

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN HERITAGE COUNCIL

MINUTES

The 63rd Meeting of the South Australian Heritage Council (the Council) was held on Wednesday 15 July 2015 at Level 1, 100 Pirie Street, Adelaide.

Statement of Acknowledgement

We acknowledge this land that we meet on today is the traditional lands for Kaurna people and that we respect their spiritual relationship with their country. We also acknowledge the Kaurna people as the custodians of the Adelaide region and that their cultural and heritage beliefs are still as important to the living Kaurna people today.

PRESENT

South Australian Heritage Council: Chair: Mrs Judith Carr; Deputy Chair: Ms Carolyn Wigg; Members: Prof Alison Mackinnon, Ms Sara Beazley, Dr Cameron Hartnell and Mr Jason Schulz, Mr Rob Donaldson, Mr Michael Queale and Ms Ali Ben Kahn.

Apologies: Mr Gavin Leydon

Secretariat: Mr David Hanna, Executive Officer, State Heritage Unit, DEWNR and Ms Bev Voigt, Manager, Heritage and Boards Secretariat, DEWNR.

Guests: Mrs Anna Pope, A/Manager State Heritage Unit, DEWNR; Mr Matthew Loader, DPTI and Mr Paul Stark, DPTI.

1. WELCOME

The Chair welcomed all present.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA AND DECLARATION OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Agenda adopted without change.

3. CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

Motion to confirm minutes of 17 June 2015 meeting.

The minutes of 17 June 2015 meeting confirmed without any changes.

4. PLANNING REFORM

It was noted that Mrs Carolyn Wigg and Dr Cameron Hartnell attended a planning reform workshop held by DEWNR in June.

Mr Matthew Loader and Mr Paul Stark of the Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure (DPTI) were welcomed to the meeting.

Mr Loader gave an overview of the status of planning reform.

The following matters were raised in general discussion:

- It is proposed that local and state places be combined into one list.
- The planning system is not necessarily the place to evaluate and assess heritage listing. The planning system needs to manage the assets and manage the characteristics that embody their value. The planning system needs rich information.
- 'Landmark' is the term proposed for the new register. This term captures the set of things (including heritage) that the planning system needs to protect and manage. It also includes significant trees.
- As a result of this reform it is expected there will be consequential amendments made to the *Heritage Places Act 1993*. The reform process is an opportunity to clear up what is 'heritage' and what is 'character' in the planning system.
- It is proposed there will be one listing agency and one listing criteria. The relevance of state and local is as relevant as national significance.
- Types of significance was discussed. There are a range of things that might be identified that value a place. Depends on the story of the place. The general drive in assessment is to remove the need for referrals. Many decisions could be handled by a private professional or over the front counter of the local council (if it the guidelines are clear and parameters are clear).
- The State Planning Commission will be the body that creates the rules / guidelines. This will be an independent source of advice to government.
- A Charter of Participation will be developed by this body.
- Noted there are inconsistencies in the use of the term 'character'. An example of this is that Historic Conservation Zones began as character areas in 1987 before the Development Act was legislated. Since the *Development Act 1993* there have been a host of zones created under this legislation. There are also contributory items that have tenuous legal standing.
- Noted that there are too many types of zones in the planning system. There will still be particular elements of character that can be managed through sub-zones.
- With regard the merging of the local and state listings, the first issue is migration and the second issue is the audit of the list. The audit will take some time to occur.
- There will be financial resource implications in setting up and operating this new system. DPTI are investigating what sort of cost recovery items, if any, could be made available.
- With regard State Heritage Areas, it will be important to be clear where the interface exists between state and local. The Adelaide Parklands is a good example of the tension between planning, management and listing.
- The URS report into Mintaro identified the spaces and fragility of the Mintaro area as important reasons why it is valued and heritage listed.
- Noted there needs to be some protection for local heritage places in the new legislation. Upkeep to preserve the value of local heritage is important.

- What is the effect of a listing of an area? It could be to put some particular controls in place and it could impact the policy framework for an area.
- Noted that Aboriginal heritage will not be included in the landmark register.
- Drawing some links in the Through the consequential amendments to *Heritage Places Act 1993*, it will be important to draw some links with National listings and with the Burra Charter will help.
- Protection while listing is also being considered as part of this reform. Noted it would be good to have one process and that it was obvious / transparent what that process was.
- The role of Designation was discussed. Noted that through the Planning Code it is proposed there will be several different layers. DPTI are proposing a tool called an overlay and this should help facilitate designation as distinct to state heritage listing.
- Heritage Council's role will be to provide advice on the listing side of this reform.
- Managing setting and curtilage in the listing process will be another important consideration.
- Heritage Council can provide some guidance on what are the standards that are expected in the listing process.
- It was noted that private consultants will require legal access to heritage sites if they are to take on more of a role in assessment.
- HERCON criteria would be introduced into local listing. We need guidelines. What are we setting it against. Need good guidelines for the thresholds.
- All local nominations and state will likely be presented to the Heritage Council. A triage system will be required.

Mr Loader indicated DPTI's willingness to further discuss this with Council in the future.

Mr Loader and Mr Stark were thanked for their time and they departed the meeting.

5. STRATEGIC PLANNING

Council discussed issues of a strategic nature to progress through their next Strategic Plan for the period 1 July 2015 - 30 June 2018.

The Council considered their progress against their current Strategic Plan 2012-2015 to assist in determining any matters for carry over into their next planning cycle. Mr Hanna to transfer relevant actions into the new Strategic Plan.

The matter of thematic gaps in the South Australian Heritage Register was discussed. It was suggested that a study could be undertaken to look at any gaps worth pursuing.

It was suggested that Council could investigate running a revamped heritage heroes that is focussed on a particular theme, e.g. rail or war, or women etc. Council could explore themes in SA that are unique to this state. This could be part of the Council's Stakeholder Engagement Plan. The heritage heroes program is one part of this. Another suggestion was that Council could seek heritage recognition through the SA Tourism Awards.

Council agreed to 'refine and develop historic themes'.

It was agreed that Council have an important role in determining how can listing decisions be made through planning reform and what implications are there in the Citizens Charter?

Council noted that an important action in responding to the reform is the transition period – managing the migration process.

There is a generic action for providing advice / input into the reform process that needs to be factored into the Strategic Plan.

It was requested that the reference to the Federal Government be changed to Australian Government in the Stakeholder Engagement plan.

Action: Mr Hanna to draft a Strategic Plan for 2015 – 2018 (including the update of the Stakeholder Engagement Plan) based on the discussion above for the Council's consideration at a later date.

6. DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT 2014-15

Council members considered a draft report prepared by the State Heritage Unit.

Council members agreed that the Report could be improved through the addition of a short description of three State Heritage Places (with images) that were confirmed during the reporting period.

The Chair also had some comments to pass on directly to Mr Hanna.

Mr Hanna noted that the Report needs to be finalised by 1 September 2015.

Action: Mr David Hanna to amend the draft report as discussed and send out of session for approval by Council members.

7. REVIEW OF GUIDELINES FOR STATE HERITAGE PLACES

Mrs Anna Pope introduced this item for Council to consider.

It was noted that these are guidelines only and if something does not pass a particular test does not necessarily mean it cannot be listed.

Council noted that the guidelines are very fabric focussed. How about designation of items / places that were once there?

Council agreed that the preamble to the Guidelines needed to be expanded to explain how they are to be used and to reinforce they are a guide only.

Agreed that the terms 'exclusion and inclusion' should be replaced with 'consideration should be given to these matters.'

Guidelines don't cover the whole gambit of possibilities around assessment. The key matter in listing a place is to ensure it meets the criteria. The Guidelines provide a safety net for assessors.

Agreed that the word 'test' should be removed and changed to 'factors to be considered.'

Fabric tells a story and the fabric does not necessarily need to be the original fabric of the place to have heritage value.

In relation to the use of words or phrases from the Heritage Places Act 1993, the Guidelines should refer back to the definition in the *Heritage Places Act 1993* so that it is clear what context these words or phrases are being used in.

In principle the Council agreed the revision of the Guidelines was very good.

It was noted that images can be added to the text once the words are finalised.

Action: Mrs Anna Pope to update the Guidelines as discussed so that DEWNR can road test the Guidelines over the course of their next few assessments.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Noted that both Professor Alison Mackinnon and Ms Sara Beazley will be apologies for the 12 August 2015 meeting of the Council.

CLOSE OF MEETING

The Chair thanked all in attendance and closed the meeting at 12:30pm.



Judith Carr
Chair

Date: 18. 8. 15