



# HERITAGE ADVISORY SERVICE

## Introduction

The city of Victor Harbor has a unique character, which is highly valued by many residents and visitors to the area. The area has been a popular seaside holiday destination for around 130 years. The many surviving historic buildings in the region make a substantial contribution to its character and to the appeal of the area for tourists and holidaymakers who contribute to the region's economy.

The council is committed to conserving the built heritage in Victor Harbor. There are approximately 25 State Heritage Places and 95 Local Heritage Places in the Council area.

The city of Victor Harbor has a Heritage Advisory Service to assist in the management of heritage assets.

## Background

South Australia's Heritage Advisory Service was initiated by the State Heritage Branch in July 1987, with the appointment of an adviser on a trial basis to the District Council of Burra. This area was chosen because of its high concentration of heritage places and its identification as a State Heritage Area, (formalised in 1993).

Since then, the scheme has been expanded and there are currently 12 heritage advisers providing services to 24 metropolitan and county councils.

The State Heritage Branch intends to continue the expansion of the scheme and is currently negotiating with several councils interested in instigating heritage advisory services.

## What does the Heritage Adviser Do?

Heritage Advisers provide advice and assistance in matters relating to heritage places to Council, the State Government, property owners and community groups and assist in the effective management of their heritage assets including buildings, sites, relics, trees, heritage landscapes, precincts, streetscapes,

cemeteries, archaeological sites, industrial heritage sites and movable items.

The principal roles of a Heritage Adviser are to

- provide advice to Council to assist in the assessment of Applications concerning places on the State and Local Heritage registers and places within Historic Conservation Zones or Historic Character Zones. The role is advisory and Council remains the decision making authority.
- provide advice to building owners and managers regarding maintenance, preservation, reconstruction, restoration and adaptation of heritage listed places.
- provide advice regarding and assistance in the implementation of State Heritage funding and Local Heritage funding. More information about Council's funding scheme for Local Heritage Places (only) can be found in the help guides titled "*Local Heritage Incentives Grants Scheme*" and "*Heritage Project Grant*".
- provide advice to building owners and managers concerning relevant heritage legislation and regulations.
- assist Council with conservation of its heritage assets.
- assist Council through the promotion of heritage awareness (e.g. signage, heritage awards, information brochures, heritage trails, interpretation etc).
- assist Council in the formation of heritage policy to inform amendments to Council's Development Plan.
- attend meetings of Council's Heritage Advisory Committee and provide relevant information.

Heritage Advisers provide general advice and direction for building owners and managers. They do not provide design services, inspection services, or advocacy services, and are not a substitute for building owners and managers engaging their own

consultants. The service is therefore restricted to providing sufficient advice for the building owner or manager to proceed in a way which will have a positive outcome for the historic place concerned.

## Who are the Heritage Advisers?

Heritage Advisers are professional consultants with heritage expertise who advise local councils and the local community on heritage matters.

Heritage Advisers generally have qualifications in architecture, history or related fields and have practised in these fields for considerable time, gaining specific expertise in matters related to heritage conservation. Most have also undertaken training in heritage conservation additional to their tertiary qualifications.

## Who engages the Heritage Adviser and how is he or she paid?

Heritage Advisers are engaged on a part-time contractual basis either by the local Council or the State Heritage branch. Both the Council and the Heritage branch contribute to the cost of the service which is provided at no cost to the public.

## How can I make an appointment with Council's Heritage Adviser?

Enquiries regarding the heritage advisory service should initially be directed to Council who will assist in arranging an appropriate meeting usually in collaboration with relevant Council staff such as a Planning Officer.

## Want to know more?

The above information is advisory and a guide only to give you a *general understanding* of the key points associated with Council's Heritage Advisory Service. It is recommended that you seek professional advice or contact the City of Victor Harbor regarding any specific inquiries or further assistance concerning the use and development of land and buildings. Being properly prepared can save you time and money in the long run.

While care has been taken to ensure the accuracy of material contained in this publication, no responsibility will be accepted for any errors or omissions.

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Other *Local Heritage* related Help Guides:

- 'Heritage Project Grant'
- 'Local Heritage Places'
- 'Local Heritage Incentives Grant Scheme'