

2 Strategy



Heritage Vision 2021-2025

This Heritage Strategy sets a clear framework for heritage management within the local government area to ensure that our heritage is conserved and celebrated now and well into the future. This is captured in the following vision to be achieved over the next four years and beyond:

Living sustainably and conserving the heritage of our urban environment, we are in harmony with the surrounding World Heritage Area.

We take pride in the character and distinct identities of our towns and villages. Conservation and enhancement of our natural, cultural and built heritage is a priority for our community and part of the Blue Mountains identity.

We share our knowledge and engage with our community to build awareness, understanding and appreciation for the heritage of the Blue Mountains.

Council will establish itself as a leader in heritage management, proactively seeking to deliver positive heritage outcomes.

Our heritage will be integrated into the way we manage places to ensure that our town centres and public spaces are vibrant liveable places for people to experience and celebrate our local stories.

The actions to achieve this vision are captured under four interlinked themes. These key themes are outlined on the 'Plan on a Page' below. Actions are set against the following terms over the coming four years. Where actions are consistent with those nominated in Council's Local Strategic Planning Statement – *Blue Mountains 2040: Living Sustainably*, these are identified.

Short Term: 2021-2022

These actions represent planned tasks and identified activities that are resourced for completion over the short term

Medium Term: 2022-2024

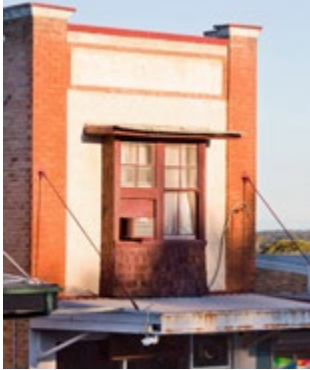
Actions over this term build on short term actions and may also require additional funding or resourcing and input from external parties, to ensure achievement within the medium term

Long Term: 2024-2025

Actions over the long term are more aspirational and initial work and achievement is likely to inform future versions of the Blue Mountains Heritage Strategy

Actions which are consistent or aligned with those in *Blue Mountains 2040: Living Sustainably* (the Local Strategic Planning Statement), have been identified with an 'LSPS' reference.

Plan on a page



Key theme 1: Knowing

Collecting, recording and sharing resources and stories of heritage places provides a firm foundation for improving the identification and assessment of heritage significance.



Key theme 2: Protecting

Protecting and managing our heritage ensures that conservation is a primary consideration in all elements of planning and place management. Council will also lead by example and demonstrate best-practice heritage management of its own properties and assets



Key theme 3: Supporting

Council will continue to support the conservation of heritage places through advisory services, incentives and grant opportunities.



Key theme 4: Promoting

Council will raise awareness and increase understanding and appreciation of the tangible and intangible heritage of the Blue Mountains.



Knowing

Collecting, recording and sharing resources and stories of heritage places provides a firm foundation for improving the identification and assessment of heritage significance.

Knowing our heritage

Collecting, recording and sharing resources and stories of heritage places provides a firm foundation for improving the identification and assessment of heritage significance.

Collecting heritage knowledge

Knowing our heritage begins by gathering information. This forms the basis for the first step of the heritage management process outlined in the Australian ICOMOS Burra Charter, 'understanding significance'. Understanding is developed through research, and involves gathering, recording and assessing information such as documentary and physical evidence.

Since the Council's first heritage study in 1983 – the *Blue Mountains Heritage Study* by Croft and Walker - Council has undertaken a significant number of thematic histories and specific heritage studies to support the protection of heritage places.

Understanding our heritage means investigating why it holds meaning for us today. Over time, as new information becomes known, heritage values can and do change.

Investigations into the significance and historical context of items and places continue to develop knowledge and enhance connections, and ultimately inform heritage management decisions. This process involves improving our understanding of Aboriginal culture and history, including the ways in which honest and complete narratives may be better recognised and represented within the City.

Council's recent heritage work

Gaps in current knowledge continue to be identified, and pressure for development and change can highlight the need for further detailed analysis of certain areas, and building and landscape types.

Council has completed significant heritage work in recent years to both increase understanding and ensure the ongoing protection of our heritage. All of these projects have included and benefited from community consultation and collaboration. In summary, this work has included delivery of detailed heritage controls and guidelines in the Blue Mountains Development Control Plan 2015, conversion of the period housing areas to seventeen new heritage conservation areas within the Blue Mountains Local Environmental Plan 2015 in 2019 and the finalisation of a comprehensive and detailed heritage review in 2020. The Blue Mountains Character Study and Character Statement were also completed in 2020.

The undertaking of an updated, honest and comprehensive thematic history acknowledging both Aboriginal and European histories, is identified as Action 1.1. Recent examples of such work include the interpretation area at Pulpit Hill in Katoomba, and the 'Layers in Time' heritage trail at Woodford Reserve, Woodford. The need for ongoing investigation and study of particular areas within the City is identified as Action 1.2.



Sharing information

To ensure heritage items and places are appropriately understood and interpreted, the knowledge and input of the local community is vital. The sharing of information requires strong networks within the community.

Historical societies, community members, the Local Studies Library, the Heritage Advisory Committee and Council's heritage staff and management can all make contributions to the collection of historical knowledge, including oral histories, historical photographs and written records and maps.

Continuing conversations between Council, heritage experts and engaged community members and groups will ensure our knowledge is as comprehensive as possible.

The sharing of Aboriginal cultural knowledge is a sensitive area and may be a complex process, involving Traditional Owners. Much Aboriginal cultural knowledge related to heritage places may include restricted and/or sensitive information. Council has strong relationships with its Aboriginal Advisory Council and Gundungurra ILUA committee, who are the first point of reference.

Strengthening heritage networks is identified as Action 2.1, and will ensure the efficient sharing of information to promote heritage conservation. These networks can be broadened to incorporate primary, secondary and tertiary educational institutions.

Heritage resources

Local historical societies, cultural organisations, and the Blue Mountains Local Studies Library and Collection, are invaluable repositories of local heritage knowledge, and are key resources for the community. Historians, librarians, archivists and local society members all contribute to the process of gathering and sharing accurate historical knowledge.

In recent years, Council has digitised the Blue Mountains historical newspapers and journals collection in collaboration with Trove at the National Library of Australia. Council also created and manages a photostream of curated historic material on Flickr. Enhancing access to repositories of information and additional educative resources is identified as Action 2.3, to both enrich community knowledge, and increase appreciation and interest in our unique heritage.

Improvements in technology make sharing information such as old records and photos easier, with digitisation providing opportunities for broader accessibility. More educative resources than ever are available to private heritage owners and asset managers to assist with best practice management of heritage items. Improving the accessibility and depth of heritage information on Council's website is identified in Action 2.2.

Working together

Heritage conservation requires active participation and involvement from a wide range of groups and individuals, all with varying degrees of knowledge and technical skills. Stakeholders must work collaboratively to share the knowledge and skills relevant to preserving our important heritage. The sharing of heritage knowledge between heritage experts, community members and Council staff is a key aspect of successful heritage management. Knowledge sharing can occur in person through training and workshops, and also through providing better access to Council's heritage information in a centralised and accessible location. Improving knowledge sharing and skills transfer capabilities is identified as Action 2.4.



Objective	Term	Action ID	Action
O1 Enhance the documentation of our heritage places through continued gathering and improved recording of information	Short term 2021-2022	1.1	Seek Government grant opportunities to deliver key outcomes and projects which provide an honest and complete narrative of both Aboriginal and European histories and include a comprehensive thematic history of the Blue Mountains (same as Action 9.1) [LSPS Action 5.13].
	Medium term 2022-2024	1.2	Investigate the contributory values of properties within mapped heritage conservation areas [LSPS Action 5.10].
	Long term & Ongoing 2024-2025	1.3	Continue to investigate, identify, assess and document gaps in the records of items and places of heritage significance [LSPS Action 5.15].
O2 Encourage knowledge sharing and skills transfer to improve access to information	Short term & Ongoing 2021 - 2022	2.1	Strengthen heritage connections and knowledge sharing with key heritage stakeholders, including external agencies and educational institutions.
	Short term & Ongoing 2021-2022	2.2	Review Council's heritage webpages to provide a consolidated reference point for heritage resources with improved accessibility, for the benefit of private owners and managers of heritage properties.
	Medium term 2022-2024	2.3	Continue to work with the Local Studies Library and Collection, museums and local historical societies to promote knowledge sharing and enhanced access to heritage resources for both community members and Council staff.
	Medium term 2022-2024	2.4	Create opportunities to upskill and build Council capacity through targeted training and centralised, accessible heritage information.

Table 1: KNOWING - Objectives and actions





Protecting

Protecting and managing our heritage ensures that conservation is a primary consideration in all elements of planning and place management. Council will also lead by example and demonstrate best-practice heritage management of its own properties and assets.

Protecting our heritage

Protecting and managing our heritage ensures that conservation is a primary consideration in all elements of planning and place management. Council will also lead by example and demonstrate best-practice heritage management of its own properties and assets.

Protecting heritage

Council has a legislative responsibility to identify, protect and manage heritage items within the Blue Mountains local government area. Items and places may be recognised as being of local or state heritage significance after being assessed against the NSW heritage assessment criteria. Once assessed, a heritage inventory sheet will be prepared to document the values of each item.

Protection is then achieved through the listing of heritage items and heritage conservation areas in Schedule 5 of the Blue Mountains Local Environmental Plan 2015 (LEP 2015). Declared Aboriginal Places are protected under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* (NSW) and are identified and listed in the LEP. Aboriginal 'objects' or sites are also protected under this Act. A legislative reform is currently underway, with a Draft Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Bill being reviewed by the NSW government at the time of writing this document.

The Blue Mountains Development Control Plan 2015 (DCP 2015) provides detailed planning and design guidelines to support the planning controls in the LEP, and includes a dedicated section on a range of heritage management issues.

Council regularly reviews the heritage schedule within the LEP to ensure the information and values of the inventory remain current. Review of the heritage inventory typically involves adding new items and modifying existing items, and can include removing items no longer of significance or superseded by alternate listings.

Following on from Action 1.3 under the 'Knowing' theme, as of early 2021, Council is awaiting finalisation of a review of the LEP heritage schedule (Amendment 5 to LEP 2015). This will result in 62 new heritage items and the modification of 287 heritage items, with 31 heritage items being deleted. The findings of the review bring all previous study recommendations up to date. The protection of interiors of public buildings, and the acknowledgement of cultural landscape values to certain conservation areas are part of these updates. Regular ongoing review and updating of the LEP heritage schedule is identified as Action 3.2, and is also Action 5.15 of the Blue Mountains Local Strategic Planning Statement.

Managing heritage

The management of heritage places, such as items and heritage conservation areas includes developing policy and guidelines to assist decision-making, and implementing appropriate management practices.

Consistent development pressure has the potential to create both incremental change and also substantial new interventions in heritage conservation areas and town centres. Such change can affect heritage values if not appropriately managed. For example, alternative forms



of housing, housing choice and affordable housing are real needs of the community but also have the potential to impact on existing town character. New development should possess high quality design that respects and responds to this existing character. As such, we must appropriately plan for changing community needs in a locally appropriate way.

The heritage of our established townscape includes a variety of older buildings capable of being renewed and adapted to new uses. This may provide opportunities to improve housing diversity and housing supply close to shops and public transport, whilst retaining character and conserving and enhancing heritage values. Reuse and activation also serve to protect these heritage buildings.

The protection and management of the City's heritage, character and landscape values, requires that Council provide clear guidance on development outcomes affecting heritage. This is in the form of statutory controls in Council's LEP and DCP as detailed above. However, in response to the need for some change both in policy settings and to adequately cater for the needs of the community, heritage management must also be subject to ongoing review.

A particular focus over the short term is the preparation of design controls and educative resources to ensure housing forms and landscape outcomes are appropriate to the heritage character of the Blue Mountains. This is identified in Action 3.1. Additionally, further work to understand and clarify the contributory values of each property within existing heritage conservation areas will be completed over the medium term as identified in Action 3.3.

Sustainability and cultural heritage

More broadly, *Blue Mountains 2040: Living Sustainably* (Council's Local Strategic Planning Statement) reconfirmed the long held vision for the Blue Mountains to be a sustainable and successful City. The twenty-first century poses its own challenges in the care and protection of cultural heritage, particularly in addressing the impacts of climate, including adaptation strategies, and building resilience within communities. Council is committed to working with the *International Council on Monuments and Sites* (ICOMOS), and the international group Climate Heritage Network (CHN) (established in 2019), to locate the Blue Mountains within a mutual support network at the local, state, national and international level, and to aiding our community in tackling climate change, as identified in Action 5.2. CHN recognises that cultural heritage has the potential to play a major role in successfully transitioning to a low-carbon future and adapting to environmental changes with governments and communities working together. These groups offer an important opportunity to develop new creative partnerships, strengthen those that already exist and pool expertise and knowledge from all corners of the world.



Through innovation, heritage places can sympathetically accommodate renewable energy technologies and other mechanisms to respond to climate change, whilst conserving 'embodied energy' in the existing building fabric. The investigation of funding opportunities in this regard is included at Action 5.1.

Council's heritage portfolio

Council is responsible for the management of approximately 150 assets that are listed as heritage items in the LEP. This extensive and diverse portfolio includes buildings, roads, bridges, public reserves, gardens, monuments and more, across operational land and Crown land. This portfolio results in significant, long-term management challenges for the Council in terms of adequate staffing and resources, the life cycle of assets, and the balancing of outcomes to ensure heritage conservation and public benefit.

Heritage assets will continue to play an important role in the development and enhancement of community facilities and tourism opportunities. To respond to the changing needs of the community there must be a plan for some change, carefully balanced with the conservation of heritage significance and the protection of places of distinctive character. Other opportunities and constraints must also be considered. These include for example, the need to meet contemporary safety and accessibility standards.

A key component of the retention of heritage significance is the continued use of a place. A collaborative approach to understanding the challenges and opportunities of heritage management leads to positive outcomes for the community. Further, the adaptive reuse of older buildings can also provide positive outcomes through reactivation and adaptation to contemporary needs, enhancing the local economy and providing for the needs of locals and tourists. The ability to sensitively adapt a place also has the potential to respond positively to sustainability principles.

Heritage Asset Management Improvement Framework

In 2018 the Heritage Asset Management Improvement Framework was implemented to support Council's Asset Works Program. Supplemented by research and conservation management planning, Council undertook a risk-based approach to the prioritisation of approximately 150 Council assets listed as heritage items in the LEP. This included the preparation of Conservation Management Statements for high priority assets to provide strategic conservation advice and identify urgent renewal works. This supports the future planning of works and the budgeting requirements of Council. Completion of the Heritage Asset Management Improvement Framework through the preparation of Conservation Management Statements for the remainder of the items is identified as Action 4.3.

Best practice heritage asset management by Council requires the significant input of heritage specialists to investigate condition and significance, advise on potential changes and help resolve maintenance and management issues. Council's heritage team will work collaboratively with asset managers to develop best practice heritage management processes. Continuing to provide timely and clear advice to asset managers is identified as Action 4.1.

Additionally, Council has established an internal heritage rehabilitation fund to provide targeted support each year, for one or more of Council's assets. Consideration is given to factors such as statutory heritage listing, assessed heritage significance, condition and community and social heritage values, as well as required emergency works and preventative works. The continuance of this fund to prioritise works on these heritage items is identified at Action 4.2.



Objective	Term	Action ID	Action
O3 Maintain a strong planning framework and advocate for strong local policy control	Short term 2021–2022	3.1	Council will carry out focused reviews of specific areas within town centres to consider how policy and guidelines can further protect areas that contain heritage and character values.
	Medium term 2022-2024	3.2	Council will continue to protect items and areas of heritage significance by listing those items and areas on the Local Environmental Plan and will commence a new heritage review of local heritage listings to update the Blue Mountains Local Environmental Plan [LSPS Action 5.15].
	Medium term 2022-2024	3.3	Council will continue to identify the values of heritage conservation areas and seek protections for areas that meet the criteria for listing as heritage conservation areas.
O4 Strengthen Council's management of heritage assets and places	Short term & Ongoing 2021 - 2022	4.1	Council will continue to provide internal heritage advice and support to asset managers in their management of Council's assets with heritage value.
	Short term 2021-2022	4.2	Council will continue to operate a rehabilitation fund for targeted heritage support as part of Council's Asset Works Program.
	Short term 2021-2022	4.3	Council will continue to embed best practice heritage management principles into policies and plans for Council's assets with heritage value.
O5 Ensure cultural heritage and related arts, including heritage buildings can embrace sustainable technologies and respond to climate change	Short Term and Ongoing 2021-2025	5.1	Council will collaborate with key Australian and international cultural heritage bodies, such as ICOMOS, Australia ICOMOS and Climate Heritage Network (CHN) to develop new and creative partnerships to drive climate action and support communities towards a low carbon, resilient future.
	Medium term 2022-2024	5.2	Council will investigate opportunities for funding and grants for the retro-fitting of heating and cooling mechanisms and bushfire protections for heritage buildings.

Table 2: PROTECTING - Objectives and actions





Supporting our Heritage

Council will continue to support the conservation of heritage places through advisory services, incentives and grant opportunities.

Sustainability and adaptive reuse of buildings

Reusing heritage buildings for new purposes is a potentially innovative approach to heritage conservation and strategic planning, particularly in town centres. It incorporates sustainability initiatives by harnessing the embodied energy of existing buildings, and by adapting them to new, often contemporary purposes.

Council encourages the use of conservation incentives (through clause 5.10 of LEP 2015) where appropriate. This allows for the use of a heritage item for a purpose that would not otherwise be permitted, where this will result in a heritage conservation outcome. By providing opportunities to adaptively reuse older buildings in town centres, the Heritage Strategy aligns with Council's strategic framework for broader and ongoing place-making opportunities in local centres. Continued collaboration with the State Government and local property owners to identify adaptive reuse opportunities is identified in Action 6.3.

Local Heritage Assistance Fund

Council has operated a Local Heritage Assistance Fund for a number of years, to assist private property owners in maintaining and improving their heritage properties and enhancing the broader values of heritage conservation areas. The Fund operates with the assistance of a NSW Government Community Heritage Grant and this funding is matched by Council. Future expanded funding opportunities will continue to be explored by Council and the ongoing operation of the fund is identified as part of Action 6.2.

Grants

Council has been successful in obtaining NSW Government funding to support a number of components of its heritage management program. Recent grant programs include conservation of historic stonework at the state listed Lennox Bridge in Blaxland, a new heritage interpretive trail at Woodford Reserve and a new interpretation area and signage at Pulpit Hill in Katoomba. Seeking further funding for heritage projects in the City is identified in Action 6.2.

Heritage advisory services

Council's team of heritage specialists provide advice to the public and internally within Council, to ensure the effective conservation of our City's heritage. This involves the provision of general advice for potential buyers, general conservation advice for owners, and specific advice regarding development applications and policy. Development-related advice is provided on a wide range of matters such as heritage impact statements, listings management, preparation of heritage management documents, and heritage grant applications. The provision of general and development-related advice is part of Council's ongoing service delivery program, and is supported by the NSW Heritage Advisors Program administered by Heritage NSW. Council will continue to seek NSW Government funding to contribute to the operation of the Heritage Advisor service.



Minor works

Council's LEP 2015 allows for minor or maintenance works to locally listed heritage items without a development application, in certain circumstances. Council provides advice to heritage property owners as a free service, to provide approval and assist in the process for such conservation works. The minor works approval process is part of Council's ongoing service delivery program to heritage owners, and is identified under Action 6.1.

Heritage Advisory Committee

The Blue Mountains Heritage Advisory Committee provides advice and support to Council on heritage matters. The Committee comprises two Councillors and members from the City's peak heritage bodies including the Blue Mountains Branch of the National Trust, the Blue Mountains Association of Cultural Heritage Organisations, local community historical societies, heritage professionals and community members. Key areas of focus include an upcoming heritage forum to support private heritage owners and promote heritage within the Blue Mountains, and the development of a heritage trail via a digital app that provides visitors with information about historic sites in the Blue Mountains. The Committee supports local advocacy and networking with the community, and provides advice and submissions on a range of heritage issues. Continuing to successfully collaborate with the Heritage Advisory Committee and other heritage stakeholders is considered a key strategic outcome of this Heritage Strategy and is identified as Action 7.1.

A network of heritage groups

There are numerous heritage organisations and community groups which provide essential support to the Blue Mountains community and to Council, for the protection and promotion of the heritage of the City. These include local branches of national and regional organisations such as the National Trust, as well as numerous local historical societies and property based groups (such as Everglades and Woodford Academy). Largely administered by volunteers, these groups are critical to the continued support for important heritage sites, for the promotion and visitation of these important places, and for the advocacy of heritage across the Blue Mountains. Continuing to work with and strengthen local heritage networks through a coordinated and collaborative approach to heritage management is identified as a key strategic outcome of this Heritage Strategy in Actions 7.2 and 7.3. Utilisation of the heritage networks to further promote heritage within the Blue Mountains is addressed under the following 'Promoting' theme of this Strategy.

Museum Advisory Service

MUSE, Council's Museum Advisory Service provides Council with an important link to the local museums, historical societies and cultural heritage organisations across the City. Council's Museum Advisor works with community museums and cultural organisations to build technical skills and capacity, and provides assistance with long term strategy planning and the promotion of collections. Current key initiatives of the Museum Advisory program involve raising the profile of the cultural collections held within museums and local historical society facilities across the City, supporting the digitisation of museum objects, disaster planning for extreme weather events, and the identification of long-term storage options for local collections. Seeking increased funding for disaster planning, digitisation projects and museum storage is identified within Action 6.2.



Objective	Term	Action ID	Action
O6 Provide expertise and support to heritage property owners	Short term & Ongoing 2021-2022	6.1	Council will continue to assist heritage property owners through the provision of heritage advice and support, and by facilitating conservation and maintenance wherever possible, such as through heritage minor works approvals.
	Short term 2021-2022	6.2	Council will continue to work with Heritage NSW to obtain increased funding for the Local Heritage Assistance Fund and other local heritage projects (including long term storage, digitisation projects and Disaster Plans for local collections in museums and galleries) [LSPS Action 5.5]
	Medium term 2022-2024	6.3	Council will collaborate with the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment and Heritage NSW on innovative ways to incentivise investment in, and the adaptive reuse of built heritage. [LSPS Action 5.14]
O7 Strengthen heritage networks within the City	Short term & Ongoing 2021-2022	7.1	Council will continue to successfully develop a range of heritage projects in collaboration with the Blue Mountains Heritage Advisory Committee and other heritage stakeholders.
	Short term & Ongoing 2021-2022	7.2	Council will strengthen local historical networks and enhance connections between local historical societies through networking opportunities and effective communication.
	Medium term 2022-2024	7.3	Council will encourage cultural networking with art practitioners and business groups through the exchange of ideas to promote and advocate for Blue Mountains heritage at a local, state and regional level.

Table 3: SUPPORTING - Objectives and actions



Knapsack Viaduct, Glenbrook



Woodford Academy, Woodford

The Academy origins...

The site of the Academy was known as the Blue Mountains, the Dang and Gundungahara Traditional Owners recognised as having a connection to their Ngura (Country).

For time beyond counting the Traditional Owners cared for this part of Ngura, ensuring that the physical and spiritual nature of all things there remained healthy and balanced, doing care to Aboriginal culture.



1889

The building was used for the first time as a school in 1889 when the first class of students began their education.

The building was used for the first time as a school in 1889 when the first class of students began their education.

Between 1889 and 1925 there were several changes to the building, including the addition of a new wing and the removal of the original chimney.

Layers in time



Promoting

Council will raise awareness and increase understanding and appreciation of the tangible and intangible heritage of the Blue Mountains.

Promoting our heritage

Council will raise awareness and increase understanding and appreciation of the tangible and intangible heritage of the Blue Mountains.

Recent research suggests visitors who interact with heritage experience wellbeing benefits. Not only does visiting a physical site provide opportunities for social interaction and creativity, it provokes an interest in visitors to evaluate their relationship with the past, and reaffirms connection to lived experiences. Engagement with heritage ultimately enriches our daily lives through an increased sense of belonging and understanding of place.

Council recognises that our heritage places and sites are unique community assets which provide opportunities for education, cultural tourism and the ongoing economic development of the region. The Burra Charter describes how “conservation, interpretation and management of a place should provide for the participation of people for whom the place has special associations and meanings.”

This process must include improved understanding of Aboriginal culture and history, and commitment to honest and complete narratives. Council resolved at its meeting of 26 November 2019, that in interpreting heritage in the City going forward both an *Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal perspective will be provided, as well as other inclusive themes, such as class, gender and ethnicity*. [Min. 382]. The development of opportunities to deliver these interpretive projects is identified at Action 9.1.

A key focus of this Heritage Strategy is to promote broader community participation in heritage and to provide interactive heritage interpretation throughout the City as discussed below.

Heritage information and events

Council provides a variety of information to explain Council services and promote heritage aspects of local events to encourage awareness and participation. This includes heritage pages on Council's website (to be enhanced under Action 2.2. of this strategy), as well as media releases and advertising for special events.

Council in collaboration with the Heritage Advisory Committee is preparing to host a heritage forum in 2021. This will include talks, a walking trail and other associated activities in conjunction with other major heritage events such as NSW Heritage Week, the National Trust's Australian Heritage Festival, and local historical group BMACHO's (Blue Mountains Association of Cultural Heritage Organisations) yearly conference.

Exploring opportunities for promotional events such as forums and workshops to promote heritage within the community is identified as Action 8.1. As a component of this, Council will consider options to promote engagement with heritage through primary, secondary and tertiary education.



Partnerships with heritage property owners and community members

Council is committed to the long-term process of creating, maintaining and enhancing relationships with heritage property owners. Through positive communication methods which allow participation in heritage outcomes, we will create partnerships and collective appreciation to create active support for heritage conservation. A key aspect of this process is to raise awareness of the heritage values of sites and areas, and develop improved consultation methods.

Action 8.3 identifies the importance of further collaboration between Council and the heritage networks within the Blue Mountains to allow for increased cross-promotional capabilities. This will encourage an expanded audience and the sharing of local and oral histories, images, documents and other heritage resources.

There are many key heritage stakeholders across multiple local community networks. It is important that opportunities be developed for broader, coordinated community participation in heritage beyond traditional methods. Potential options include:

- Community workshops to gain feedback on priority heritage issues, as well as a learning environment for the community on broader heritage themes (such as adaptive reuse, intersecting heritage and liveability, heritage conservation, heritage research and interpretation)
- Preparation of a Heritage Engagement Strategy, to support community understanding and knowledge of Council's heritage assets, responsibilities and management direction.

Developing a consultative framework for broader engagement with the community on heritage matters is identified as Action 8.2.

Sustainable tourism and visitor awareness

Heritage values are a key aspect of local tourism. Visitors are drawn to the historic charm of our towns and villages, as well as the cultural landscapes of places such as Mount Wilson and Blackheath in spring, the Leura Fair with its garden trails, and other events that are enhanced by our heritage settings and our seasonal village landscapes. Other programs take place in natural settings where our natural heritage values are on display, in lookouts, walking tracks and waterfalls.

Council supports local heritage events, art and community events, trails and festivals. Existing trails prepared by historical societies, such as the BMACHO trail, and other tourist-based and walking trails, have great value in raising visitor awareness and appreciation of cultural and natural sites.

Council's commitment to investigating opportunities to raise visitor awareness and appreciation for our unique heritage in collaboration with community organisations and events, is identified as Action 8.3.



Heritage interpretation

Interpretation opportunities exist in local centres through education, artwork, community involvement and wayfinding. Beyond this, Council is committed to embedding heritage considerations into place-making activities and the public domain, taking historic cues from the heritage of town centres and our World Heritage setting.

Integral to this is collaboration with Darug and Gundungurra Traditional Owners as well as the wider community to develop a vision and guidelines for place-based interpretation within the City. Development of these guidelines is identified as Action 9.3.

Council will have opportunities to be involved in regional marketing campaigns that promote the local values of the Blue Mountains, including heritage and character values. Collaborations with tourist websites and organisations, artists and community groups is ongoing. A key example is the Street Art Walk in Beverly Place, Katoomba, which intertwines street art with a rear lane in the Katoomba Central Urban Conservation Area to create a distinctive sense of place.

Interpretation programs and trails

Tourism and nature-based recreation remain integral to the local economy and community identity. Through the use of innovative technologies to improve the effectiveness of heritage interpretation, new and exciting ways of experiencing the vibrant heritage of the Blue Mountains will be explored.

This includes recognising layers of history, meaning, historical links and contextual relationships between natural, Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal history. Recent examples include trails and interpretation at Mount York, The Gully and Pulpit Hill in Katoomba, and in the Woodford Reserve in Woodford.

Council is currently developing content in conjunction with the Heritage Advisory Committee, for the Colonial Heritage of Western Sydney app. This will provide an interactive experience of early 'stories' of the Blue Mountains, presented in a comprehensive and interesting way for both visitors and locals to appreciate individual heritage places.

Council will seek to identify opportunities to develop similar trails and expand the use of other digital technologies including virtual reality and virtual tourism ventures. This use of innovative technologies for heritage interpretation is identified in Action 9.2.



Braemar Gallery, Springwood

Objective	Term	Action ID	Action
O8 Increase participation and educative opportunities for local residents and visitors	Short term & Ongoing 2021-2022	8.1	Explore opportunities for promotional events such as forums and workshops to promote heritage within the community.
	Short term 2021-2022	8.2	Develop a consultative framework for broader engagement with the community on heritage matters.
	Medium term 2022-2024	8.3	Investigate opportunities to raise visitor awareness and appreciation for our unique heritage in collaboration with community organisations and events.
O9 Increase the effectiveness of heritage interpretation throughout the City	Short term 2021-2022	9.1	Develop opportunities and seek grant funding to deliver key outcomes and projects which provide an honest and complete narrative of both Aboriginal and European histories and include a comprehensive thematic history of the Blue Mountains (same as Action 1.1) [LSPS Action 5.13].
	Short term 2021-2022	9.2	Explore opportunities to utilise innovative technologies and to implement interesting heritage interpretation for broader reach and understanding.
	Medium term 2022-2024	9.3	Develop a vision and guidelines for place-based interpretation within the City and investigate grant funding for delivery.

Table 4: PROMOTING - Objectives and actions





ANTIQUES