

# Queensland Heritage Council Annual Report 2021–22

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## Introduction

Queensland's cultural heritage is conserved for the community and future generations through the provisions of the *Queensland Heritage Act 1992* (the Heritage Act), which establishes the Queensland Heritage Council (Heritage Council), a 12-member independent and impartial body with the main functions of:

- deciding places to be entered in or removed from the Queensland Heritage Register (Heritage Register)
- advising the responsible Minister about conserving Queensland's cultural heritage
- advising and making recommendations to relevant Ministers on development proposed by State Government departments on State Heritage Places
- encouraging community interest in and understanding of Queensland's cultural heritage
- advising government and community organisations on appropriate management of cultural heritage places, and
- performing other functions delegated to the Heritage Council by the responsible Minister.

The Department of Environment and Science (DES) supports and funds the Heritage Council's operations through the Heritage Branch in the Environmental Policy and Programs division. Heritage Council members are remunerated in accordance with the *Remuneration Procedures For Part-Time Chairs and Members of Queensland Government Bodies* as approved by the Governor in Council.

In Queensland, the Department of Seniors, Disability Services and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships (DSDSATSIP) has responsibility for cultural heritage protected under the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003* and the *Torres Strait Islander Cultural Heritage Act 2003*. The Heritage Council, in consultation with DES, works with DSDSATSIP on cultural heritage matters where their respective responsibilities overlap (for example, where a place of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander cultural heritage significance is also listed on the Heritage Register).

## Membership

The Governor in Council appoints the 12 Heritage Council members, with the Heritage Act requiring that five members represent specific organisations and relevant interests, and seven members be appointed for their heritage knowledge, expertise and interest. Terms of appointment are up to three years, with a maximum six years' continuous membership.

In 2021–22, four new appointments and three re-appointments to the Heritage Council occurred, including the inaugural appointment of an identified First Nations member, Ms Ashleigh Hyland. In September 2020, the Heritage Council resolved to endorse the Dhawura Ngilan: A vision for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander heritage in Australia initiative of the Heritage Chairs and Officials of Australia and New Zealand (HCOANZ). A vision that would present a united voice for Indigenous Australians' heritage aspirations for the next decade. The Heritage Council is strongly committed to contributing to the work being led nationally through HCOANZ and is further empowered to do so with First Nations representation.

On 30 June 2022, Heritage Council members were:

- Ms Leslie Shirreffs PSM, Chair and expert representative (**new appointment**)
- Cr George Seymour, Deputy Chair and expert representative
- Cr Marnie Doyle, representing the Local Government Association of Queensland (**new appointment**)
- Ms Melissa Barnett – representing the interests of rural industries (**new appointment**)
- Ms Ashleigh Hyland, a proud Anaiwan woman and Project Manager with experience in sustainability, climate change resilience and First Nations engagement (**new appointment**)
- Mr Andrew Ladlay, representing the National Trust of Australia (Queensland) (**re-appointment**)
- Ms Ann-Marie Allan, representing the Queensland Council of Unions (**re-appointment**)
- Mr Andrew Barnes, a structural engineer and authority on heritage conservation (**re-appointment**)

- Mr Stuart Lummis, representing the interests of property owners and managers
- Ms Judy Brien, a barrister with specialised knowledge in heritage and planning and environment law
- Ms Alice Hampson, an architect, writer and architectural historian
- Dr Katie McConnel, a historian, writer and academic specialising in local heritage and history.

The Heritage Council would like to warmly acknowledge the contribution of outgoing members Ms Debbie Best (Chair 2017–2021, Deputy Chair 2016), Ms Kathy Davis (expert representative 2017–2021) and Ms Judy Peters (Local Government Association of Queensland representative 2017–2021), for their service and commitment to conserving Queensland’s heritage.

### Key activities

Key Heritage Council activities during 2021–22 included:

- delivery of the Queensland Heritage Advisory Panel (QHAP) findings in its final report to the Honourable Meaghan Scanlon MP, Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Youth Affairs. Established in April 2021, under the auspices of the Heritage Council following a formal request from Minister Scanlon, QHAP investigated and reported on options to improve protections for Queensland’s heritage places. The QHAP final report included a number of recommendations
- the implementation of all report recommendations is considered crucial to improving Queensland’s heritage protection system. The Heritage Council looks forward to working closely with the Queensland Government and other key stakeholders to progress this important initiative
- entering 5 new places in the Heritage Register
- providing heritage advice to the Queensland Government and other relevant agencies on major construction projects affecting State Heritage Places, including the New Performing Arts Venue at the Queensland Performing Arts Centre, All Ages Learning Centre at the Queensland Art Gallery and those part of the Queen’s Wharf Brisbane Priority Development Area
- making a submission to the Australian Parliament’s Joint Standing Committee on Treaties, indicating its support for Australia’s ratification of the *2001 UNESCO Convention*

*on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage*

- attendance by Ms Shirreffs, Chair, at the Heritage Chairs and Officials of Australia and New Zealand meeting on 23 May 2022.

### Meetings and business continuity

The Heritage Council met 12 times during 2021–22. Meetings in 2021 were held on 30 July, 3 September, 8 October, 12 November and 10 December. Meetings in 2022 were held on 28 January, 25 February, 8 March, 25 March, 29 April, 27 May and 24 June.

The Heritage Council continued to progress the state’s necessary heritage work during the global COVID-19 pandemic, meeting remotely several times as required during 2021–22. As restrictions have progressively eased, the Heritage Council has been able to return to its typical meeting format, with departmental representatives and relevant stakeholders attending in person.

As with the 2020–21 reporting period, the Heritage Council was unable to undertake regional visits to meet with local government representatives and owners during the year. Regional visits are an invaluable opportunity for the Heritage Council to engage at a local level with heritage stakeholders across the state. It is anticipated that these visits will recommence in 2022–23.

### The Queensland Heritage Register

The Heritage Register is the Heritage Act’s main mechanism for protecting Queensland’s cultural heritage. A key function of the Heritage Council is to decide on applications to enter places in the Heritage Register.

Each application is carefully considered by the Heritage Council to ensure the Heritage Register is a representative and comprehensive state-wide record of Queensland’s cultural heritage places. The Heritage Register contains a diverse range of places such as community halls, theatres, rural and suburban homes, commercial and government buildings, places of worship, roads, bridges, railways, mining sites, burial places, sites of public recreation, parks and gardens and even specific trees, such as Barcaldine’s Tree of Knowledge.

There were 1,798 places on the Heritage Register as of 30 June 2022, with the Heritage Council deciding to enter 5 new places in 2021–22. Details of decisions made regarding the Heritage Register are below.

*Places entered*

- Ayr Masonic Temple, Ayr
- Carpenter Hall House, Wilston
- Willard's Farm (former), Birkdale
- Wilston Methodist Memorial Church (former), Wilston
- Allan Cunningham Monument, Cunningham's Gap, Tarome.

*Places not entered*

- Patrick English Pavilion, Malanda
- Australian Environmental Studies Building, Griffith University, Nathan.

It is essential that Heritage Register entries for State Heritage Places remain current. In its statutory role, the Heritage Council considers proposed amendments to entries so that information about the significance of heritage places and their evolution over time is correctly recorded. During 2021–22, the Heritage Council made decisions to update the entries listed below.

*Register entries revised with agreement from the Heritage Council and place owners:*

- Commonwealth Acetate of Lime Factory (former), Colmslie
- Early Granite Kerb and Channel System, Cooktown
- Middenbury, Toowong
- Tyson Manor – Strathmore, Toowoomba
- Burnett Bridge, Bundaberg
- St Brigids Church, Rosewood
- St James' Hall, Warwick
- Sunnyside Sugar Plantation (former) Remains, Windermere
- Victoria Park, Spring Hill.

*Places entered as additional land to existing entry*

- Nil

*Places removed*

- Nil

*Places partly removed (part of the site)*

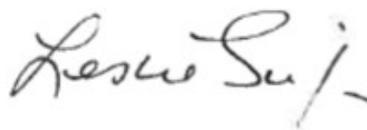
- Meringa Sugar Experiment Station, Meringa, Gordonvale.

*Place removed (as a destroyed place)*

- Nil

Notable new entries in the Heritage Register during 2021–22 included:

- Carpenter Hall House, Wilston (1986) a five-storey tower-like residence at Wilston, designed by Queensland architect, Russell Hall. This highly distinctive and exceptional timber-framed house is an important example of the way the state's architectural profession were reworking the characteristics of traditional Queensland housing in the late twentieth century
- Allan Cunningham Monument, Cunningham's Gap, Tarome, built in 1927 to commemorate the centenary of the first European to locate Cunningham's Gap. It marks the place where explorer and botanist, Allan Cunningham (1791-1839), traversed the Great Dividing Range in 1828. Aesthetically significant for its landmark and architectural qualities, it is an excellent work of the Warwick-based architectural partnership Dornbusch & Connolly.



**Leslie Shirreffs**

Chair, Queensland Heritage Council