



HUME CITY COUNCIL

How heritage places are protected in Hume

Heritage places tell important stories about our how Australia's First Nations people and European settlers lived, and how societies have changed over time. Heritage places are protected because they provide an essential link with the past and help create a sense of place for the community.

Hume has a rich and remarkably diverse heritage that includes significant places of Aboriginal heritage as well as sites and structures from post-European settlement. This can include bridges, ruins of bluestone cottages and flour mills, pastoral homesteads, quarries, cemeteries, public buildings and sites associated with community events of state and national significance.

What is a 'heritage place'?

The term 'heritage' means a place or object that has a historical, cultural, architectural, spiritual or archaeological value for a community. A heritage place may include archaeological or geological sites, historic buildings, monuments and structures, parks, trees and gardens.

How are heritage places protected in Hume?

Heritage places can be protected at state or local levels, depending on the historical or cultural importance of the site.

The protection of heritage means that alterations or removal of the places and objects should be avoided. Where heritage places are protected under law they cannot be altered without approval from either Heritage Victoria or the local council.

Places of local significance are protected by the application of the Heritage Overlay, which is part of a local council's Planning Scheme.

Councils are responsible for issuing planning permits in line with the Heritage Overlay consultants.

Is Council responsible for protecting Aboriginal cultural heritage?

Heritage places from post-European settlement and Aboriginal cultural heritage are protected under separate laws, processes and approval authorities in Victoria. Hume City Council is responsible for managing post-European heritage through heritage controls in the Hume Planning Scheme.

Hume City Council recognises the rich Aboriginal heritage within the municipality, which includes ceremonial rings, middens and scar trees. We acknowledge the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung, which includes the existing family members of the Gunung-Willam-Balluk clan, as the Traditional Custodians of the land.

More information on how Aboriginal cultural heritage is protected and managed in Hume can be found on the [Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation website](#).

For clarity purposes, the term 'heritage' in this document refers to post-European settlement heritage only.

How do you identify heritage places?

Before a Heritage Overlay is applied, we conduct a heritage study of an area or place using qualified heritage consultants.

What is the Heritage Overlay?

The Heritage Overlay is the part of the Hume Planning Scheme that identifies places of local heritage significance and seeks to ensure that development does not adversely affect these places.

If a property is protected by the Heritage Overlay, a planning permit is usually required to make changes like demolition, subdivision, construction of buildings or fences, or other work like external painting, signage, or tree removal.

There are currently 198 heritage places protected through the Heritage Overlay in the Hume Planning Scheme.

The full list can be accessed on the [Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning website](#)

What is a Heritage Statement of Significance?

Every heritage place included in the Heritage Overlay is accompanied by a Statement of Significance which describes the history of the place and why it is important.

Can I do works on my property if it is included in a Heritage Overlay?

The Heritage Overlay does not prohibit development or works, but you may need to obtain a planning permit first. Contact our [Planning Services team](#) to get advice on whether a planning permit is required before starting any work on a heritage place.

Can I make alterations to my house or demolish a building?

For places protected under the Heritage Overlay, a permit will generally be required for external changes or demolition of a building. This includes the construction of front fences, solar energy systems, swimming pools, verandas, decks and, more generally, any works or structure visible from the street.

In some cases, approval is required for internal alterations or removing garden elements, including trees, shrubs and landscaping.

Can I paint my house?

A permit may be required to paint external surfaces of a building included in the Heritage Overlay. Check with our [Planning Services team](#) before painting a heritage place.

Can I remove or cut back a tree or other vegetation on my heritage property?

The Heritage Overlay protects trees and gardens that form part of the significance of the place. Check with Council's Planning Service to find out if you need a permit to make changes in the gardens of your heritage place.

Will I have to restore my property if it is included in the Heritage Overlay?

No. The Heritage Overlay doesn't affect the day-to-day upkeep of a property. It does not mean landowners should restore their heritage property to its original condition, but it is expected that landowners will keep heritage places in good condition. New laws introduced in February 2021 allow restrictions to be placed on development of land where a heritage place has been damaged illegally or by neglect.

How can I get more information on heritage?

View more information on the Heritage Council and Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning websites:

www.heritage.vic.gov.au

www.heritagecouncil.vic.gov.au



We are available to answer your questions about heritage and planning permit requirements.

Please contact our Planning Services team:

Phone: 9205 2200

Email: contactus@hume.vic.gov.au

Web: hume.vic.gov.au/planningpermits
