

8.5 Policy Review - Local Heritage Grants

REPORT BY THE MANAGER STRATEGIC PLANNING
TO 20 SEPTEMBER 2023 ORDINARY MEETING
GOV400103, GRA600012

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. **receive the report by the Manager Strategic Planning on the Policy Review - Local Heritage Grants; and**
2. **adopt the revised Local Heritage Grants Policy.**

Executive summary

The Local Heritage Grants Policy has been reviewed to ensure compliance with relevant legislation and to ensure it is relevant for Council's requirements. There are no significant changes required to the policy.

Disclosure of Interest

Nil

Detailed report

The Local Heritage Grants Policy (Policy) has been developed with reference to the NSW Department of Planning and Environment, *Local Government Heritage Grants 2023/25 Funding Guidelines* and the Heritage Council of New South Wales *Recommendations for Local Council Heritage Management*.

The Policy applies to financial assistance applications for Local Heritage Grants for conservation or maintenance works for heritage items, items in conservation areas and significant buildings which enhances the historic character and value of the Mid-Western region.

The revised Policy has been provided as Attachment 1 and demonstrates no significant changes are proposed, accordingly it is recommended the Policy, as attached be adopted. The only changes are tracked in the document, they include the slight update to the 'timeline' detailed on page 2 of the Policy.

Community Plan implications

Theme	Looking After Our Community
Goal	Vibrant towns and villages
Strategy	Respect and enhance the historic character of our region and heritage value of our towns

Strategic implications

Council Strategies

Not applicable.

Council Policies

Not applicable.

Legislation

Not applicable.

Financial implications

Not applicable.

Associated Risks

The adoption of the Policy allows staff to make sound local heritage grant allocation recommendations.

SARAH ARMSTRONG
MANAGER STRATEGIC PLANNING

ALINA AZAR
DIRECTOR DEVELOPMENT

5 September 2023

Attachments: 1. Draft Reviewed Local Heritage Grants Policy.

APPROVED FOR SUBMISSION:

JULIAN GEDDES
ACTING GENERAL MANAGER



POLICY Local Heritage Grants

*A prosperous
and progressive
community.*

ADOPTED		VERSION NO	1.12
COUNCIL MEETING MIN	313/19	REVIEW DATE	OCTOBER 2027³
DATE:	16-OCTOBER-2019	FILE NUMBER	GRA600012, GOV400047

Objective

The objective of this policy is to support heritage conservation and maintenance projects that respect and enhance the historic character of our region and heritage value of our towns.

Policy

The Local Heritage Grants program provides funding to landowners for maintenance and conservation works to heritage items, items in conservation areas as identified within Schedule 5 of the Mid-Western Regional Local Environmental Plan 2012 and significant buildings.

The Local Heritage Grants program supports projects which relate specifically to conservation and maintenance works and/or upgrades (fire, services and access) which satisfy the Building Code of Australia requirements for ongoing and new uses.

Eligibility Criteria

- Only owners and managers of heritage items, items in a heritage conservation area, or significant buildings can apply for Local Heritage Grants funding.
- Applicants can apply for grant funding for amounts between \$500 and \$5,000 on a matched dollar for dollar basis.
- There will be one application period per financial year.
- Applications should be received and successful projects completed according to the timeline below.

Funding Priorities

Priority will be given to projects which have been considered by Council's Heritage Advisor, Heritage Committee and involve:

- Heritage item(s) in a well maintained heritage streetscape or landscape setting.
- Heritage item(s) with public access and visibility.
- Urgent maintenance works to avert management risks eg. severe deterioration, demolition or demolition by neglect.
- Item(s) that are part of a heritage group or precinct.
- Upgrades to fire, service and access to achieve compliance with the Building Code of Australia.
- Ongoing or adaptive reuse of heritage item(s).
- Items that have not received Council funding support in the last five years.

POLICY: LOCAL HERITAGE GRANTS | 1.21.0, 8 JULY 2016

Form
(Austr
Form
Form
Form
Form

It is noted that whilst priority will be given to projects which have not received funding support in the last five years, Council may at its discretion provide funding if there is a high level of benefit in achieving the objectives of the program.

Application Guidelines

APPLICANTS MUST:

- Read the application form to understand the information to be submitted and determine whether the project satisfies the funding requirements.
- Conduct background research on the relevant heritage item/building which can be used to support the project proposal.
- Prepare a project plan which lists the individual project activities to be completed as part of the project.
- Obtain and attach two quotes for each of the individual project activities.
- Ensure that plans and sketches relevant to the size of the project are prepared and submitted in support of the application.
- Discuss the project with Council to determine whether development consent is required prior to any works commencing.
- Take “before the project” photographs which are submitted with the application.
- Complete the application form and keep a copy for record keeping purposes.
- Address the following selection criteria:
 - Demonstrate that the project will deliver sustainable long-term heritage benefits.
 - Demonstrate that the project will deliver a public benefit and enjoyment.
 - Demonstrate innovation and leadership in heritage conservation.

INELIGIBLE APPLICATIONS/ACTIVITIES (BY DISCRETION OF COUNCIL):

- Projects not located within the Mid-Western LGA.
- State government agencies unless they are involved as a project partner.
- Funding cannot be for new buildings, routine maintenance (eg. lawn mowing, gutter or carpet cleaning), new commemorative monuments, purchase of heritage buildings or equipment, relocation of buildings or works to relocate buildings, private headstones (unless there is no possibility of descendent support), flood lighting of buildings, moveable railway heritage items.

Timeline

	Timing
Applications open	Jul/Aug
Applications close	Aug/Sept
Report to Council Meeting (depending on meeting timing)	Sept/Oct
Funding released (on receipt of invoice/s)	Sept/Oct
Date for completion of funded projects	April