

# WOLLONGONG HERITAGE STRATEGY 2011-2014

## SUMMARY OF KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

### Introduction

This document provides a brief summary of key outcomes and achievements implemented under the Wollongong Heritage Strategy 2011-2014 and the associated operational delivery plan, the Wollongong Heritage Action Plan 2011-2014. It is noted that this document only highlights the more significant achievements.

These key achievements are noted below, and are listed against the nine (9) key strategies to highlight the key outcomes and achievements against the Wollongong Heritage Strategy.

#### Strategy 1 – Actively Involve the Community in the Management of Wollongong’s Heritage

- Wollongong Heritage Advisory Committee membership reappointed in January 2012.
- 17 regular bi-monthly meetings were held during the three year implementation period.
- The Committee provided advice and input to a wide range of Council projects and policies.
- Sandon Point Joint Management Group established in 2014 to prepare a Joint Management Agreement.
- Aboriginal Heritage Toolkit developed in partnership with Shellharbour and Kiama Councils.
- Aboriginal Community Consultation Session held to inform Council’s response to draft NSW Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Legislation.

#### Strategy 2 – Maintain an up to date list of heritage items

- Council continues to manage a heritage list of approximately 500 heritage items.
- Heritage Schedule Review Project is progressing – new draft Heritage Inventory Forms have been developed for 500 existing items. 50 nominated potential new heritage items have been preliminarily reviewed and inventory forms completed. The Heritage Schedule Review Project will be the subject of a Council report in early 2016.

#### Strategy 3 – Employ and train staff to manage Wollongong’s Heritage and to provide professional advice to the Community

- Council continues to employ a full time Heritage Officer.
- Council continues to employ a consultant Heritage Advisor two days per week as an in-house service to Council and the community.
- Heritage Training was provided to Councillors, the Wollongong Heritage Advisory Committee membership and Council staff in 2012.
- A staff heritage training program has been developed and will be implemented in 2016.
- Heritage staff completed over 600 development referrals, attended 60 formal pre-lodgement meetings, provided advice to 20+ investigations of illegal works to heritage items, and provided heritage input to 200+ REFs for Council’s capital and operational projects.
- Museum Advisor appointed under a joint funding arrangement with Museums and Galleries NSW.

#### Strategy 4 – Develop and implement programs and projects that aim to achieve pro-active heritage management

- Wollongong Heritage Grant Fund has provided \$90,000 (\$30,000 per year) in funding support toward 21 heritage projects with a total value of approximately \$500,000.
- Active promotion of Wollongong’s Heritage has commenced through Destination Wollongong due to partnerships developed through the Wollongong Heritage Advisory Committee.
- Regional Museum Feasibility Study undertaken and grant obtained to implement a “virtual Museum” project.
- Wollongong Library completed the “Repeating the Images Project”, photographing all existing heritage items - available on Illawarra Images.
- Waiver of DA fees provided to 20+ heritage conservation projects.
- Formal pre-lodgement meetings are now provided free of charge for complex heritage projects and at risk heritage items.

#### Strategy 5 - Provide adequate funding for heritage projects and programs.

- \$150,000 per annum recurrent budget created to allow for coverage of urgent/emergency works to Council Heritage Assets not linked with Council's Service Delivery Streams.
- Wollongong Heritage Grant Fund continues to have an ongoing funding allocation of \$30,000 per annum.
- \$70,000 per annum recurrent funding provided to support the Heritage Advisor program.

#### Strategy 6 – Identify and manage key heritage precincts and streetscapes

- Council continues to manage nine Heritage Conservation Areas listed within the Wollongong Local Environmental Plan.
- Crown Street Façade Program developed and funding program implemented. In total 38 projects were supported with \$600,000 in funding, resulting in a total investment of \$1.5 Million. The program supported works to two listed heritage items and an additional 17 buildings which contribute to the historic fabric of the street.
- Sandon Point and McCauley's Beach Plan of Management was developed and adopted by Council to support management of this significant Aboriginal Place.
- Work commenced toward preparation of a revised Conservation Management Plan for the Hill 60/MM Beach State Heritage Precinct.

#### Strategy 7 – Implement heritage education and promotion programs

- Wollongong Bicentenary (Illawarra 200) Committee established and conducted regular meetings to develop a program for Illawarra 200.
- Wollongong City Centre Heritage Trail developed and brochure produced.
- Heritage Interpretation material rolled out at North Beach, Coledale Rock Pools etc.
- Blue Mile Heritage Interpretation Strategy finalised and delivery commenced.
- Crown Street Mall Interpretation Plan developed – implementation soon to commence.
- Wollongong Museum Trail developed in partnership with Destination Wollongong, Lost Wollongong and Local Museums.
- Waterfall Cemetery film produced and made available via YouTube to support exhibition process.
- Heritage Festival programs developed with brochures produced for promotional events including Heritage tours, Gleniffer Brae events/tours, Puckey's Ghost tours, exhibitions etc.

#### Strategy 8 – Implement best practice heritage asset management procedures as a positive example to the community.

- New annual recurrent budget of \$150,000 introduced to fund urgent/emergency works to heritage assets at risk.
- North Beach Bathers Pavilion Adaptive Re-Use/Restoration Project completed.
- New Aboriginal Heritage Management procedures developed and implemented for Council heritage projects to ensure compliance with National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974, and to ensure appropriate Aboriginal Community Consultation.
- Waterfall General Cemetery Conservation Management Plan and Future Management Planning project developed with extensive community consultation.
- Heritage advice provided to over 200 Council projects.
- Heritage Interpretation Plans developed for the Blue Mile and Crown Street Mall.

#### Strategy 9 – Promote sustainable development as a tool for heritage management

- Council continues to offer incentives for the adaptive re-use of heritage buildings, with DA and CC fee reimbursements, Section 94 Fee Waivers, and flexible use provisions under the Local Environmental Plan. Promotion and uptake of these incentives has been increasing with over 20 projects utilising these incentives during the implementation period.
- A BioBanking Agreement was finalised to allow recurrent funding towards the conservation of Puckey's Reserve, a site with known natural, Aboriginal and non-indigenous heritage values.