

# Appendix 1—Queensland Heritage Council

## QUEENSLAND HERITAGE COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT 2020–21

### Introduction

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

- deciding places to be entered or removed from the Queensland Heritage Register
- advising the responsible Minister about Queensland's cultural heritage
- advising and making recommendations to relevant Ministers on matters of heritage development proposed by the State Government departments
- encouraging community interest in and understanding of Queensland's cultural heritage
- advising government and community organisations on appropriate management of cultural heritage places, and
- providing 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 its Heritage Branch. 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.

In Queensland, the Department of Seniors, Disability Services and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships (DSDSATSIP) has responsibility for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural heritage 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 matters of cultural heritage where their respective responsibilities overlap (for example, where a place of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander cultural significance is also listed on the Queensland Heritage Register).

### Membership

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

At 30 June 2021, Heritage Council members were:

- Ms Debbie Best, Chair and expert representative
- Cr George Seymour, Deputy Chair and expert representative
- Mr Andrew Ladlay, representing the National Trust of Australia (Queensland)
- Ms Judy Peters, representing the Local Government Association of Queensland
- Ms Ann-Marie Allan, representing the Queensland Council of Unions
- Mr Stuart Lummis, representing property owners and managers
- Mr Andrew Barnes, a structural engineer and authority on heritage conservation
- Ms Judy Brien, a barrister with specialised knowledge in heritage and planning and environment law
- Ms Kathy Davis, heritage property owner and advocate
- Ms Alice Hampson, an architect, writer and architectural historian
- Dr Katie McConnel, a historian, writer and academic specialising in local heritage and history
- Vacant – rural industries representative.

On 8 April 2021, Ms Clare Wilkes, representing rural interests, formally resigned from the Heritage Council.

In 2020–21 there have been no new appointments to the Heritage Council.

## Key activities

Key Heritage Council activities during 2020–21 included:

- entering 10 new places into the Queensland Heritage Register
- providing heritage advice to the Queensland Government and other relevant agencies on major infrastructure projects including the New Performing Arts Venue at the Queensland Cultural Centre and Brisbane Exhibition Grounds
- providing heritage advice to the Department of Education and associated contractors in relation to upgrades and new additions planned for heritage-listed schools, including the Brisbane Central State School and the Wilston State School
- providing Heritage Council representatives to the:
  - independent expert panel for the New Performing Arts Venue at the Queensland Cultural Centre
  - assessment panel for round five of the Queensland Government's *Community Sustainability Action Grants* for Heritage Conservation
- establishment of the Queensland Heritage Advisory Panel (QHAP) in April 2021 under the auspices of Heritage Council following a formal request from the Honourable Meaghan Scanlon MP, Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Youth Affairs. The key purpose of QHAP is to investigate and report on options to improve protections for Queensland's heritage places. The QHAP is due to provide its findings to the Minister in late 2021.

COVID-19 has impacted the delivery of many heritage events like Open House and National Trust of Australia's (Queensland) Heritage Awards. Heritage Council has not contributed or provided any sponsorship funding in the financial year.

## Meetings and business continuity

The Heritage Council met nine times during 2020–21. Meetings in 2020 were held on 31 July, 25 September and 4 December. Meetings in 2021 were held on 29 January, 26 February, 26 March, 30 April, 28 May and 25 June.

Like many government agencies working through the global COVID-19 event, the Heritage Council continued to progress the state's necessary heritage work during this time with Council

members, departmental representatives and relevant stakeholders meeting remotely since February 2020.

As restrictions eased, the Heritage Council has been able to return to normal meeting format, once again with departmental representatives and relevant stakeholders attending. The Heritage Council was not able to undertake regional visits to meet with local government representatives and owners during the year but it is anticipated that these visits can recommence next financial year.

## The Queensland Heritage Register

The Queensland Heritage Register is the Heritage Act's main mechanism for protecting Queensland's cultural heritage and a key function of the Heritage Council is to decide on applications to enter places into the Register.

Each application is considered by the Heritage Council to ensure the Register is a representative and comprehensive statewide record of Queensland's cultural heritage. The 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 1,794 places on the Queensland Heritage Register as at 30 June 2021, with the Heritage Council deciding to enter 10 new heritage places in 2020–21. Details of decisions made regarding the Heritage Register are below.

### *Places entered*

- Beaudesert Pig & Calf Saleyards
- Downs Club, Toowoomba
- Eagles Nest Camp, Redwood Park, Toowoomba
- Fortitude Valley Air Raid Shelters
- Maryborough Baby Clinic (former)
- The Fort, Oxley
- Ashgrove Methodist Church (former)
- Mareeba Uniting Church (former)
- Reconciliation Rocks
- Ward 13, Dunwich Development Asylum (former)

### *Places not entered*

- Dominion Flour Mill Front Gateway & Fence, Maryborough
- McLean Stand, Ballymore
- Residence (former), 67 Edward Street, Brisbane City
- Residence, 509 Main Road, Wellington Point
- Linden Lea, Toowong

It is essential that the entries of state heritage places remain current. In its statutory role, the Heritage Council considers proposed amendments to Queensland Heritage Register entries with the aim of having accurate information about heritage places and ensuring the evolution of these places over time is correctly recorded.

During 2020–21, the Heritage Council made decisions to update the entries listed below:

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

- Mount Morgan Courthouse
- North Pine Presbyterian Church (former)
- Finch Hatton War Memorial

### *Places entered as additional land to existing entry*

- Nil

### *Places removed*

- Nil

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

- Cairns Railway, Section from Redlynch to Crooked Creek Bridge
- Cooktown Post and Telegraph Office (former)
- Emerald Railway Station Complex
- Harris Terrace, 68 George Street, Brisbane City
- Inverness, Toogoolawah
- St Andrews Presbyterian Church (former), Esk
- Wolston Park Hospital Complex
- Y Station, 16 Heavy Anti-Aircraft Battery, Townsville
- North Ipswich Railway Workshops Complex

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

- Nil

Notable new entries into the Heritage Register during 2020–21 included:

- Eagles Nest Camp, Redwood Park, Toowoomba is an important archaeological site of a former Great Depression camp for itinerant unemployed men. The camp became self-sufficient with accommodation huts, communal structures, landscaping and vegetable gardens. It became renowned throughout Australia during the Depression as an exemplary camp for unemployed swagmen.
- Fortitude Valley Air Raid Shelters were built during World War II and are important in demonstrating the impact of Japan's entry into the war on Queensland's civilian population, and the urgent Air Raid

Precaution measures undertaken during 1941–42.

- The Fort, Oxley, is a stately timber residence built in 1882 on high ground, overlooking the Brisbane River. It represents the establishment of substantial estates by affluent Queenslanders in the 19th century.

*Debbie Best*

**Debbie Best**

Chair, Queensland Heritage Council