



Heritage Organisations

Heritage Information Series **8**

This is Guideline No.8 of a series of 12 prepared by City of Gold Coast to assist owners of heritage or character properties in maintaining or finding out more information about their property.

Many government and private sector organisations are involved in the care and management of heritage places. Not all are applicable or relevant to a every place, whether formally listed or unlisted. Neither do they all have legislative control over the owners of heritage places. This guideline provides a brief description of national, state, and local heritage organisations.

The Australian Government

The Australian World Heritage Advisory Committee

The Australian World Heritage Advisory Committee was established to provide advice to Commonwealth and State/Territory Ministers on national issues that affect Australia's World Heritage sites. The committee comprises one representative from each World Heritage property in Australia and provides a forum for Australia's World Heritage site managers to share information on best practice management and to encourage continual improvement for the protection of our valuable World Heritage properties.

The Committee also includes two representatives from the Australian World Heritage Indigenous Network to provide direct and ongoing advice on Indigenous perspectives of management of Australia's World Heritage properties.

The Australian Heritage Council

The Australian Heritage Council is a body of heritage experts established by the *Australian Heritage Council Act 2003*. The Council plays a key role in assessment, advice and policy formulation and support of major heritage programs. Its main responsibilities are to assess and nominate places for inclusion in the National Heritage List or Commonwealth Heritage List, to promote the identification, assessment, conservation and monitoring of heritage, and to advise the Minister on various heritage matters including the preparation and amendment of heritage strategies and management plans for Commonwealth areas and agencies.

The Heritage Division

The Heritage Division within the Australian Government Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities develops and implements policies and programs to help identify, conserve and promote appreciation of Australia's natural and cultural heritage places and objects. Issues dealt with include environment protection and conservation of biodiversity, air quality, land contamination, meteorology, natural, built and cultural heritage, environmental research, water policy and resources, population policy, and urban environment.

The Historic Shipwrecks Program

The Australian Government, through the Historic Shipwrecks Program, administers the *Historic Shipwrecks Act 1976*.

The Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities provides funding to state and territory agencies through a service level agreement to help protect shipwrecks and their relics and to promote better understanding of their stories.

The aims of the program are to conserve and protect historic shipwreck sites and associated material as a cultural resource of the nation, to develop a comprehensive register of historic shipwrecks and associated material, to obtain the support of an informed public for historic shipwrecks as a cultural resource, and to promote the commitment by government authorities to the protection and preservation of historic shipwrecks and associated material.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act 1984

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act 1984 enables the Australian Government to respond to requests to protect important Indigenous areas and objects that are under threat, if it appears that state or territory laws have not provided effective protection.

The Australian Government can make special orders, called declarations, to protect traditional areas and objects of particular significance to Aboriginals in accordance with Aboriginal tradition from threats of injury or desecration. However the government cannot make a declaration unless an Indigenous person (or a person representing an Indigenous person) has requested it. The power to make declarations is meant to be used as a last resort after the relevant processes of the state or territory have been exhausted

The Queensland Government

The Queensland Heritage Council

The Queensland Heritage Council is the state's peak body on heritage matters. It is established by the *Queensland Heritage Act 1992* which requires the council to act independently, impartially and in the public interest.

The Council provides advice to the Queensland Government on strategic and high priority matters relating to Queensland's heritage. It decides which places are entered on or removed from the Queensland Heritage Register and also provides advice about the development of heritage places owned by the State. The Council receives administrative and professional support from the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection's heritage branch.

The Department of Environment and Heritage Protection

The Queensland Department of Environment and Heritage Protection (EHP) assists the Queensland Heritage Council and its committees in administering the Queensland Heritage Act. The Department is responsible for the management of heritage places by identifying and protecting them, and it manages the entry of places in and removal of places from the Queensland Heritage Register.

The development of Queensland heritage places is assessed by officers of the Department in conjunction with local government (see Guideline No. 6). The Department also produces guidelines and other publications and encourages public interest and understanding of heritage issues. It employs architects, archaeologists, historians and others with expertise in conservation matters, who can provide advice to owners of listed places.

Queensland's maritime and underwater heritage is also protected and managed under the provisions of the *Queensland Heritage Act 1992* (protected areas). EHP administers the *Historic Shipwrecks Act 1976* on behalf of the Australian Government.

Archaeological evidence of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander occupation in Queensland is protected under the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003* and *Torres Strait Islander Cultural Heritage Act 2003*.

The City of Gold Coast

The City of Gold Coast conserves places of local heritage value by identifying and listing places on the Gold Coast Local Heritage Register and by using planning provisions to protect them. The Council supports a heritage team which provides free advice to owners of heritage places as well as support through Council events and publications, and access to various state and federal government heritage grants. The team assists in the assessment of development applications relating to places on the Gold Coast Local Heritage Register (see Guideline No. 6) and helps to conserve Council's own heritage assets.

Council also supports and operates the Gold Coast Local Studies Library which is located in Southport. The Gold Coast Local Studies Library contains an extensive collection of archives and photographs which are available to the community for research purposes.

ICOMOS

ICOMOS is a non-government professional organisation that promotes expertise in the conservation of cultural heritage. It was formed in 1965, and has a responsibility to advise UNESCO in the assessment of sites proposed for the World Heritage List.

Australia ICOMOS, formed in 1976, is one of over 100 national committees. Membership of Australia ICOMOS consists of over 500 members of different categories, and is managed by an Executive Committee elected from the membership. A number of members represent Australia ICOMOS on various ICOMOS International Scientific Committees, as well as on expert committees and boards in Australia.

Australia ICOMOS is responsible for drafting and updating The *Burra Charter*: The Australia ICOMOS Charter for Places of Cultural Significance, which is the recognised guide in Australia for conservation of places of cultural heritage significance.

Further information

Where do I obtain further information?

Further information visit our web site at <http://heritage.goldcoast.qld.gov.au> or contact;

Environment, Heritage and Resilience
City of Gold Coast
PO Box 5042
Gold Coast Mail Centre, QLD 9729.
Phone: 07 5582 8875

The National Trust of Queensland

The National Trust of Queensland is a membership-based community organisation that works to promote the natural, Indigenous and cultural heritage of our state. The focus of the Trust's activities is heritage and environmental education. Through its properties, advocacy and research, the Trust encourages the community to understand and care for our significant places, wildlife, and stories.

The Trust maintains a heritage register which may contain individual buildings, precincts, natural environment places or culturally significant artefacts. These listings do not attract any legal protection for a place, nor do they put the owner of a listed place under any legal obligation.

The Gold Coast region has the highest Trust membership rate in Queensland and, in the Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary, the most visited heritage place in the state.

The Royal Historical Society of Queensland

Founded in 1913 as a cultural organisation which exists for the benefit of its members and the community, the objects of the Society are to: promote interest in and advance the study of Queensland history, broaden opportunities for the practice and writing of history, preserve documents and manuscripts relating to Queensland history, and preserve and display artefacts illustrating Queensland colonial history, study the history of the Commonwealth of Australia and the adjacent islands of the Pacific.