

## Appendix 2—Queensland Heritage Council

### Background

The object of the *Queensland Heritage Act 1992* (the Heritage Act) is to provide for the conservation of the state's cultural heritage for the benefit of the community and future generations. The Heritage Act also establishes the Queensland Heritage Council, comprising 12 members.

The Heritage Council is a statutory authority with a range of responsibilities, including the provision of independent advice to the Queensland Government on strategic and high priority matters relating to Queensland's cultural heritage.

The Heritage Council's principal functions are to:

- act as decision-maker for places entered in, or removed from, the Queensland heritage register
- provide strategic advice to the Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts about matters relating to Queensland's cultural heritage
- provide information to the community to encourage interest in, and understanding of, Queensland's cultural heritage
- provide advice to government entities and community organisations about conserving Queensland's cultural heritage
- make recommendations to relevant ministers about development by the state of heritage places
- provide heritage advice to the planning chief executive, government entities and community organisations, encouraging the appropriate management of places of cultural heritage significance
- provide other functions delegated to the Heritage Council by the Minister.

In performing its functions, the Heritage Council must act independently, impartially and in the public interest.

The Department of Environment and Science (the department) supports and funds the operations of the Heritage Council. The department's Heritage Branch provides professional, administrative and technical assistance to support the Heritage Council's key functions.

Heritage Council members are remunerated in accordance with the *Remuneration of Part-Time Chairs and Members of Government Boards, Committees and Statutory Authorities* as approved by the Governor in Council.

### Membership

The Governor in Council appoints the 12 Queensland Heritage Council members. The Heritage Act establishes that five members must be appointed to represent specific organisations, while the remaining seven members are appointed for their knowledge, expertise and interest in

heritage conservation. Terms of appointment are up to three years and total continuous service by any individual on the Heritage Council must not exceed six years.

In appointing the current Heritage Council, careful consideration was given to the Queensland Government's target of improving gender equality on representative boards. The Government has set an ambitious gender equity target of 50% representation of women on Queensland Government bodies by 2020. Eight of the current eleven Heritage Council members are women.

At 30 June 2019, membership of the Heritage Council included:

- Ms Debbie Best, Chair (expert representative)
- Cr George Seymour, Deputy Chair (expert representative)
- Mr Andrew Ladlay (National Trust of Australia, Queensland representative)
- Ms Tanya Neville (property owners and managers representative)
- Ms Ann-Marie Allan (Queensland Council of Unions representative)
- Cr Judy Peters (Local Government Association of Queensland representative)
- Ms Alice Hampson (expert representative)
- Ms Kathy Davis (expert representative)
- Dr Katie McConnel (expert representative)
- Ms Judy Brien (expert representative)
- Mr Andrew Barnes (expert representative)
- Vacant—rural industries representative.

On behalf of the Council, the Chair welcomes new members, Mr Andrew Ladlay, Ms Ann-Marie Allan and Mr Andrew Barnes, and warmly acknowledges the contribution of former members Dr Val Dennis (National Trust of Australia, Queensland representative), Mr Anthony Ross (rural industries representative) and Mr Bill Marklew (Queensland Council of Unions representative), who completed their service on 31 December 2018.

### Strategic direction

The *Queensland Heritage Strategy: protecting, investing in and connecting Queensland's story* (the heritage strategy) sets out the strategic framework for managing the state's heritage.

The directions, supporting strategies and priority actions outlined in the heritage strategy provide clear guidance on the responsibilities and leadership of the Heritage Council and the role it plays, in collaboration with government and the community, in implementing the heritage strategy.

In 2018–19, the Heritage Council prioritised three key areas as a particular focus:

- Outreach and engagement—exploring innovative ways in which heritage can be effectively communicated to raise its profile and community interest
- Heritage tourism—identifying and supporting programs and activities in regional Queensland connecting heritage and tourism through storytelling, while providing new and unique experiences at heritage places
- Heritage funding—examining mechanisms to provide funding and investment to protect heritage places.

A further key concern for the Heritage Council is advocating on behalf of the community to ensure legislative and regulatory frameworks provide sufficient enforcement powers for heritage places to be properly conserved and protected.

In October 2018, the Heritage Council met with the Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts and the Director-General, Department of Environment and Science to discuss the challenges, pressures and opportunities for Queensland's heritage.

The Heritage Council looks forward to continuing to work collaboratively with the Minister and the department to explore and progress important priorities that align with its own strategic objectives, including those established under the Minister's Heritage Working Group. These include a Revolving Heritage Fund, a covenant program to protect and conserve historic places and regional tourism projects.

Heritage Council Chair, Ms Debbie Best has actively maintained a commitment to meeting with the Directors-General of Queensland Government departments to discuss their approach to managing state heritage-listed assets.

The Heritage Council will continue to work with community, government and owners to ensure the best outcome and protection of the state's heritage assets.

### The Queensland Heritage Register

The Queensland Heritage Register is the primary mechanism in the Heritage Act for the protection of Queensland's heritage. A principal function of the Heritage Council is to decide applications in relation to 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 historic heritage. Close engagement with owners and custodians of heritage places, local government and local communities is an essential aspect of this process.

Applications from the community demonstrate the sustained interest in protecting Queensland's heritage and the diverse range of historic places valued by the community across the state. The number of places on the Heritage Register at 30 June 2019 totalled 1,770.

In 2018–19, the Heritage Council made decisions on all applications to the Queensland Heritage Register within statutory timeframes.

Of the 34 decisions made on applications, 25 new state heritage places were entered in the Heritage Register.

### Places entered

- Allan State School (former), Sandy Creek
- Bedourie Pisé House and Aboriginal Tracker's Hut, Bedourie
- Buderim Mountain State School, Buderim
- Duaringa State School, Duaringa
- Dutton Park State School, Dutton Park
- Enoggera State School, Enoggera
- Ernest Junction Railway Tunnel, Molendinar
- Feniton, New Farm
- Geebung State School, Geebung
- Gympie State High School, Gympie
- Hamilton State School, Hamilton
- Heavy Anti-Aircraft Gun Station 385, Lytton
- Ironside State School, Saint Lucia
- Kelvin Grove State College, Kelvin Grove
- Kuranda Fig Tree Avenue, Kuranda
- Laurel Bank Park, Toowoomba City
- Mitchelton State School, Mitchelton
- Redcliffe State High School, Redcliffe
- Rewan Police Horse Breeding Station (former), Rewan
- Roadvale State School, Roadvale
- Sarina Air Raid Shelter (former), Sarina
- Silkstone State School, Silkstone
- Spinifex State College Junior Campus, Mount Isa
- Wavell State High School, Wavell Heights
- Wee MacGregor tram and rail complex and the former towns of Ballara and Hightville, Kuridala

### Places entered as additional land to existing entry

- Brisbane State High School, South Brisbane
- Maytown, Palmer
- Redland Bay State School, Redland Bay
- St John's Wood and Service Wing, Ashgrove

### Places not entered

- 'Emerald Fringe' of Coochiemudlo Island
- Holland Park State School, Holland Park

### Place removed

- Chemist—60 Churchill street, Childers

**Places partly removed (part of the site)**

- Palmer Goldfield Mining Landscape, Palmer
- Wild Irish Girl Mine and Emily Battery, Palmer

**Place removed (as a destroyed place)**

- The Grand Hotel, Hughenden
- Victoria Park Hotel, Townsville

**Register entries revised through consent of the Heritage Council and place owners**

- Toowong Memorial Park, Toowong
- Paroo Shire Honour Board, Cunnamulla
- Railway Workshops, Rockhampton
- Rockhampton Botanic Gardens, Rockhampton
- Rockhampton War Memorial, Rockhampton
- Gaydon's Buildings, Childers

**Notable new entries this year include:**

- Wee MacGregor tram and rail complex and former towns of Ballara and Hightville—important in demonstrating the major role of copper mining in the Queensland economy in the early 20th century and the importance of railways to the economic viability of remote mines. Located in the Argylla Ranges between Cloncurry and Mount Isa in North West Queensland, the place includes the sites of two abandoned mining towns, Hightville and Ballara.
- Feniton House New Farm—important in demonstrating architect Robert Smith (Robin) Dods' contribution to the evolution of Queensland's architecture. Built in 1906, the house is important for its Federation aesthetic, successfully combining arts and crafts and classical elements.
- Kuranda Fig Tree Avenue (established 1931)—important in demonstrating the development of tourism in Far North Queensland in the interwar period. The 27 mature fig trees are located on both sides of the main street, forming an impressive avenue effect due to their curtain roots, substantial trunk and overarching canopies.
- Laurel Bank Park, a privately-owned garden established in 1904 and gifted to the Toowoomba City Council in 1932 for use as a public park. The park's collection of mature and established cooler climate trees is thought to be the most extensive in Queensland.
- Bedourie Pisé House and Aboriginal Tracker's Hut, a place containing a rare surviving example of a pisé de terre (rammed earth) building from 1897, once common in central-western Queensland. The Tracker's Hut is an important example of the type of rudimentary accommodation provided for Aboriginal trackers from the 1870s until the 1950s.

During 2018–19, the Department of Education continued its ongoing proactive approach to identifying and protecting its heritage assets through the Queensland Schools Heritage Strategy. These schools are important in demonstrating the evolution of public education in

Queensland and its associated architecture. A number of state schools have been entered in the Heritage Register, including Kelvin Grove State College (1875), Dutton Park State School (1884) and Silkstone State School (1915).

The Queensland Heritage Council congratulates the Department of Education on its ongoing, proactive and exemplar approach to identifying and protecting its heritage assets through the Queensland Schools Heritage Strategy.

**Development Advice**

Since July 2017, the *Planning Act 2016* (Planning Act) has required that the Heritage Council's view be sought before decisions are made on development applications that are likely to destroy or substantially reduce the cultural heritage significance of a place on the Heritage Register. Expanded functions of the Heritage Council under the Heritage Act also allow it to give advice about the effect any development application will have on the cultural heritage significance of places on the Heritage Register.

Under the Heritage Act, the Heritage Council also plays an important role in providing advice to the responsible Ministers for development of heritage places proposed by the Queensland Government.

Priority Development Areas (PDA) that include heritage places are a particular focus of attention for the Heritage Council. In 2018–19, the Heritage Council engaged closely with Economic Development Queensland (responsible for assessing or advising on PDA development) in relation to the Herston Quarter and Bowen Hills PDAs.

Across Queensland there is a considerable range of large-scale development and infrastructure projects currently proposed or underway involving activities on, or adjacent to, state heritage places. These projects can be progressed under a number of different development assessment frameworks. The Heritage Council are alert to the potential for impacts on cultural heritage significance and are committed to proactively engaging with development proponents, owners and assessment authorities to seek positive outcomes that balance new development, adaptive reuse and conservation opportunities.

**Meetings**

The Heritage Council met on 12 occasions this financial year:

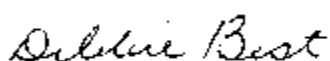
- **2018:** 27 July, 23 and 24 August, 25 and 26 October and 30 November
- **2019:** 1 February, 1 and 29 March, 3 and 31 May, 28 June.

The Heritage Council visited Toowoomba in August 2018. Members met with councillors and officers of the Toowoomba Regional Council. Members also met with heritage owners and custodians and inspected local heritage places including the Empire Theatre, an outstanding example of art deco theatre architecture, and the 1859 Royal Bull's Head Inn at Drayton.

## Key activities

During 2018–19, the Heritage Council:

- entered 25 new places in the Queensland Heritage Register
- provided five recommendations to the responsible Ministers in respect of the development of heritage places proposed by the Queensland Government
- provided one recommendation to the Chief Executive Officer of the Cross River Rail Delivery Authority in respect of the development of a heritage place
- provided advice to the Department of State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning on four Planning Act development applications involving heritage places.
- provided representatives to the:
  - » independent expert panel for the New Performing Arts Venue at the Queensland Cultural Centre
  - » assessment panel for round three of the Queensland Government's Community Sustainability Action grants
  - » Heritage Chairs and Officials of Australia and New Zealand annual meeting in New Zealand
  - » 100th Australian Heritage Council meeting in Canberra
  - » Australian Heritage Tourism conference in Adelaide
  - » National Trust of Australia (Queensland) conference in Ipswich
- sponsored and contributed to a number of Open House events across the state, including Bundaberg, Gold Coast and Brisbane.



Debbie Best

Chair, Queensland Heritage Council