



Gilgandra Shire Heritage Strategy 2015-2018

Introduction

This Heritage Strategy for 2015/2018 has been prepared to meet the requirements of the Heritage Branch, Office of Environment and Heritage Three Year funding agreement to support local government heritage management in NSW.

Gilgandra Shire includes the town of Gilgandra, villages of Tooraweenah and Armatree, and other localities including Balladoran, Biddon and Curban. The shire also includes the Biddon Nature Reserve and parts of the Warrumbungle and Breeelong National Parks.

The Gilgandra Shire Heritage Strategy contains a series of objectives designed to ensure the effective management of the shire's cultural heritage. The strategy covers the following key performance areas and outcomes proposed by the Heritage Branch:

1. Caring for our heritage.
 - Increased community participation, awareness and appreciation of heritage
 - Increased community participation, and proactive heritage urban design and management
 - Proactive heritage and urban design management
 - Increased community participation, and proactive conservation and management of heritage
 - Council, owners and the community actively participate in active, attractive and well managed heritage main streets
 - Council proactively conserves and manages its heritage assets,
 - Proactive heritage and sustainable development within the Council area.
2. Knowing and valuing our heritage
 - Suggested knowledge and proactive management of heritage
3. Valuing our heritage
 - Increased awareness and appreciation of heritage by the Council, owners and the community
 - Proactive heritage and sustainable development

Implementation of the Heritage Strategy will be the responsibility of relevant Council Managers and the Gilgandra Shire Heritage Advisor. The Heritage Advisor will be responsible for review of the Heritage Strategy.

1. Caring for our heritage

1.1 Increased community participation, awareness and appreciation of heritage

Aim:

To encourage the community to be actively involved in the conservation and promotion of the cultural heritage of the Gilgandra Shire.

Actions:

- Prepare and adopt a Council heritage policy.
- Prepare and maintain a list of suitably qualified heritage consultants.
- Prepare and maintain a list of suppliers to support heritage management.
- Promote good heritage practice among community groups and managers of heritage items.
- Prepare Conservation Action Plans for community buildings included on the LEP Heritage Schedule.
- Assist community groups to properly manage heritage places under their control by providing timely advice and assistance with management planning.

1.2 Increased community participation, and proactive heritage urban design and management

Aim:

To encourage an ongoing dialogue between Council and the community regarding urban design and management of streetscapes in the Gilgandra Shire.

Actions:

- Continue to work with the Gilgandra Business Promotions Committee to implement the recommendations of the Miller Street Master Plan and Gilgandra Heritage Main Street Study.
- Continue to work with the Tooraweenah Village Committee to plan and implement improvements in village streetscapes.
- Provide free advice to property owners, including on-site consultations as required.
- Provide heritage/urban design advice to Council and property developers.
- Provide advice on heritage/urban design issues prior to Development Applications being prepared.
- Provide Council with heritage/urban design advice on development applications.
- Continue to encourage the reconstruction of verandahs and reinstatement of canvas awning blinds on commercial premises.

1.3 Proactive heritage and urban design management

Aim:

To encourage the conservation of the heritage values important in the Gilgandra Shire when making decisions affecting urban design.

Actions:

- Encourage conservation of heritage values through judicious application of the recommendations of the Gilgandra Heritage Main Street Study.
- Encourage the conservation of heritage values in the management and development of places by waiving or reducing Development Application fees, and adopting a flexible approach to planning and building requirements for heritage places listed in the Gilgandra Shire LEP.

1.4 Increased community participation, and proactive conservation and management of heritage

Aim:

To engage with and support the community in managing and promoting heritage places within the Gilgandra Shire.

Actions:

- Continue local heritage fund to support conservation and restoration works on heritage places.
- Work with local societies and community groups to encourage heritage promotion through:
 - Arts programmes co-ordinated by Orana Arts.
 - Ongoing support of the Cooee Heritage Centre, Gilgandra Rural Museum and Gilgandra Historical Society.
 - Promotion of Tooraweenah as a heritage village.
- Promote the activities of responsible owners of heritage properties such as Armatree Hotel and Berida Station.
- Support the establishment of an information sharing network for owners of heritage homesteads and woolsheds.

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

Aim:

To create vibrant, attractive and welcoming main streets in the towns and villages of Gilgandra Shire.

Actions:

- Implement the recommendations of the Gilgandra Main Street Heritage Study.
- Work with the Tooraweenah Village Committee to enhance the presentation of heritage buildings within the village.

1.6 Council proactively conserves and manages its heritage assets

Aim:

To ensure that Council is seen to be taking leadership in the responsible management of the community's heritage assets.

Actions:

- Prepare conservation management plans/conservation management strategies for Council owned heritage items.
- Ensure annual works budgets cover heritage asset maintenance and repairs.
- Review management plans and activities for Council owned heritage items to ensure the cultural heritage of the items is protected.
- Monitor the condition of Council owned heritage items consistent with the requirements of conservation management plans/conservation management strategies.
- Monitor the condition & maintenance of non-Council owned heritage items during travel around the shire to undertake other tasks.

1.7 Promote sustainable development as a tool for heritage conservation

Aim:

To encourage practical approaches to heritage conservation to support sustainable development.

Actions:

- Work with property owners and developers to:
 - Encourage the adaptive re-use of heritage structures, rather than demolition and re-development.
 - Encourage re-generation projects and urban design that respect the cultural heritage of the shire.
 - Ensure infill development meets accepted sustainability requirements.
- Provide pre DA advice on matters affecting the sustainability of buildings.
- Provide learning resources and learning opportunities for sustainability and heritage awareness to Councillors, Council officers, owners of heritage properties and the community.

2. Knowing and valuing our heritage

2.1 Increased knowledge and proactive management of heritage

Aim:

To identify and appropriately record the cultural heritage of the Gilgandra Shire.

Actions:

- Continue the process of identifying and recording Aboriginal heritage items in the Gilgandra Shire.
- Continue the process of recording heritage items in the Gilgandra Shire.
- Continue to engage with community groups to identify heritage items.

3. Valuing our heritage

3.1 Increased awareness and appreciation of heritage by the Council, owners and the community

Aim:

To ensure that the community of the Gilgandra Shire understands and cares for its cultural heritage.

Actions:

- Make heritage information available for the Gilgandra Shire by maintaining heritage information brochures and links to other relevant websites on Council's website.
- Work with community organisations to develop and conduct heritage promotional events.
- Ensure relevant Council Officers have skills appropriate to the effective management of cultural heritage by:
 - Preparing and providing briefings on relevant cultural heritage principles and practices.
 - Providing relevant learning resources and information regarding learning opportunities.