

# SHIRE OF NORTHAM – INFORMATION SHEET

## What is heritage and why is it important?

Heritage consists of the places and objects that we have inherited from the past and as a community want to pass on to future generations.

Heritage places can be buildings, structures, landscapes and archaeological sites. Heritage places aren't just 'old' places they can also be more recently constructed buildings, which may be an example of technical or creative achievement from a particular period.

As a community, we share the responsibility to identify and protect places of cultural heritage significance for future generations so they too will be able to enjoy a rich and diverse cultural environment and understand what came before them.

## What is a Heritage List and Local Government Inventory?

Heritage listing is the formal recognition that a place has cultural heritage significance and is a way of ensuring that any proposed changes respect and retain those qualities and characteristics that make it special.

At the local government level there are two types of listing and these are:

1. **Heritage List** – This is a list of places compiled under the Shire's Local Planning Scheme No. 6, and as a result are given certain protection under the Scheme. The Heritage List is generally derived from those places in Category One (Exceptional Significance) and Category Two (Considerable Significance) of the Local Heritage Survey.
2. **Local Heritage Surveys (LHS)** – Local heritage surveys (formerly local heritage inventories or municipal inventories) identify and record places that are, or that might become, of cultural heritage significance. The local heritage survey (LHS) is a starting resource for local heritage planning and in itself has no statutory role. The LHS helps local governments make decisions that reflect local heritage values, and supports the creation of a heritage list or heritage areas, which identify places to be protected under the local planning scheme.

## Why my place proposed to be heritage listed?

Places are selected for inclusion on the LHS and/or the Heritage List based on their cultural heritage significance to the local district as identified through the assessment process.

The Heritage Council has published guidelines for Local Heritage Surveys, including minimum information illustrating significance such as use, construction materials, architectural style, historic theme and the like. A copy of the guidelines can be downloaded from <https://www.dplh.wa.gov.au/getmedia/ba65ee25-c8b9-4d00-b198-62c8fe75f25a/HER-GD-Local-heritage-surveys>.

## How does inclusion in the Heritage List affect my place?

It is a common belief that if a place is included in a Heritage List that place cannot be altered in any way. This is not the case. The Shire of Northam encourages sensitive development of heritage places because this is the best way of ensuring their future. This means that development of places listed in the Heritage List that accommodate contemporary requirements and uses will be encouraged.

The identification of heritage places is not about preventing change. Rather, it is about identifying and understanding what is important, and why, so that change can be managed appropriately.

The inclusion of a place on the Heritage List does however have implications for owners, as planning approval is required for demolition, alterations or other development, in order for an assessment to be made with regard to the impact of the proposal upon the heritage value of the place.

## Where can I obtain additional information?

General information regarding heritage, including State heritage listings can be found on the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage's website at <https://www.dplh.wa.gov.au/information-and-services/historic-heritage>.

Additional information and links regarding heritage can also be found on the Shire of Northam's website at <https://www.northam.wa.gov.au/develop-build/planning/heritage-information-resources.aspx>.

You can also contact the Planning Team at the Shire of Northam at the Administration Centre located at 395 Fitzgerald Street, Northam or by phone on 9622 6100 or by email at [records@northam.wa.gov.au](mailto:records@northam.wa.gov.au).

