological (GPS) specimens can.

Mr Blazeby noted that section 36 of the HP Act only applies to SHPs and not to GPS specimens outside of SHPs. These penalties should extend to all GPS specimens, if it were found that they met the section 16 criteria of the HP Act.

Council agreed to support in principle legislative amendments but asked that accompanying policy be prepared in the first instance.

It was agreed that a clearer definition of “object” is required as part of any legislative amendment.

Action: To draft a policy on the Council role in listing and protecting objects.

#### **RESOLUTIONS:**

The South Australian Heritage Council:

- **Approved** in principle support of the legislative reform.
- **Requested** draft policy be prepared and reviewed before confirming its support.

### 6.3 Self-performance assessment and maturity survey

The Council evaluates its performance annually in the spirit of continuous improvement and members provided Mr Hanna these assessments prior to the meeting.

Mr Hanna provided a summary of the results of the two surveys which included Council's comments on relevant sections.

#### Maturity Survey

As a consensus score was required, Sandy as Chair led the Council through a process to score each category out of 5, 1 being low and 5 being high. Half points are acceptable. Membership and Capability Score = 4.

It was noted that sitting fees ought to be removed from consideration of this category and dealt with separately.

Roles and Responsibilities Score = 4

Professional practice Score = 4.5

Performance and Accountability Score = 4

Ministerial and Statutory relationships Score = 4

Governance and Reporting Score = 4.

Action: Heritage SA to undertake an analysis of the survey results and comments.

Action: Provide a paper to Council at next strategic meeting on what can be implemented in the short term and what requires further work.

### **RESOLUTIONS:**

The South Australian Heritage Council:

- **Discussed** the results of the Maturity Survey and Self-Assessment Tools.
- **Noted** that Heritage SA would provide an analysis of the results and a pathway to improving areas identified for change, at the next Strategic meeting of Council.

### 6.4 Review Instrument of Delegation

The Council considered its Instrument of Delegation and discussed the suggested amendments put forward by Heritage SA.

Council approved the amendments and noted a revised Instrument of Delegation will be signed by Chair out of session.

## RESOLUTIONS:

The South Australian Heritage Council:

- **Considered and Approved** the suggested updates to the Instrument of Delegation.
- **Noted** that the Chair would sign the revised Instrument of Delegation out of session.
- **Noted** that the department will provide the Council with an opportunity to review the Instrument of Delegation at the first meeting of each calendar year.

### 6.5 Risk Register

Changes to the risk register from the 12 December 2024 meeting have been incorporated into the version provided to Council at this meeting.

Council approved its Risk Register subject to:

- Addition of dot points to the text to make it easier to read.
- Suggested wording change to row 11 of the Risk Register.

It was noted that Ms Toft would provide the wording change to Mr Hanna out of session.

## RESOLUTIONS:

The South Australian Heritage Council:

- **Approved** its Risk Register.
- **Noted** that it will consider it on an annual basis.

### 6.6 SA Heritage Council newsletter

At its 12 December 2024 meeting Council agreed that it would move away from the current 'Heritage' newsletter in PDF format and move to an Electronic Direct Mail format.

Council will use a platform called Campaign Monitor.

Council noted the cost associated with distributing the 'Heritage' newsletter, through Campaign Monitor, would be \$5.50 per email and 1.1 cents per recipient.

Council approved the expenditure associated with distribution through Campaign Monitor.

## RESOLUTIONS:

The South Australian Heritage Council:

- **NOTED** the advice provided by the Strategic, Communications and Engagement Branch of the Department for Environment and Water.
- **APPROVED** expenditure.

- **NOTED** that the Council will receive regular updates from Heritage South Australia on the performance of the 'Heritage' newsletter.

## 6.7 Naming Procedure

Dr Louise Bird, Heritage SA, noted that a Policy – *Naming Principles for State Heritage Places* had been prepared for the Council's consideration.

The Policy guides the formulation of names for State Heritage Places entered in the South Australian Heritage Register (the Register), including corrections to the names of existing State Heritage Places and the creation of names for places being provisionally entered and confirmed in the Register. The Policy also formalises approaches to the use of names considered discriminatory, derogatory or culturally unacceptable as well as dual naming for the use of First Nations places.

The following is a summary of the discussion by Council in relation to the draft policy:

- Considered whether a critical mass of opinion is required to lead Council to make a decision on changing a name.
- In paragraph 24 of the draft policy it says that where possible the Council ought to avoid employing the names of specific geological members or formations which may not be widely used. The Council were supportive of this, however asked that the example that was used in the draft policy be removed. Action: delete the following words from paragraph 24: "familiar to laypeople for example Etadunna Member, Rawnsley Quartzite."
- In paragraph 27, the draft policy states that names that might be considered to be culturally unacceptable should only be used for the Registered Name where substantial confusion will ensue if a less widely known significant name is used. The Council were supportive of this however asked that the example that was used in the draft policy be removed. Action: delete the following words from paragraph 27: "such as Former Adelaide Lunatic Asylum Deadhouse".
- Names evolve over time and therefore this may require Council to reconsider the name of a place if it becomes socially unacceptable or not appropriate in some way.
- It was agreed that the former record of the name would not be expunged if Council approved a new name. The former name would be recorded in the assessment documentation.

A majority of Council members approved the Policy, subject to the amendments described above.

### RESOLUTIONS:

The South Australian Heritage Council:

- **Considered and Approved** Policy – Naming Principles for State Heritage Places subject to the minor amendments described above.
- **Noted** that the approved Policy will be made available on the Council’s webpage.

## 6.8 Council projects - update

Ms Voigt provided an update on Council projects as per the paper provided.

It was noted that there are unspent funds of approximately \$40,000 that the Council may like to allocate to a new project this financial year.

Council discussed the site recording of the former Thebarton Police Barracks. It was noted that there was a commitment of \$250,000 from Department of Health that covered recording of the site and creation of a 3D model that would be made available online. It was noted that Lateral Vision will host the data for three years, but after that there will be a cost to continue to make the data available.

Council agreed that it would not fund the Thebarton Police Barracks interpretation as this ought to have been fully and appropriately funded by the Department for Health.

Council determined that this funded should be allocated to the preparation of a Heritage Strategy for South Australia. This was agreed.

Action: Heritage SA to provide a draft project brief to Council members in relation to the preparation of a Heritage Strategy for South Australia.

Action: Provide Ms Verschoor with briefing notes in relation to the site interpretation of the former Thebarton Police Barracks.

Action: Ms Verschoor to speak to the Minister for Health about site recording at the former Thebarton Police Barracks site.

## 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 delivery of the 24 -25 ‘Community Education and Support’ sub-projects.
- **Agreed** that unspent funds would be put towards a Heritage Strategy for South Australia.

## 6.9 Strategic Plan workshop

Council discussed its strategic workplan. Its discussion was based on the components of its previous Strategic Plan. It was noted that:

- There was support for the Vision.
- The Plan would continue to use the three pillars of Protect, Conserve and Promote.
- Agreed that it would be a five-year plan – to 2030.

Action: The vision statement developed in November to be incorporated into the strategic plan in some form.

Action: Strategies under ‘Protect’ and ‘Promote’ need to be finalised at the next strategic meeting of Council.

Action: It was agreed that Ms Voigt and the Chair would refine the text in support of the discussion that was had at the meeting.

## RESOLUTIONS:

The South Australian Heritage Council:

- **Discussed** the Council’s Vision and Goals for the next 5 years
- **Noted** that further discussion to complete the strategic plan will be included on the agenda for the May strategic meeting.

## 7 ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED FOR AMENDMENT

### 7.1 Renaming of “Suicide Bridge and Telegraph Line – formerly Lunatic Bridge”. State Heritage ID: 13345

Dr Louise Bird noted that there has been a request received to consider renaming this State Heritage Place because the name carried negative mental health connotations.

It was noted that the colloquial names ‘Lunatic Bridge’ and ‘Suicide Bridge’ as applied to the timber trestle bridge are associated with ‘hair-raising night crossings, by coach or horses, during floods or storms.’ These names were identified by researchers undertaking the Heritage Survey of the Murray Riverlands during 1982-1984, through verbal communication with members of the Riverland Field Naturalists group.

New descriptive Registered and Known as Names for the State Heritage Place are proposed in line with the Procedure – Naming Principles for State Heritage Places:

- Registered Name: Old Coach Road Bridge
- Known As: Old Coach Road Bridge (timber trestle)

As the remnant telegraph poles could not be located during a recent physical survey of the site it is recommended that reference to the poles in the Registered Name is removed.

If the poles were located at some future time and their provenance verified, it is suggested they could be listed as State Heritage Objects associated with Border Cairn (Todd’s Obelisk) (SHP 13831).



Council discussed the proposal and agreed to amend the Registered Name and the Known As Name as recommended for this State Heritage Place.

**RESOLUTION:**

The South Australian Heritage Council:

- **Approved** the proposed renaming of Suicide Bridge and Telegraph Line – formerly Lunatic Bridge to Old Coach Road Bridge (Registered Name) and Old Coach Road Bridge (timber trestle) (Known as Name).

## 8 ITEMS FOR NOTING

### 8.1 Chairperson's Report

Ms Verschoor noted that she will be speaking to regional media regarding the provisional entry of the Munro Karst site later on that day.

Ms Verschoor noted that under delegated authority she had Provisionally entered the Australian Education Union building on Greenhill Road under section 17(2)(b) of the *Heritage Places Act 1993*. This action was undertaken on 25 February 2025 and therefore is not included in the Delegations Report (Item 8.3). It will be included at the next meeting of Council.

**RESOLUTION:**

The South Australian Heritage Council:

- **Noted** the Chairperson' Report.

### 8.2 Correspondence

Noted.

**RESOLUTION:**

The South Australian Heritage Council:

- **Noted** the incoming and outgoing correspondence.

### 8.3 Delegations Report

Council noted the following delegations that had been exercised by the Manager:

The Chair exercised her delegated authority under section 17 (2) of the *Heritage Places Act 1993* - Make a Provisional Entry in the Register if a place is of heritage significance or to protect a place while an assessment of its heritage significance is carried out. The Chair exercised this in relation to:

- Malcolm Reid's Emporium, 187-195 Rundle Street, Adelaide, State Heritage ID 26610 on 15 January 2025.

The Manager, Heritage SA, exercised her delegated authority under section 27 of the Heritage Places Act 1993 to issue a permit for the following:

- Remains of 'Theberton Cottage', Colonel Light's House (including underground room, tank, well and outbuildings). State Heritage ID 26527
- Walkerville Brewhouse Tower [Includes Copper Kettle - Object of Heritage Significance]. State Heritage ID 26528

A permit was granted for the archaeological monitoring of boring using manual and mechanised augers to extract environmental cores at the former West End Brewery site in preparation for the site's development.

**RESOLUTION:**

The South Australian Heritage Council:

- **Noted** the Delegations Report.

**9 Any Other Business**

Nil.

**CLOSE OF MEETING**

Ms Sandy Verschoor closed the meeting at 1:45pm.



**Ms Sandy Verschoor**

**Date:** 10 April 2025

**Chair**