

# INFORMATION SHEET

## HERITAGE

### What is Heritage and why is it important?

Heritage sites are 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, and 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.

### Heritage Survey and Heritage List – What are they?

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 Survey** - Local Government Inventories (LGI) can best be described as 'local heritage surveys', which identify places that are of cultural heritage significance in the local area. The Heritage of Western Australia Act 1990 requires all local government authorities in Western Australia to compile, and periodically update and review, a LGI (previously called a Municipal Heritage Inventory). Inclusion on a Heritage Survey offers no formal protection to these places.
2. **Heritage List** - This is a list of places compiled under the Shire's Town Planning Scheme No. 7, and are considered worthy of some protection under the Scheme. A Heritage List is generally derived from those places in the Heritage Survey. Any place on the Shire's Heritage Survey with a heritage management category of 'Exceptional Significance' or 'Considerable Significance' is automatically included on the Shire's Heritage List.

### Why is my place considered heritage?

Places are selected for inclusion on the Heritage Survey and/or the Heritage List based on their cultural heritage significance to the locality. A place or area will be of significance to the locality if it has one or more of the following values: Aesthetic, Historic, Research or Social value.

These values have been defined by the Heritage Council of Western Australia and are used as criteria to assess the importance of places for heritage listing:

- ❖ **Aesthetic value** - A place included under this criterion may be a good example of an architectural style, display creative or design excellence or be of landmark value for the local district.

- ❖ **Historic value** - A place included under this criterion should be closely associated with events, developments or cultural phases that have played an important part in the locality's history.
- ❖ **Research value** - A place of research value should provide, or demonstrate a likelihood of providing, evidence about past activity. This may include important information about construction technology, land use or industrial processes not available anywhere else.
- ❖ **Social value** - A place of social value will be significant through association with a community or cultural group in the local district for social, cultural, educational or spiritual reasons.

## How does being on the Heritage List affect a 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 Capel encourages sensitive development and new compatible uses of heritage places as the best way of ensuring their future. This means that development of places listed in the Heritage List to 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 Development Approval is required for demolition, alterations or other development, in order for an assessment to be made upon the impact of the proposal upon the heritage value of the place.

Each place on the Heritage Survey is allocated a level of significance of **A**, **B**, **C** or **For Information Only**, with **A** being the most significant.

Places in categories **A** and **B** form the Shire of Capel's Heritage List. The significance of these places warrants protection under the provisions of the Shire's Town Planning Scheme No. 7.

Landowners are required to seek Development Approval from the Shire prior to demolition, alterations or other forms of development, of most significant **A** and **B** places on the Heritage List. Applications for planning approval will be assessed in accordance with Local Planning Policy 6.29 - Heritage Places.

## Where can I find more information?

The Heritage Survey, Heritage List and Local Planning Policy 6.29 - Heritage Places can be viewed on Shire's website at <http://capel.wa.gov.au/> under *Plan and Build*.

You can contact the Shire's Planning Service on 9727 0222 if you have queries about a particular property.

Other sources of information on heritage places include:

- ❖ State Heritage Office website has extensive information – [www.stateheritage.wa.gov.au](http://www.stateheritage.wa.gov.au)
- ❖ State Planning Policy 3.5 – Historic Heritage Conservation [www.planning.wa.gov.au](http://www.planning.wa.gov.au)

*\*Disclaimer – this information sheet is a guide only. Verification with original Local Laws, Acts, the Shire's Town Planning Scheme and other relevant documents is recommended for detailed references. The Shire of Capel accepts no responsibility for errors or omissions. Adopted December 2018*