

Heritage Gaps

Review Program

Local Heritage Policy Review and creation of Heritage Design Guidelines

Our local planning policies and provisions are the rules and guidelines that govern how land is developed and used in the City of Ballarat. Strong local heritage policy will provide both planning officers and our community with a clear understanding of how development in heritage places should be managed. Heritage Design Guidelines will further assist in explaining the local heritage policy through detailed diagrams, text and examples. The outcome will be a framework to conserve and manage Ballarat's heritage places while allowing for sustainable growth and development.

Background and context

Ballarat as a city is renowned in Victoria and Australia for the richness of its built heritage, which reflects the wealth that flowed from its location in the goldfields. Recent changes to the Ballarat Planning Scheme implemented by the State Government removed a large part of its local heritage policy and heritage guidelines. A review of the existing heritage provisions within the Ballarat Planning Scheme also identified that there were opportunities for improvements to other documents relating to heritage management currently available in the Scheme.

In order to successfully manage our rich heritage while accommodating the expected growth in the next 20 years, a heritage management framework is required. The City of Ballarat is preparing a strong local heritage policy supported by Heritage Design Guidelines, and robust documentation regarding the significance of places and precincts to provide the tools needed to conserve and manage Ballarat's heritage now and in the future.

This aligns with the Planning and Environment Act 1987, which obliges Councils to *'to conserve and enhance those buildings, areas or other places which are scientific, aesthetic, architectural or historic interest, or of other specific cultural value'*.

Project scope and goals

This project will revise and update the existing local heritage policy and heritage provisions within the Ballarat Planning Scheme. It will deliver: .

- New local heritage policy
- New Heritage Design Guidelines (to support local heritage policy)
- Revised Schedule to the Heritage Overlay
- Recommendations regarding existing Incorporated Documents



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Heritage Design Guidelines will further assist in explaining the local heritage policy through detailed diagrams, text and examples.

Community engagement

Community engagement for the project will be designed and led by the City of Ballarat heritage team, in conjunction with the consultant team.

Stakeholder engagement opportunities are scheduled to commence in mid 2025.

All opportunities for engagement will be advertised through the City of Ballarat Heritage Gaps Review Program MySay pages, through social media, and via the Heritage Updates Newsletter, which you can sign up for by contacting heritageteam@ballarat.vic.gov.au

