



Heritage Strategy

2020-2023

Introduction

The Gilgandra Shire Heritage Strategy 2020-2023 is a strategic framework to guide Council's approach to the management of heritage in the Gilgandra Shire. It has been prepared to meet the requirements of the Heritage NSW Three Year funding agreement to support local government heritage management in NSW. The purpose of this document is to provide a summary of the strategies Gilgandra Shire Council will employ to guide heritage management through to 2023.

The Wiradjuri, Kamilaroi and Weilwan people are the traditional owners of the land which now makes up Gilgandra Shire. At present, Gilgandra LGA has an approximate population of 4,200, with 2,600 people living in the Gilgandra township. Other villages are Tooraweenah (located at the Southern entrance to the Warrumbungle National Park) and Armatree in the north of the Shire. Other localities include Ballardoran, Biddon and Curban. The Shire also includes the Biddon Nature Reserve and parts of the Warrumbungle and Breelong National Parks.

The nine recommendations of the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage (Now Heritage NSW) publication *Recommendations for Local Government Heritage Management* have been reviewed and utilised in the preparation of this heritage strategy as follows:

Recommendation 1

Establish a heritage committee to deal with heritage matters in your area.

Aim:

- Increased community participation, awareness and appreciation of heritage in the Gilgandra Shire.

Actions:

- As required form a temporary heritage working party made up of local representatives from relevant community organizations and Council staff to work on important studies and new strategic directions which include heritage considerations.
- Continue to work with the local historical society to manage the local history collection and the Rural Museum.

Recommendation 2

Identify the heritage items in your area and list them in your local environmental plan.

Aim:

- Increased knowledge and proactive management of heritage in the Gilgandra Shire.

Actions:

- Review the Gilgandra Shire Community Based Heritage Study with adoption by Council of recommended items on the LEP heritage schedule once the review is finalised.
- Review and update existing items on the Gilgandra LEP heritage schedule including their inventory sheets as necessary.
- Work with NSW Office of Environment and Heritage to review potential items for consideration on the State Heritage Register.

Recommendation 3

Appoint a heritage and design advisor to assist the council, the community and owners of listed items.

Aim:

- To increase community participation and proactive heritage and urban design management in the Gilgandra Shire.

Actions:

- Continue to offer a Heritage Advisory Service to assist the community and Council on heritage matters in the Gilgandra Shire.
- Continue to seek the input of Council's Heritage Advisor in the assessment of development applications likely to have an impact on heritage items and within the Gilgandra Heritage Conservation Area.
- Heritage advisor to assist Council in the preparation of strategic planning documents such as Heritage Main Street Studies and Conservation Management Strategies of heritage listed Council owned assets.

Recommendation 4

Manage local heritage in a positive manner.

Aim:

- Proactive heritage and urban design management within the Gilgandra Shire.

Actions:

- Continue to offer a Heritage Advisory Service within the Gilgandra Shire.
- Refer heritage enquiries from the community to the Heritage Advisor.
- Council to adopt a flexible approach to building and planning requirements for heritage buildings.
- Heritage Advisor to be included in discussions on the design and adaptation of new/repurposed Council owned buildings and assets where heritage aspects are a consideration.
- Review heritage provisions in the Gilgandra Shire Development Control Plan.

Recommendation 5

Introduce Local Heritage Fund to provide small grants or loans to encourage local heritage projects.

Aim:

- Increased community participation and proactive conservation and management of heritage within the Gilgandra Shire.

Actions:

- Continue to offer a local Heritage Fund annually to encourage owners to undertake conservation and maintenance works.
- Council to consider maximising the budget allocated for heritage funding in order to promote good conservation practice and to meet increasing demand.
- Council to actively promote successfully completed projects to encourage good conservation practice in the community.

Recommendation 6

Run a heritage main street program.

Aim:

- Council, owners and the community actively participate in attractive and well managed heritage main streets.

Actions:

- Heritage advisor to assist Council in the preparation of a Heritage Main Street Study for Denman Street, Tooraweenah.
- Heritage advisor to work with the Economic Development Committee to implement the recommendations in the Gilgandra Heritage Main Street Study and the Gilgandra Activation Blueprint.
- Heritage advisor to work with local community committees to plan and implement improvements in village streetscapes.
- Encourage property owners and tenants to seek local and associated funds for projects which are consistent with Main Street Study recommendations.

Recommendation 7

Present educational and promotional programs.

Aim:

- To increase awareness and appreciation of heritage by the Council, owners and the community within the Gilgandra Shire.

Actions:

- Continue to provide support to the local library to assist in maintaining and upgrading its local history records and collection.
- Distribute information to Council staff, local community, building owners, developers, and trades people on the value of heritage conservation works and of funding assistance available.
- Update the heritage section on the Council website including links to Heritage NSW maintenance series publications and directory of heritage consultants, services and tradespeople.

-
- Working with the local historical societies and community committees develop heritage walking trails within Gilgandra and Tooraweenah including interpretive signs or building plaques.

Recommendation 8

Set a good example to the community by properly managing places owned or operated by the council.

Aim:

- A Council proactively conserves and manages its heritage assets.

Actions:

- Prepare Conservation Management Plans/Strategies for Council owned heritage properties.
- Develop a priority works schedule for all works and provide an annual budget for basic maintenance and repairs.

Recommendation 9

Promote sustainable development as a tool for heritage conservation.

Aim:

- Proactive heritage and sustainable development within the Gilgandra Shire.

Actions:

- Encourage building owners to adopt sustainable building principles including energy efficiency, the provision of water tanks, solar panels and solar hot water heating.
- Council to incorporate heritage provisions within the Gilgandra Shire Development Control Plan to guide the installation of solar panels and water tanks on heritage items and places within the Gilgandra Heritage Conservation Area.
- Continue to encourage and support compatible adaptive re-use, or infill or sympathetic additions to heritage places and within the Gilgandra Heritage Conservation Area.