

The City of Newcastle  
**Policy**

# Newcastle Heritage

PO Box 489 (282 King Street)  
NEWCASTLE NSW 2300  
Ph 02 4974 2000  
Fax 02 4974 2222  
Email [mail@ncc.nsw.gov.au](mailto:mail@ncc.nsw.gov.au)  
[www.newcastle.nsw.gov.au](http://www.newcastle.nsw.gov.au)



Policy title	Newcastle Heritage Policy
Policy owner	Peter Chrystal
Prepared by	Strategic Planning Services
Approved by	Council
Date approved	22 June 2013
Commencement Date	22 June 2013
Version	2
Category	Council
Keywords	Conservation, preservation, heritage, heritage management, Aboriginal heritage, culture, best practice, Burra Charter
Revision date	February 2022
Amendments	Heritage Policy 1998, Version 1, ECM 1916597
Relevant strategic direction	Liveable and Distinctive Built Environment
Relevant legislation/codes	<p>Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979</p> <p>National Parks and Wildlife Amendment Act 2010</p> <p>NSW Heritage Act 1977</p> <p>Australia ICOMOS <i>The Burra Charter: the Australia ICOMOS Charter for Places of Cultural Significance</i> 1999</p> <p>Department of Environment &amp; Climate Change NSW <i>Due Diligence Code of Practice for the Protection of Aboriginal Objects in NSW</i> 2010</p> <p>NSW Heritage Council <i>Local Government Heritage Guidelines</i> 2002</p> <p>NSW Heritage Office <i>Recommendations for Local Council Heritage Management</i> 2001 (revised 2009)</p>
Related policies/documents	<p>Newcastle Central Business District Heritage Study</p> <p>Newcastle Inner Area Conservation Guidelines</p> <p>Newcastle City Wide Heritage Study</p> <p>Newcastle Inner Areas Archaeological Management Plan</p> <p>Newcastle Development Control Plan &amp; Heritage Technical Manual</p> <p>Newcastle Local Environmental Plan</p>
Related forms	

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## Background

The Policy underpins the identification, preservation, conservation, celebration and promotion of the City's rich cultural heritage, based on the principles of the Burra Charter and best practice.

The Policy recognises the importance and diversity of heritage, including: Aboriginal heritage; buildings; structures; precincts; streetscapes; monuments; memorials; moveable heritage; industrial and maritime relics; trees; archaeological sites and artefacts; items in institutional collections; and the cultural landscapes that comprise the environment of the Newcastle local government area.

The Policy is aligned with the Newcastle 2030 Community Strategic Plan, the Heritage Council of NSW *Local Government Heritage Guidelines* 2002, the NSW Heritage Office *Recommendations for Local Council Heritage Management* 2001 (revised 2009) and the Department of Environment and Climate Change NSW *Due Diligence Code of Practice for the Protection of Aboriginal Objects in NSW* 2010.

# Part A Preliminary

## 1 Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of the policy is to provide a statement of commitment by The City of Newcastle to the principles of heritage conservation.

## 2 Scope

- 2.1 The policy applies to The City of Newcastle.

## 3 Definitions

- 3.1 **Aboriginal cultural significance** means an item, place or object that has special meaning to Aboriginal and Torres Strait islander people or persons.
- 3.2 **Council** means The City of Newcastle.
- 3.3 **Burra Charter** means the publication - Australia ICOMOS *the Burra Charter: the Australia ICOMOS Charter for Places of Cultural Significance* 1999.
- 3.4 **Conservation** means all of the processes of caring for heritage items as defined by the Burra Charter including stabilisation, preservation, adaptation, repair, reconstruction and restoration.
- 3.5 **Heritage Item** means a building, place, relic, landscape, tree or other item of the environment that has been identified as having heritage significance.
- 3.6 **Heritage significance** means those places, buildings, works, relics, moveable objects and precincts, of state or local heritage significance, as defined by the NSW Heritage Act 1977 (as amended).

Unless stated otherwise, a reference to a clause is a reference to a clause of the policy.

## Part B Principles

- 4.1 Council will be guided by the following principles:
  - 4.1.1 Council acknowledges and respects local Aboriginal history, languages, cultural heritage and peoples, past and present
  - 4.1.2 The heritage of the Newcastle local government area contributes to a liveable and distinctive built environment
  - 4.1.3 The heritage of the Newcastle local government area contributes to a protected and enhanced built and natural environment
  - 4.1.4 The heritage of the Newcastle local government area contributes to a caring and inclusive community
  - 4.1.5 The heritage of the Newcastle local government area enhances our distinctive sense of identity and reflects the history and cultural diversity of the Newcastle local government area
  - 4.1.6 Newcastle's culture, heritage and place are strengthened by Council decision making and activities
  - 4.1.7 The heritage of the Newcastle local government area is evolving and dynamic
  - 4.1.8 Newcastle's heritage is considered in long-term planning for Newcastle
  - 4.1.9 The principles of the Burra Charter underpin Council's approach to heritage management
  - 4.1.10 Council's heritage program aligns with the Newcastle 2030 Community Strategic Plan, and relevant guidelines of the Office and Environment and Heritage and the Heritage Council of NSW
  - 4.1.11 Council's heritage management framework is underpinned by best practice in heritage conservation.

## **Part C Strategies**

### **5 Knowing our heritage**

- 5.1 Council is committed to:
  - 5.1.1 Recognising, documenting and presenting the indigenous heritage of the City in consultation with the Guraki Committee and the local Aboriginal community
  - 5.1.2 Actively consulting with the Guraki Committee and the Aboriginal community, recognising the continuation of a living indigenous heritage for future works and projects
  - 5.1.3 Working with the Guraki Committee and the Aboriginal community to achieve the dual naming of sites and places across the City
  - 5.1.4 Ensuring an on-going process for the identification and recording of all items of heritage significance across the Newcastle local government area, including historic streetscapes, village centres, heritage parks, natural areas, and residential areas
  - 5.1.5 Ensuring that the diversity of the city's heritage is recognised and represented in heritage listings covering the spectrum of heritage items and places: including Aboriginal heritage; buildings; structures; heritage parks; natural areas; precincts; streetscapes; monuments; memorials; industrial and maritime relics; trees; archaeological sites and artefacts; heritage items in institutional collections; and the cultural landscapes that comprise the environment of Newcastle
  - 5.1.6 Working with the community and stakeholders to obtain information that adds value to the process of identifying new heritage items and places and heritage conservation areas
  - 5.1.7 Maintaining a comprehensive inventory of heritage items on Council's website, including current condition and heritage significance of heritage items and places
  - 5.1.8 Acknowledging the heritage value of objects in institutional collections such as libraries, galleries and museums.

### **6 Protecting our heritage**

- 6.1 Council is committed to:
  - 6.1.1 Ensuring an on-going process for the statutory listing of items or places that have been assessed as having heritage significance
  - 6.1.2 Ensuring that the diversity of heritage is represented in the statutory listing of heritage items and places
  - 6.1.3 Ensuring that sites and places of Aboriginal cultural significance are statutorily protected
  - 6.1.4 Providing guidelines for the management of heritage places that supports the conservation and preservation of heritage items and places including retaining the character of historic streetscapes, distinct village centres and residential areas
  - 6.1.5 Providing guidelines for the on-going use and sympathetic recycling or adaptation of heritage items and places
  - 6.1.6 Producing guidelines that are based on world's best practice and technical expertise
  - 6.1.7 Maintaining an effective development assessment service to ensure heritage is given appropriate consideration in the development assessment process
  - 6.1.8 Providing leadership and training so our employees can implement policy and continuing to build the capacity of our workforce to protect and respect the city's heritage

- 6.1.9 Maintaining an effective compliance service to ensure heritage is protected and enhanced

## **7 Supporting our heritage**

- 7.1 Council is committed to:
  - 7.1.1 Providing incentives to support the restoration and repair of heritage items and places
  - 7.1.2 Providing technical expertise to assist with the conservation and longevity of heritage items and places
  - 7.1.3 Ensuring zoning and other regulatory incentives are in place to enable the on-going use and occupation of heritage items
  - 7.1.4 Building capacity in the organisation to achieve positive heritage outcomes
  - 7.1.5 Leading by example by carefully managing heritage assets and heritage related collections under Council's care and control using the processes of conservation as defined in the Australia ICOMOS Burra Charter
  - 7.1.6 Encouraging innovation in the business sector, art and creative communities to enable the interpretation and adaptive re-use of heritage items
  - 7.1.7 Seeking external sources of funding for heritage projects across Council
  - 7.1.8 Providing advice and support to the private sector and heritage property owners in attracting funding for the management of heritage items.

## **8 Promoting our heritage**

- 8.1 Council is committed to:
  - 8.1.1 Working with the Aboriginal community to raise awareness of the indigenous history, sites, languages and cultures of the Newcastle local government area
  - 8.1.2 Encouraging, sharing and promoting the value of heritage items and places to the environmental, social and economic wellbeing of the Newcastle local government area
  - 8.1.3 Encouraging high quality interpretative treatments of heritage places that increases understanding of the heritage significance of such places in development projects and supporting community events that promote Newcastle's heritage
  - 8.1.4 Raising awareness of the contribution of heritage in achieving environmental sustainability by conserving the embodied energy in buildings and reducing building waste sent to landfill
  - 8.1.5 Promoting the heritage of Newcastle as a drawcard for tourism and film activity, creativity and design innovation, and as a generator of economic development
  - 8.1.6 Collaborating with stakeholders in activities that celebrate and increase awareness of Newcastle's heritage including heritage groups, business incubation bodies, collection and education institutions, and the wider community
  - 8.1.7 Promoting the invigoration of heritage places and items as a potential stimulator of economic activity across all sectors of the city
  - 8.1.8 Promoting the benefits of owning heritage items to relevant property owners
  - 8.1.9 Promoting the value of and collecting stories and oral histories that present a lived historical experience
  - 8.1.10 Promoting the services Council provides for family and local studies, photographic collections, historical data, artwork and reference material that demonstrate local heritage value and supports the community's desire for heritage information.