



HERITAGE
COUNCIL

OUR HERITAGE – WHAT MAKES US WESTERN AUSTRALIAN

ANNUAL REPORT 2025–26



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The Heritage Council of Western Australia acknowledges the Aboriginal people as the traditional custodians of Western Australia. We pay our respects to the Ancestors and Elders, both past and present, and the ongoing connection between people, land, waters and community.

We acknowledge those who continue to share knowledge, their traditions and culture to support our journey for reconciliation. In particular, we recognise land and cultural heritage as places that hold great significance for Aboriginal people.

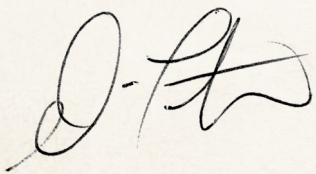
STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE

Hon Simone McGurk MLA

Minister for Heritage

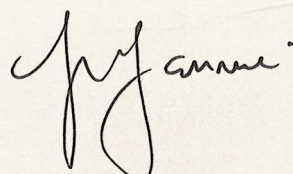
In accordance with section 63 of the *Financial Management Act 2006*, I hereby submit for your information and presentation to Parliament, the annual report of the Heritage Council of Western Australia for the financial year ended 30 June 2026.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions of the *Financial Management Act 2006*.



Darren Foster

Chair
Heritage Council of Western Australia
7 September 2026



Graeme Gammie

Member
Heritage Council of Western Australia
7 September 2026

ABOUT THIS REPORT

This report covers the operations of the Heritage Council of Western Australia and presents its audited financial statements and performance indicators for the year ended 30 June 2026.



FRONT COVER: The Western Australian Medical Museum, Harvey House at King Edward Memorial Hospital.

Disclaimer

This document has been produced by the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage on behalf of the Heritage Council of Western Australia. Any representation, statement, opinion or advice expressed or implied in this publication is made in good faith and on the basis that the Government, its employees and agents are not liable for any damage or loss whatsoever which may occur as a result of action taken or not taken, as the case may be, in respect of any representation, statement, opinion or advice referred to herein. Professional advice should be obtained before applying the information contained in this document to particular circumstances.

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

It is my pleasure to present the Heritage Council of Western Australia's Annual Report for 2025–26, a year marked by reflection, renewal and tangible progress in recognising, protecting and celebrating the places that tell Western Australia's unique story.

This year we marked a significant milestone – the 35th anniversary of the passing of Western Australia's first Heritage Act by Parliament. This occasion provided an opportunity to reflect on the enduring role of State's heritage legislation, while also reaffirming the need for contemporary, responsive approaches that support both conservation and the sustainable use of heritage places. We also completed delivery of our 2023–26 Strategic Plan with preparation well advanced on a new strategic plan that will increase focus on our key priority areas over the next three years.

This past year, a key highlight for the Council, and for Western Australia's heritage places more broadly, has been the launch of the new Heritage Plaques Program at Fremantle's Fishing Boat Harbour, one of the latest additions to the State Register of Heritage Places. The new heritage plaque design incorporates *Bonara*, an artwork by Noongar Elder Dr Richard Walley OAM. This work complements the Council's ongoing focus on maintaining a clear and current State Register by acknowledging the Aboriginal Country of each place and using QR codes to connect visitors with the stories of these significant places.

A number of plaques have also been installed in and around Fremantle, demonstrating how the use of technology and interpretive design can make Western Australia's heritage more visible, accessible and engaging for the local community and visitors to the area.

We were reminded of the breadth of heritage locations across the state, spanning social and health history to engineering innovation, with the addition of the Silver Chain Nursing League Building in Perth, Fishing Boat Harbour and the Mount Henry Bridge in Perth's south to the State Register. These examples address gaps identified in the 2023 review of the State Register of Heritage Places and reinforce that heritage is not confined to one era, building type or community. It is found in the places, landscapes and stories that have shaped our shared and unique Western Australian identity.

The year also demonstrated the value of strong cross-government collaboration, working with the WA Museum, to protect rare and vulnerable heritage. The approval of a consent order for the newly discovered 17th-century shipwreck survivors' camp, linked to the Vergulde Draeck, was an important achievement to protect this rare archaeological site of State significance and help safeguard artefacts connected to one of Western Australia's earliest European contact stories.



Supporting the activation of heritage places remains an important priority for the Council to minimise neglect and disrepair and instead breathe new life into underused heritage buildings and facilities. Across the state, the Council endorsed projects such as the Edward Millen Homestead in Victoria Park, the McNess Royal Arcade and Murray Street Substation in Perth and the Woodman Point Munitions Magazine in Perth's south – all of which demonstrate the opportunities that come from balancing conservation with new uses, community access and long-term stewardship.

OVERVIEW

The State Government continued to support owners, communities and local governments through the Council's annual Heritage Grants Program which awarded \$1.221 million across 39 projects in 2025–26, resulting in the completion of some impressive projects as highlighted in this report. From critical conservation works at the Chamber of Commerce Building in Fremantle, to QR code-based interpretive signage across the Shire of Serpentine-Jarrahdale, these grant agreements demonstrate how practical investment can support the preservation of historical buildings and landmarks while encouraging people to discover and understand local stories.

The 33rd annual WA Heritage Awards in November also celebrated our unique heritage, recognising seven award winners and three commendations for the people, projects and organisations that demonstrate excellence in their field and contribute to preserving our history.

Engagement has continued to be central to our work. The Council welcomed the Hon Simone McGurk MLA, Minister for Heritage, to its Council meeting in October 2025. Additionally, Deputy Chair Leigh Barrett joined the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Committee Co-Chairs and Department officers in attending the Heritage Chairs and Officials Australia New Zealand meeting in Melbourne in late 2025. The meeting provided an opportunity to share insights on common statutory and strategic challenges across jurisdictions, including ensuring representative heritage registers, community engagement intervention and compliance.

The 2025–26 reporting period began with a visit to Kalgoorlie where members explored the rich stories of the Goldfields, including Aboriginal language and culture, prospectors' experiences during the goldrush of the late 1800s and Boulder's many iconic State heritage buildings. Our annual conference returned to the regions this year, held in Northam in May 2026. Focused on the history, culture and people of the Avon Region, the conference program brought together practitioners, local governments and communities to share knowledge on local history, Aboriginal heritage, interpretation and regional heritage practices.

It was a privilege to finish this year at Government House and to present one of the new plaques to the Governor, continuing the Heritage Plaques Program and marking another important moment in recognising heritage across our state.

On behalf of the Council, I thank the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage's Director General, Anthony Kannis, and his staff for their support. As Western Australia approaches the Bicentenary in 2029, the Department's continued support will be instrumental in helping the Council deliver important projects.

Finally, I thank our Minister for Heritage, the Hon Simone McGurk MLA for her support and direction. I also acknowledge the valuable contributions of outgoing Council members Catherine Lezer and Alan Kelsall, and warmly welcome new members Pippa McIntosh and Kyle Jeavons.



Darren Foster

Chair, Heritage Council of Western Australia

2025–26 PERFORMANCE HIGHLIGHTS

3 NEW PLACES added to the State Register of Heritage Places



Silver Chain Nursing League Building, Perth **August 2025**



Fishing Boat Harbour, Fremantle **March 2026**



Mount Henry Bridge, Salter Point and Mount Pleasant **April 2026**

HERITAGE PROTECTION

- **Consent order approved** to protect the newly discovered 17th-century shipwreck survivors' camp linked to the Vergulde Draeck
- **48 preliminary reviews** completed
- **3 draft assessments** for statutory consultation approved

HERITAGE GRANTS PROGRAM

- **\$1.221 million awarded**
- **31 State Heritage Grants allocated**
- **8 Community Heritage Grants allocated**
- **41 projects completed**

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN HERITAGE AWARDS



7 winners



3 commendations

recognised across 10 award categories

HERITAGE ADVICE

- Advice on **876 referred proposals** including 607 statutory planning and development referrals

SPONSORSHIPS

- **14 heritage events** supported through **\$60,000 in sponsorship funding**

REGIONAL CONFERENCE

- **105 delegates** attended the Regional Heritage Conference in Northam
- **17 presenters** shared insights on heritage, history, Aboriginal culture and interpretation

HERITAGE PLAQUES PROGRAM

- **5 of 10 new plaques installed** to increase engagement with State-registered heritage places and their stories
- **12 applications received**

SITE VISITS AND ENGAGEMENT



Council members undertook 18 site visits and engagements throughout 2025–26, visiting heritage places across Perth, Fremantle, Kalgoorlie, Coogee and Mount Lawley.

ABOUT THE HERITAGE COUNCIL

The Heritage Council advises on cultural heritage, identifying and promoting places of State significance, including buildings, gardens, landscapes and archaeological areas that collectively tell Western Australia's story.

Established under the *Heritage Act 2018*, the Council consists of nine members appointed by the Governor of Western Australia, on advice of the Minister for Heritage, to ensure balanced representation and effective heritage management. The Council is supported by the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (the Department) and works with property owners, industry and community groups to recognise, conserve and celebrate heritage in all forms. The Council also provides guidance on development proposals for properties on the State Register and delivers a range of education and advocacy programs, such as the annual heritage grants and awards.

In January 2026, the Council welcomed two new members, Kyle Jeavons and Pippa McIntosh each appointed for four-year terms.



Heritage Council celebrated 35 years.

OVERVIEW

RESPONSIBLE MINISTER



Hon Simone McGurk MLA
BA (Arts) BA (Comms)

Minister McGurk was appointed Minister for Heritage in March 2025. She holds a Bachelor's degree in history and has experience working at the Melbourne University Archives.

As the local member for Fremantle (Walyalup) and the owner of a heritage home, Minister McGurk brings strong experience in promoting heritage practices, projects and events, as well as recognising the importance of Aboriginal culture in understanding place and history.

Complementing the focus of all of her Ministerial portfolios – Aged Care and Seniors, Creative Industries, Industrial Relations, and Women – her first State Heritage registration as Minister for Heritage was the Silver Chain Nursing League Building, highlighting the contribution of women to aged care in Western Australia.

Heritage Minister with the Heritage Council.



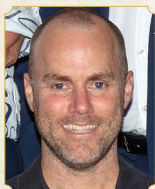
HERITAGE COUNCIL MEMBERS



Darren Foster (Chair) joined the Heritage Council in 2023 and was appointed Chair in December that year. He brings more than 30 years' leadership experience across government, with expertise in governance, sustainable development, Aboriginal economic and social development, environmental policy and Western Australian history.



Jillian Collard (Member) is a proud Noongar woman with cultural connections to Whadjuk and Ballardong Country. She brings more than 20 years' government experience and provides specialist insight in Aboriginal engagement, partnerships and reconciliation. Jillian was co-opted to the Heritage Council in 2024.



Kyle Jeavons (Member) has experience in urban development and adaptive reuse, with a strong understanding of market conditions, investment and construction delivery. He has held senior roles with Mirvac, FJM Property and Hesperia, and was responsible for the redevelopment of the State Buildings and COMO The Treasury. Kyle was appointed to the Heritage Council in January 2026.



Flavia Kiperman (Member) is a registered architect with more than 25 years' experience in cultural heritage. As Asia Pacific Heritage Lead at SLR Consulting, she works across heritage strategy, impact assessment, conservation and adaptive reuse. Flavia has extensive Western Australian project experience and joined the Heritage Council in January 2024.



Leigh Barrett (Deputy Chair) is a heritage practitioner with experience across local government, the private sector and not-for-profit heritage organisations. Her work at the City of Gosnells to protect and promote local history and heritage provides strategic and practical heritage expertise to the Heritage Council. Leigh has served on the Council since 2019 and was appointed Deputy Chair in December 2023.



Graeme Gammie (Member) has more than two decades' experience in heritage leadership including senior roles with the former State Heritage Office and the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage. He brings expertise in heritage governance, legislation and regulation, as well as experience managing Fremantle Prison through its National and World Heritage recognition.

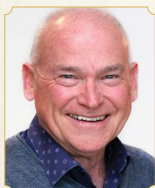


Pippa McIntosh (Member) is a corporate and government affairs professional with experience across the public, private and community sectors. Pippa was appointed to the Heritage Council in January 2026 and has commercial, financial and governance expertise, as well as a strong interest in Western Australian history.



Rebecca Moore (Member) is a registered architect and former Western Australian Government Architect with expertise in architecture, design review, planning and heritage, and experience across major development proposals and public sector decision-making.

OVERVIEW

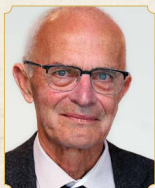


Richard Offen (Member) is a heritage advocate, historian, author and broadcaster. He retired in 2017 after 13 years as Executive Director of Heritage Perth and continues to share Western Australian history through writing and public engagement. Richard is President of the Royal Western Australian Historical Society.



Martin Silk (Member) is a structural engineer specialising in heritage and conservation with technical expertise in the conservation of historic buildings. Martin has worked on several State-registered heritage places, including Dumas House, Albany Town Hall, Fremantle Town Hall and Government House Ballroom.

DEPARTING MEMBERS



Alan Kelsall (Member) is an architect and former heritage coordinator for the City of Fremantle with expertise in conservation, planning and heritage assessment, including work on the award-winning conservation of Fremantle Town Hall. Alan's term ended on 31 December 2025.



Catherine Lezer (Member) is a City of Perth Councillor and past Board member of the Strata Community Association with governance, finance and property expertise as well as practical experience in the sensitive renovation of heritage properties. Catherine's term ended on 31 December 2025.



The Heritage Council were invited to visit Government House where they presented the Governor of Western Australia, Chris Dawson AC APM with a new Heritage Plaque and held their monthly meeting in the historic building.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

In 2025, the Council's 2023–26 Strategic Plan was distilled into two key priorities: sharing the epic stories of Western Australia; and enabling the activation of heritage places. This was to be achieved through the underlying operational priority of communication and stakeholder engagement.

The 2025–26 reporting period marked the conclusion of the Strategic Plan, with the Council delivering practical outcomes across its key priorities and strengthening the foundations for its next strategic phase.

Since 2023, this work included:

- 10 new places added to the State Register
- 41 site visits, meetings with proponents and property owners to discuss their projects
- providing advice on 2202 referred development proposals affecting heritage places
- executing eight Heritage Agreements and three Deeds of Variation to contract obligations to conserve and protect State heritage
- administering over \$4 million in grant funding to support heritage projects and events
- the development and launch of the new Heritage Plaques Program, providing a platform for greater engagement and awareness of our heritage places across the state
- growing engagement online through diverse social media content
- preparing and distributing 32 editions of the Heritage Matters digital newsletter to an audience around 5,000 subscribers.

The new 2026–2029 Strategic Plan will guide the Council's work to support the State Government's priorities and ensure Western Australia's heritage places and stories continue to be valued as part of our shared identity.



SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

This year the Council has maintained its focus on a number of primary issues that will support, or potentially impact, achieving positive heritage outcomes for Western Australia.

STREAMLINING STATUTORY ADVICE

The Council recognises the Government's strong focus on streamlined processes that can improve delivery timelines, enable land and housing supply and underpin jobs and investment. We recognise our role in supporting development of heritage places that builds investment in conservation works, preserves craftsmanship and introduces new audiences to our State's history. In 2025–26 we have continued to encourage early engagement from proponents for statutory advice ensuring that heritage values are properly considered in development proposals, without risk of inconsistent outcomes, delays and unclear advice among applicants and stakeholders.

COMPLEXITY AND NUMBER OF REFERRED PROPOSALS

Proposals that seek to alter, develop or adapt heritage places involve complex processes, multiple agencies and stakeholders. Each referral involves detailed consideration of heritage significance, stakeholder interests and statutory requirements, and often necessitates coordination across

the sector and consultation with property owners, local governments and community representatives. This year the Council, supported by officers from the Department, processed an increased number of referrals reflecting both heightened development activity and growing awareness of heritage protection.

INTANGIBLE HERITAGE

The *Heritage Act 2018* recognises both the tangible and intangible heritage values of places. Intangible values encompass the cultural practices, traditions, skills and social significance that are not physically embodied in buildings or places but are widely associated with its history. The Council is working to ensure that consideration of intangible values of a place – the living traditions and community values – does not add unnecessary regulatory burden to future use of the land.

ASSESSMENT PROGRAM

With the support of the Department, places nominated for potential inclusion on the State Register of Heritage Places are managed through an assessment program. The Council has identified priority places for assessment that may address thematic gaps in the State Register relating to Aboriginal people and places, women, working people and places, and non-English speaking migrants. By prioritising timely assessments and refining processes, the Council is actively working to ensure important places are recognised and protected, providing greater certainty for property owners and communities, optimising Council resources and supporting a vibrant and inclusive heritage landscape across Western Australia.

REGISTRATION, PROTECTION AND COMPLIANCE

The State Register of Heritage Places is an official list recognising the sites that are important to Western Australia's history and identity, as well as our growth. It includes buildings, structures, gardens, cemeteries, memorials, landscapes and archaeological sites.

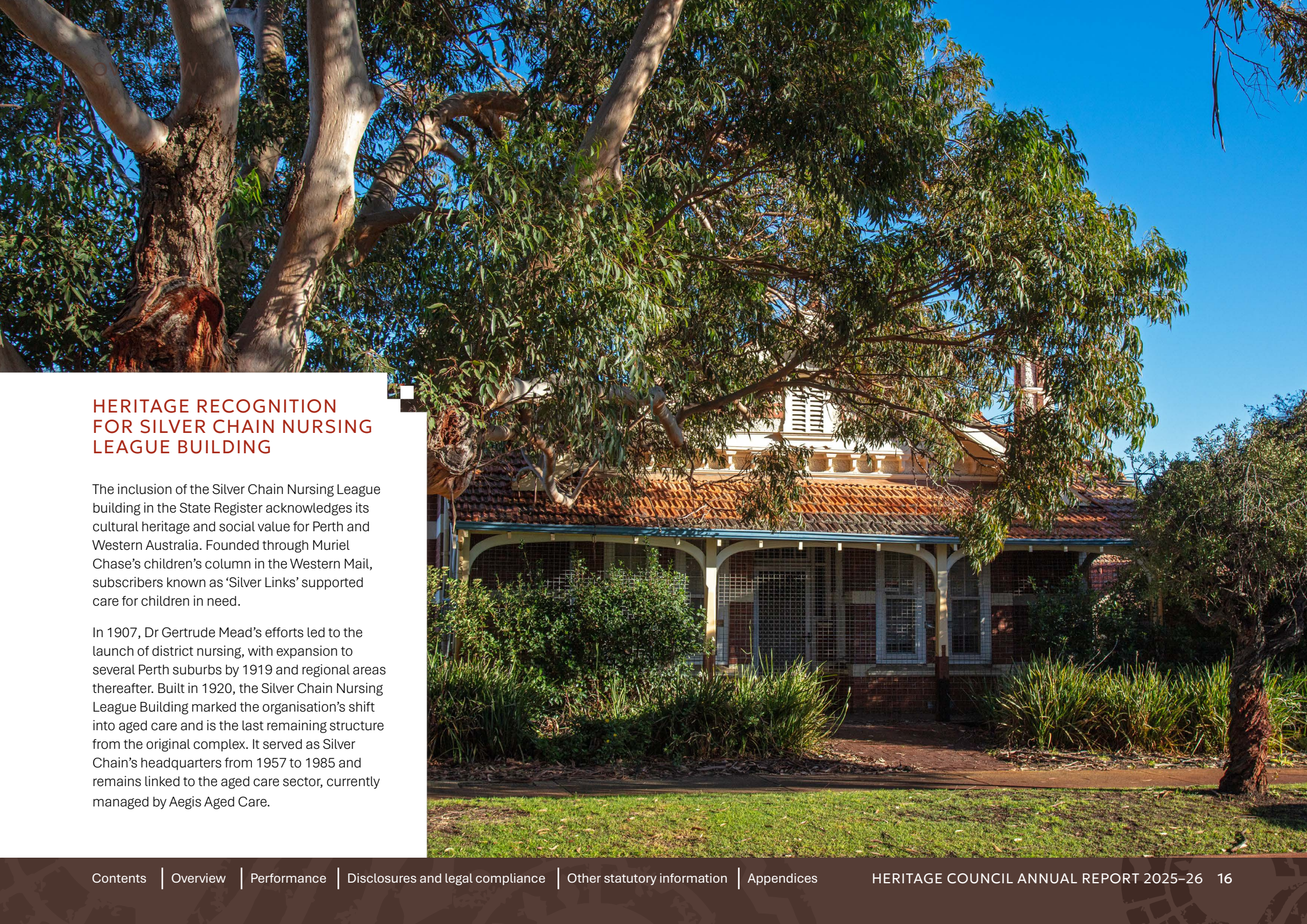
Only places with State cultural heritage significance are added to the State Register, following a consultation process involving owners, local governments and stakeholders, and a thorough assessment by the Council.

At 30 June 2026, there were 1,398 State-registered heritage places, including three places added in 2025–26.

New places added to the State Register in 2025–26:

- Silver Chain Nursing League Building, Perth:
Registered 18 August 2025
- Fishing Boat Harbour, Fremantle:
Registered 19 March 2026
- Mount Henry Bridge, Salter Point
and Mount Pleasant:
Registered 16 April 2026

No State Register entries were amended in 2025–26.



HERITAGE RECOGNITION FOR SILVER CHAIN NURSING LEAGUE BUILDING

The inclusion of the Silver Chain Nursing League building in the State Register acknowledges its cultural heritage and social value for Perth and Western Australia. Founded through Muriel Chase's children's column in the Western Mail, subscribers known as 'Silver Links' supported care for children in need.

In 1907, Dr Gertrude Mead's efforts led to the launch of district nursing, with expansion to several Perth suburbs by 1919 and regional areas thereafter. Built in 1920, the Silver Chain Nursing League Building marked the organisation's shift into aged care and is the last remaining structure from the original complex. It served as Silver Chain's headquarters from 1957 to 1985 and remains linked to the aged care sector, currently managed by Aegis Aged Care.

OVERVIEW

FISHING BOAT HARBOUR FREMANTLE ADDED TO THE STATE REGISTER

Fishing Boat Harbour, Fremantle was added to the State Register in March 2026, recognising its long association with Western Australia's maritime history, fishing industry and migrant communities. Officially established as a working harbour in 1924, the place has remained central to Fremantle's identity and continues to support commercial fishing, hospitality, tourism and community life.

The registration acknowledges the Harbour's strong connection to post-war migration, particularly families from southern Europe who helped shape Fremantle's fishing industry and wider community. These connections remain visible through longstanding traditions such as the annual Blessing of the Fleet, as well as the harbour's ongoing role as a place of work, gathering and shared memory.

The place also reflects earlier layers of Western Australian history. The area was one of the first landing sites of the Swan River Colony and included South Jetty, an early piece of colonial infrastructure. Today, the Harbour's iconic blue fishing vessels, waterfront views, restaurants, boardwalks and memorials contribute to its distinctive character as both a working harbour and popular visitor destination.



MOUNT HENRY BRIDGE RECOGNISED WITH STATE HERITAGE LISTING

Prominent Perth landmark, the Mount Henry Bridge, was included in the State Register for its role in supporting Perth's development during the late 20th century. At 660 metres in length, the Bridge was constructed in 1982, expanded in 2007 and is the longest road bridge in Western Australia providing a vital north-south link. It has aesthetic and scientific value for its innovative design and construction methods including the cantilevered pedestrian walkways and cycleways under the bridge deck on each side, which separates vehicle and pedestrian traffic.

Demonstrating engineering and technical innovation, the Bridge has been awarded numerous industry awards over the years, firstly for its original design and later for the subsequent adaptations made to the bridge to incorporate rail infrastructure. The Bridge is one of the last major bridges designed in-house by Main Roads WA engineers.



PROTECTION ORDERS AND REPAIR NOTICES

The *Heritage Act 2018* enables the Minister for Heritage to issue notices and orders to protect heritage places from damage, neglect or unauthorised works. These may include consent orders, stop work orders, continuing protection orders, repair notices and repair orders.

The Act provides for penalties for non-compliance, including fines, daily penalties and imprisonment, as well as restoration and prohibition orders.

During 2025–26, one consent order was issued to protect the newly discovered 17th-century shipwreck survivors' camp linked to the Vergulde Draeck (Gilt Dragon).

ORDER TO PROTECT 370-YEAR-OLD SHIPWRECK SURVIVORS' CAMP

In 2024, artefacts matching items from the original wreck were handed to the Western Australian Museum, prompting further investigation. Archaeological work in early 2025 uncovered more evidence connecting the camp to the shipwreck's 75 survivors. The newly identified site is exceptionally rare and of great archaeological significance in helping to unlock more of the mystery and history of the wreck and its survivors.

The consent order ensures the site is protected until such time that it is revoked by the Minister for Heritage. The protection enables the Museum to continue investigations to confirm the site's full extent and significance. It also means unauthorised excavation or interference with the site – including any metal detecting – is strictly prohibited, and severe penalties apply for any actions that disturb or damage a protected place.

Objects excavated from the site are on display at the Western Australian Shipwrecks Museum in Fremantle.

HERITAGE AGREEMENTS

Heritage agreements provide a statutory mechanism to support the long-term conservation, maintenance and interpretation of heritage places. They may be required as a condition of subdivision or development approval, or when State-owned heritage assets transition to private ownership.

During 2025–26, the Heritage Council endorsed six new draft heritage agreements and one draft deed of variation; and facilitated the execution and Ministerial certification of one agreement.

ACTIVATION OF HERITAGE PLACES

The Council encourages early engagement with owners and industry on plans to activate vacant and underused heritage places.

Development, adaptive reuse and restoration can help retain and activate these places while conserving their cultural heritage value. Where retention of heritage fabric and materials is not viable, interpretation is an effective form of activation for engaging an audience and sharing stories.

Early and ongoing stakeholder involvement in project planning allows the Council and Department to provide initial feedback, helps resolve issues early and supports the timely provision of advice on formal referrals.

HERITAGE ADVICE

The Council advises decision-makers on projects and planning that may affect heritage sites, including major State projects.

Prompt advice on referred proposals is both a statutory requirement and a Council priority.

During 2025–26, advice was provided on 876 referred proposals for heritage places, including 607 requests for statutory advice to decision-makers regarding impacts on State-registered heritage places. This included guidance to the City of Swan and Shire of Northam on amendments to their local planning schemes, and conservation advice on development proposals for Guildford Historic Town, Rottne Island | Wadjemup, One Mile Jetty and Tramway in Carnarvon, and Fremantle's Victoria Quay.

GARDE HOTEL

Completed in September 2025, the State-registered Hotel is an 83-room boutique hotel set within one of Fremantle's most historically sensitive precincts, surrounded by landmark heritage sites including Fremantle Prison, the former courthouse and the Warders' Cottages.

The project involved restoration of three interconnected buildings with distinct architectural origins: Blocks D and E, constructed between 1897 and 1903 as police quarters, and Block F, a 1978 modernist addition by renowned architect R. J. 'Gus' Fergusson.

With much of the original internal heritage fabric removed prior to the redevelopment, the new design adopts an adaptive-reuse approach that reinstates character through materiality, scale and careful reinterpretation. Two additional levels were added to Block F to increase capacity, extending the original structure through a refined travertine façade that echoes the geometry of the existing concrete. The hotel weaves heritage and contemporary design to create a distinctive civic and hospitality presence within the heart of Fremantle.

OVERVIEW

BAILLIE HILL, FORMER EDWARD MILLEN HOMESTEAD

The State-registered former Edward Millen Home in Victoria Park has found new life as Baillie Hill – a vibrant hospitality and community hub featuring a bistro, café, microbrewery, bakery, community market space, museum/gallery, heirloom gardens and a childcare centre.

In the early 2000s, the site was gifted to the Town of Victoria Park for ‘community, recreational or civic use’. The project brought together the Town of Victoria Park and Western Australian-based company Blackoak Capital, with broader government support, to enable the adaptive reuse of this significant heritage place.

Centred around the Rotunda (maternity) Hospital, the former Edward Millen Home illustrates the development of healthcare in Western Australia throughout the 20th century. Ahead of its time, the facility was first established by midwife Elizabeth Baillie in 1912 – four years before the construction of King Edward Memorial Hospital.

The Commonwealth acquired the hospital in 1920 as a repatriation home for returning World War I soldiers and in 1924 it was renamed Edward Millen Homestead after Australia’s first Minister for Repatriation.

Baillie Hill Precinct reflects the Town’s commitment to creating inclusive, vibrant and community-focused spaces, and in recognition of Elizabeth Baillie. This redevelopment was inspired by a desire to unlock the potential of the heritage buildings and surrounding parkland, creating a place where people of all ages and abilities can connect and feel welcome.

The restoration of the former Elizabeth Baillie House preserves a unique part of Western Australia’s history, and its conversion into a modern hospitality and entertainment venue is perfectly complemented by the upgrade of Elizabeth Baillie Park.

The Council provided advice on the proposed redevelopment in December 2023, before the Development Assessment Panel determined the development application in April 2024. Department officers visited the site in early March 2026 to view the redevelopment and conservation works ahead of the official opening on 14 March 2026.

The project won multiple awards at the 2026 Western Australian Architecture Awards.



STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

During the reporting period, the Council engaged constructively with stakeholders and groups dedicated to the conservation of heritage places across Western Australia. Council members visited registered places throughout the State, consulting with architects, builders, private owners, tradespeople and community representatives, with the aim of working together to activate and revitalise underused heritage buildings.

Regional engagements, workshops, the Regional Heritage Conference in Northam and the Western Australian Heritage Awards strengthened collaboration and knowledge sharing across the sector.

2026 REGIONAL HERITAGE CONFERENCE: CELEBRATING THE STORIES AND CONNECTIONS OF THE AVON REGION

The 2026 Regional Heritage Conference was held in Northam on 7 and 8 May. The town contains a diverse range of historic places and is an important heritage tourism destination.

While in the town for the conference, delegates explored local historic buildings – including Morby Cottage, St John the Evangelist Church and Northam Library, attended a presentation by Warren Anderson on Iwan Iwanoff and visited Northam's iconic Bilya Koort Boodja, the Centre for Nyoongar Culture and Environmental Knowledge.

The event opened with presentations on the historic and Aboriginal history of Northam, with speakers from Northam and Districts Historical Society covering the topics of European settlement of Northam, its development and the importance of the railways to the region. The Ballardong Aboriginal Corporation also shared updates on their ranger program.

Kelly Rippingale, Senior Manager Asset Management at the National Trust of Australia (WA), and Alan Beattie, CEO of Noongar Land Enterprise Group, spoke about collaborative projects at Avondale Farm – a broadacre farming property in Beverley that includes a bush reserve and a historic precinct with heritage buildings associated with farming activities. Managed by the National Trust, the property is listed on the State Register. Sue Hanson, Chief Executive Officer and Senior Linguist at the Goldfields Aboriginal Language Centre Aboriginal Corporation, also presented on Aboriginal languages as carriers of heritage, highlighting the relationship between language and Country.

On the second day, concurrent sessions explored local history, migration, Aboriginal heritage and knowledge, and interpretation.

Over the two days, 105 people attended the conference, which was also live streamed. Each presentation was recorded and published on the [Department's YouTube channel](#).

OVERVIEW



HERITAGE COUNCIL VISITS

- 1 Cygnet Cinema Como
- 2 WA Medical Museum, Subiaco
- 3 City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder

OVERVIEW

GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SESSIONS

Local governments play a key role in protecting and interpreting cultural heritage and must manage heritage matters under legislation, including the *Heritage Act 2018*. During the reporting period, the Department supported local governments through workshops and meetings in the Goldfields, Lake Grace, Menzies, Wagin, Narembeen and Merredin, providing practical guidance on heritage listings, roles and responsibilities, and planning for works to heritage-listed places.

The sessions helped officers better understand how to manage significant heritage fabric, select appropriate materials and access Department advice. Feedback reinforced the value of engaging with smaller local governments that may manage fewer heritage matters but still require clear and practical support.

The Department also held information sessions for Port Authorities and Public Transport Authority land tenure and leasing officers, covering heritage listings, development and use considerations, and State agency obligations.

REGIONAL PRESENCE

The Council held its July meeting in Kalgoorlie-Boulder at the historic Council Chambers, which was constructed in 1908 and added to the State Register in 1994. The area of Kalgoorlie-Boulder and surrounds is rich in epic stories – with deep Aboriginal heritage and stories of intrepid miners and prospectors, who achieved great successes and great disappointments. Council members visited the region to meet with heritage property owners and to see first-hand the successful outcomes of the Council's Heritage Grants Program, including the reconstruction of the verandah on the Mackenzie's building.

Council members also visited the State-registered Coolgardie State Battery facility, which is one of 22 former State battery sites managed by The Perth Mint. These facilities, built by the Western Australian Government from the 1890s to the 1950s, supported small-scale miners and prospectors. In the late 1980s, the State's 73 batteries were transferred to various government agencies, and most had ceased operations by the start of the 21st century.

Members of the Shire of Lake Grace Infrastructure team at a local government heritage workshop.



HERITAGE INCENTIVES

HERITAGE GRANTS PROGRAM

The State Government's annual Heritage Grants Program offers funding assistance for the conservation, future planning and promotion of heritage places.

Since its inception in 1997, the Program has provided more than \$27 million to nearly 930 heritage projects, helping to conserve and celebrate Western Australia's rich history.

The 2025–26 Program awarded \$1.221 million to 39 projects through two funding streams – State Heritage Grants and Community Heritage Grants.

As part of the State Heritage Grants stream, 31 owners of heritage places will receive funding to undertake urgent physical conservation works and develop guiding documentation such as conservation management plans for places on the State Register (Appendix 2).

Byfield House, Northam (completed project)

Byfield House in Northam was awarded a State Heritage Grant to help conserve the decorative tiled floor and marble steps at the entrance of the house. The works focused on repairing deteriorated tessellated tiles, damaged marble elements, cracked concrete and associated rendered masonry while retaining and reinstating significant original fabric wherever possible.

Built in 1904, Byfield House is a grand two-storey red brick mansion in the Federation Queen Anne style, featuring a striking Italianate tower. It reflects the prosperity of its original owners, James and Elizabeth Byfield, during Western Australia's gold boom.

During World War II, Byfield House played a surprising role in Northam's military history. In 1942, the Army leased the property and used it as the headquarters for the Military Police. It remained in operation until June 1944. Local stories suggest that an Italian prisoner of war was once held inside the house during this time.

After the war, Byfield House transitioned briefly into a restaurant before returning to its original use as a private residence.

Today, it stands as a quiet reminder of the town's wartime past.



OVERVIEW

London Hotel, Albany (completed project)

The London Hotel in Albany received a State Heritage Grant for façade repairs and repainting. Located within the historic Stirling Terrace precinct, the hotel is part of Albany's notable Victorian and Federation streetscape, with buildings designed by prominent architects and built for leading citizens.

The current London Hotel, constructed in 1910 by Alex Thompson, replaced the former Chusan Hotel – a timber structure brought from Singapore and renamed around 1861. After plans for a new building were approved in 1909, materials from the old hotel were sold and the new hotel separated accommodation from the bar. Ownership changed frequently over time. During the Federation period, the façade was altered, including the removal of its double-storey verandah. A curved awning was added around 1960, and in 2010 the main bar became 'Liberte'.

The hotel continues to operate, offering accommodation for backpackers.



Chamber of Commerce Building, Fremantle (recipient)

Built in 1912, the two-storey brick and stucco Chamber of Commerce Building is in the Federation Free Classical style and forms an important part of Phillimore Street's historic commercial streetscape. The building has long been associated with the Fremantle Chamber of Commerce, the oldest surviving Chamber in Western Australia, and reflects Fremantle's role as a major centre of trade and business during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

In 2025–26, the building received \$50,000 for critical reroofing and structural works, including replacement of timber roof battens and terracotta tiles. These works will protect the building's heritage fabric and support its continued use as a significant civic and business hub.



OVERVIEW

COMMUNITY HERITAGE GRANTS

Swan River Historic Vessels (completed project)

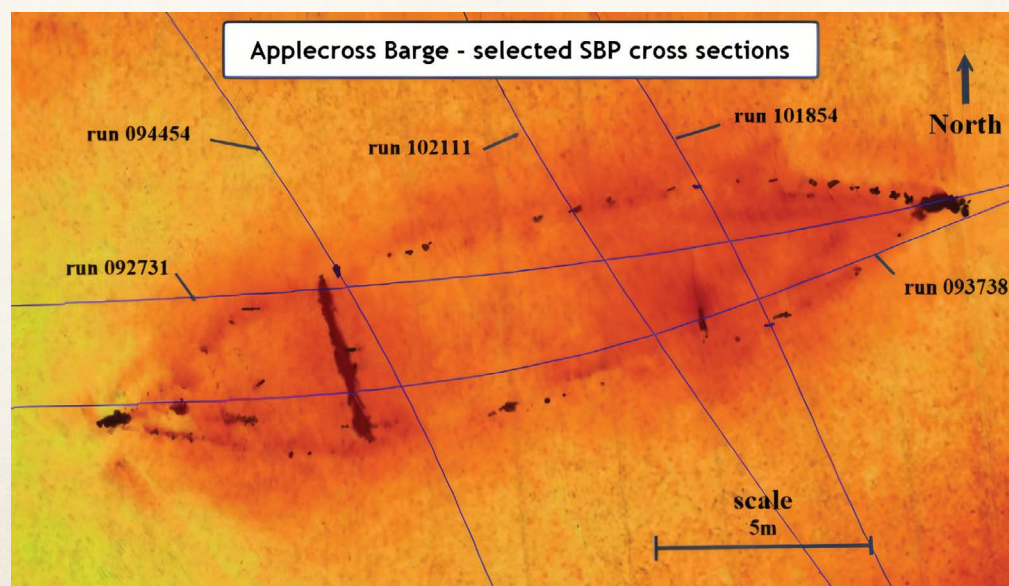
A recent heritage research project led by the [Winwell Foundation](#), with support from the Community Heritage Grants Program uncovered new details about four historic river vessels buried in the Swan (Derbarl Yerrigan) and Canning (Djarlgarra) Rivers.

Using advanced subsurface acoustic technology, researchers mapped and interpreted the remains of the Point Walter Barge (sunk 1882), the Applecross Barge (*likely Jane*, sunk 1897), the Bull Creek Unidentified Barge and the Melville Water Unidentified Wreck.

These surveys will help Western Australian Museum maritime archaeologists confirm vessel identities, locate the oldest wreck, stimulate community interest and provide open-access data for education. The Swan and Canning rivers were once vital transport routes linked to early industry, cargo shipping and convict labour, with water transport dominating before the 1920s.

Key findings include confirmation of Dearden's Flat barge as the earliest known wreck in the system and strong evidence that the Applecross site matches the sunken brick barge, Jane. The Bull Creek barge was found not to be the convict-built Dugong, but likely belonged to the Bateman family, early settlers in the area. Despite historical clues, there was no substantial wreck material detected at Melville Water.

The project's development of open-access underwater data marks a first for Australian maritime archaeology, supporting further research, training and public engagement with Western Australia's cultural heritage beneath the water's surface.



Sub Bottom Profiling (SBP) is a non-invasive way of scanning for underwater archaeological sites.

OVERVIEW

Art Deco heritage walks (completed project)

The Art Deco and Modernist Society of Western Australia received a Community Heritage Grant to expand its Art Deco heritage walking trails in Nedlands, Mount Lawley and Beverley.

The project brings together well-researched accessible content that helps participants explore the character of Interwar architecture in each area. New information packs support guides in delivering engaging and informative Discovery Walks, placing local buildings within their broader historical context.

From cinemas and commercial buildings to flats and houses, the style was widely adopted across Perth and the state's regional centres, often adapted to local conditions. Today, these buildings remain a distinctive part of the state's architectural history.

The informative guided heritage walking trails – which are especially popular during the Australian Heritage Festival – have helped communities better connect with their Art Deco legacy.

Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale QR code project (recipient)

The Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale was awarded \$18,206 to develop QR code-based interpretive signage at 10 heritage-listed sites across the district. Each weatherproof sign will link to a mobile-friendly webpage featuring historical narratives, photographs, oral histories and archival material with the aim of encouraging residents and visitors to engage more deeply with the region's heritage and highlighting the value of preserving these places.



OVERVIEW

SPONSORSHIPS

During the year, Heritage Council members attended a number of events and festivals across the state supported by the Council's Sponsorship Program.

These events play an important role in supporting local businesses and local governments while boosting cultural heritage tourism.

In 2025–26, 14 events shared a total of \$60,000 in sponsorship. The events included the FACET Heritage Tourism Forum 2026, the Friends of ANZAC Cottage Sunset Service and the Southern Forests and Valleys Heritage Festival 2026 in the shires of Boyup Brook, Bridgetown-Greenbushes, Nannup, Donnybrook-Balingup and Manjimup.

Southern Forests and Valleys Heritage Festival

The shires of Boyup Brook, Bridgetown-Greenbushes, Nannup, Donnybrook-Balingup and Manjimup received support for the Southern Forests and Valleys Heritage Festival, which brought communities together to celebrate history, culture and creativity across the region.

Boyup Brook's Visitor Centre welcomed 340 visitors during the two-week Festival, generating strong interest in the town's heritage trails and attractions. The Community Resource Centre (CRC) hosted nearly 40 locals who gathered to share stories and memories of Boyup Brook's past. The event featured local authors and launched the CRC's Digital Preservation Hub, enabling residents to digitise old photos, slides, tapes and VHS recordings.

The Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes' Textile Heritage Skills Workshop sold out in minutes, with attendees expressing appreciation for the celebration of traditional craft skills. Another highlight was the emotional and thought-provoking screenings of *A Million Acres a Year* and *Breathing Life into Boodja*, which included Q&A sessions with Albany filmmakers offering unique insights into these powerful projects.

The Visitor Centre galleries also hosted an exhibition by local Elder and artist Sandra Hill, attracting strong attendance and sparking important conversations about Aboriginal cultural knowledge, which had been underrepresented at previous local festivals.



WESTERN AUSTRALIAN HERITAGE AWARDS 2025

The [Western Australian Heritage Awards](#) in November 2025 recognised and celebrated excellence in heritage conservation, adaptive reuse, interpretation and heritage tourism in Western Australia.

The Minister for Heritage announced the winners at an official ceremony, held in the Government House Ballroom. With more than 150 attendees, the evening honoured remarkable individuals, organisations and projects that work to safeguard and share our rich history.

The three commendations and seven winners were selected from 32 high-quality nominations by an expert judging panel that included the Heritage Council Deputy Chair Leigh Barrett and two Heritage Council Members, Graeme Gammie and Rebecca Moore.

2025 AWARD-WINNING PROJECTS



Voluntary Individual Contribution Winner:

Alisdair Cooke, Volunteer, Maritime Discovery Foundation



Interpretation Project Winner of the Professor David Dolan Award:

Stepping Back with Fireman Jack Heritage Trail



Conservation or Adaptive Reuse of a State-registered Place Winner of the Gerry Gauntlett Award:

Rose Hotel & Sample Room, Bunbury



Professional Contribution Winner:

Kim Fitzpatrick, Creative Director and Art Glass Artist, Tradition Stained Glass



Commendation:

Harvey Internment Camp Shrine and Detention Cells (New Interpretation Project)



Commendation:

Success Hill Lodge, Bassendean



Contribution by an Organisation Joint Winners:

- Eastern Goldfields Historical Society
- Terra Rosa Consulting



Heritage Tourism Product Winner:

Southern Forests & Valleys Heritage Festival 2025



Conservation or Adaptive Reuse of a Local Heritage Place Commendation:

Perth Zoo (Gibbon Enclosure)

OVERVIEW

KEEPING THE CRAFT OF STAINED GLASS ALIVE

Kim Fitzpatrick, Master Glass Artist and Creative Director at *Tradition Stained Glass* received the Professional Contribution Award. With more than 40 years experience and a family legacy of more than a century, Kim is recognised as a leading figure in stained and leadlight glass conservation in Western Australia. He has restored windows in significant heritage buildings with historically accurate methods and is committed to training future artisans through apprenticeships and workshops. Kim remarked that stained glass “is a story told in light and colour,” and emphasised the importance of preserving both the works and the craft for future generations.

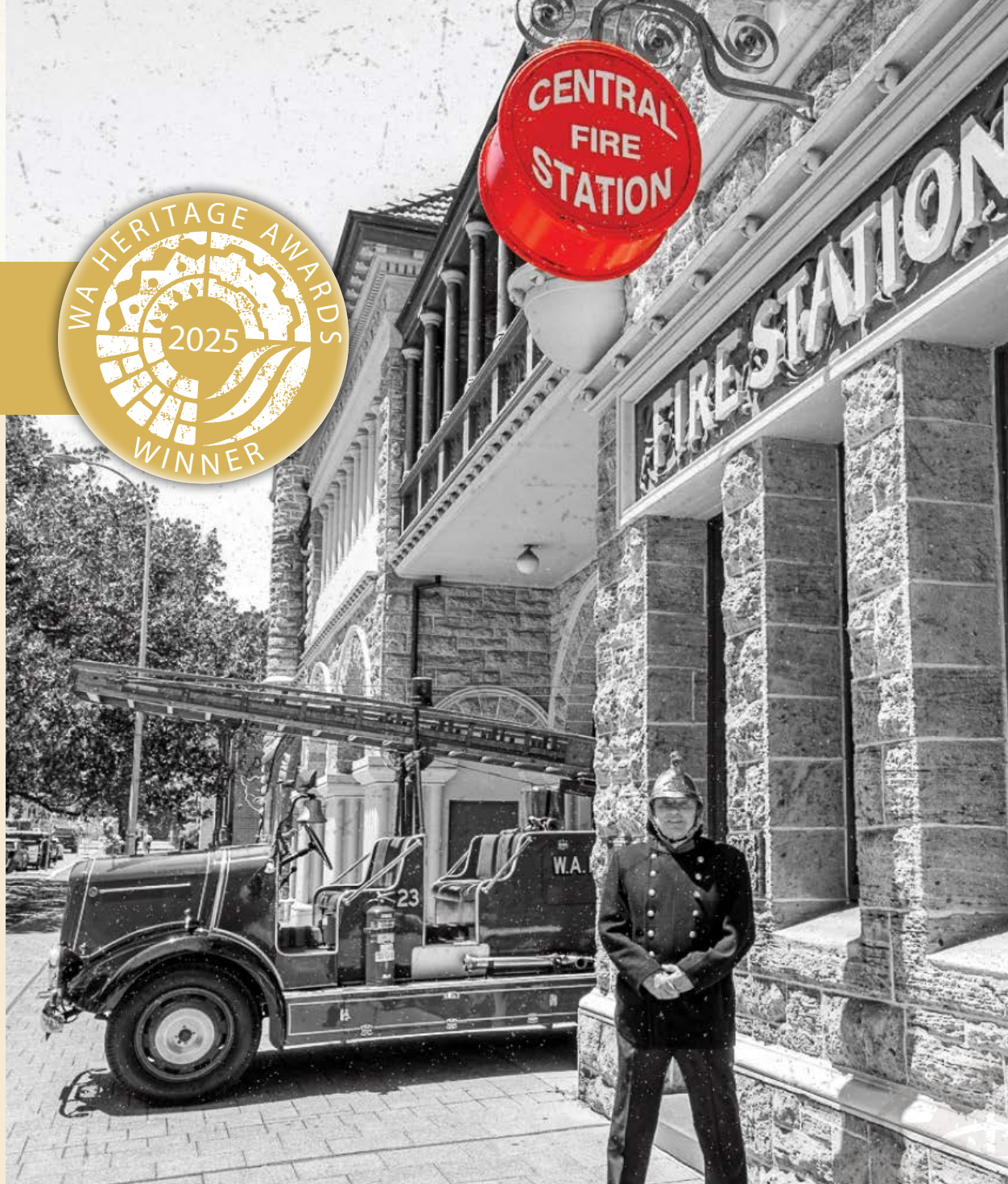


OVERVIEW

PROFESSOR DAVID DOLAN AWARD: STEPPING BACK WITH FIREMAN JACK HERITAGE TRAIL

The Stepping Back with Fireman Jack Heritage Trail has reimagined heritage interpretation in Perth's Murray Street East precinct, earning recognition for its innovative storytelling and inclusive design. Led by the Department of Fire and Emergency Services, the trail centres on the Old Central Fire Station, Western Australia's first purpose-built fire station and a landmark of continuous public service.

Through the voice of 'Fireman Jack', a fictional firefighter retiring in 1930, visitors are guided on a character-driven journey that brings the precinct's rich history to life. By blending historical insight with imaginative storytelling, Stepping Back with Fireman Jack deepens public appreciation of Perth's heritage and demonstrates how creative interpretation can foster a lasting sense of place.



HERITAGE PLAQUES PROGRAM

Following the launch of the refreshed Heritage Plaques Program in March, the Heritage Council invited owners of State-registered heritage places to express interest in receiving a plaque for their property. The call for applications marked the next stage of the Program's rollout, encouraging participation from owners across Western Australia and supporting greater public access to the stories behind State-registered places.

The Program attracted strong interest during the reporting period and its potential to strengthen heritage tourism, interpretation and community connection across the state. Each plaque includes a QR code linking visitors to more information about the place, helping to make heritage stories more accessible while acknowledging Aboriginal Country through the plaque design.

Plaques will be rolled out progressively at other heritage places across Western Australia. Owners of State-registered places can continue to express interest in obtaining a plaque through the Council's [online form](#).



OUTCOME-BASED MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK

The Heritage Council provides strategic cultural heritage services for the conservation of cultural heritage places in Western Australia for the benefit of present and future generations. Through the outcome and service listed below, the Council contributes to the Western Australian Government's goal for "Investing in WA's future: Tackling climate action and supporting the arts, culture and sporting sectors to promote vibrant communities."

GOVERNMENT GOAL	OUTCOME	SERVICE
Investing in WA's Future Tackling climate action and supporting the arts, culture and sporting sectors to promote vibrant communities.	An effective system for the conservation of cultural heritage places in Western Australia for the benefit of present and future generations.	Cultural heritage conservation services.

To achieve the Government's goal, the Department provides cultural heritage conservation services on behalf of and under the direction of the Heritage Council such as:

- establishing and maintaining a comprehensive heritage register
- providing conservation advice on development referrals and other relevant matters
- developing the role of public authorities in conserving and managing heritage places
- providing financial assistance and other conservation incentives
- providing publications, seminars and other promotional activities.

Key performance indicators (KPIs) are used to measure the Council's achievement of its outcomes, and the efficiency of its services.

PERFORMANCE

CHANGES TO OUTCOME-BASED MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK

Changes have been made following a comprehensive review of the Council's Outcome-Based Management Framework. From 1 July 2025, two key performance indicators were discontinued, and one was created. The Council's outcomes and services remain the same. The changes are outlined in the table below.

AREA	WHAT CHANGED IN 2025-26	CURRENT KPI
Key Effectiveness Indicator	One previous indicator was discontinued: Percentage of additional private investment generated for grant-assisted conservation projects	Extent to which development approvals issued for registered places are consistent with the Council's advice to decision-making authorities
Key Efficiency Indicator	One previous indicator was discontinued: Average number of days to make preliminary determinations	Average cost of statutory development and planning referrals

SHARED RESPONSIBILITIES WITH OTHER AGENCIES

The Council is supported in carrying out its statutory functions by the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage.

The Department carries out the statutory day-to-day operations, projects and service delivery on behalf of the Council, including:

- advising State and local governments on heritage-related matters and supporting them to manage heritage places;
- facilitating the identification and assessment of places of cultural heritage significance; and
- promoting best practice conservation and enhancing the community's understanding and appreciation of heritage places.

The Heritage Council has no shared responsibilities with agencies other than the Department.

REPORT ON OPERATIONS

SUMMARY OF ACTUAL RESULTS COMPARED TO BUDGET TARGETS

HERITAGE COUNCIL FINANCIAL TARGETS	2025-26 TARGET \$'000	2025-26 ACTUAL \$'000	VARIATION ⁽¹⁾ \$'000
Total cost of services (expense limit)	7,154	6,147	(1,007)
Net cost of services	7,154	6,147	(1,007)
Total equity	6,590	8,986	2,396
Net increase/(decrease) in cash held	0	290	290
Approved salary expense level	Nil	Nil	Nil
Agreed borrowing limit	Nil	Nil	Nil

⁽¹⁾ Further explanations are contained in Notes 8.1 to the financial statements.

HERITAGE COUNCIL FINANCIAL TARGETS	2025-26 TARGET \$'000	2025-26 ACTUAL \$'000	VARIATION \$'000
Working cash limit (at budget)	81	81	0
Working cash limit (at actuals)	81	67	(14)

PERFORMANCE

SUMMARY OF KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

OUTCOME 1: An effective system for the conservation of cultural heritage places in Western Australia, for the benefit of present and future generations.

KEY EFFECTIVENESS INDICATOR ^(a)	2025–26 Target ^(b)	2025–26 Actual	Variation ^(c)
Extent to which development approvals issued for registered places are consistent with the Council's advice to decision-making authorities.	100%	100%	–

SERVICE 1: Cultural heritage conservation services

KEY EFFICIENCY INDICATOR ^(a)	2025–26 Target ^(b)	2025–26 Actual	Variation ^(c)
Average cost of statutory development and planning referrals.	\$5,518	\$3,891	(\$1,627)

Notes

- (a) The tables provide a summary of the Heritage Council's key performance indicators for 2025–26. For more detailed information, including explanations for significant variances, refer to the Outcome and Key Performance Indicators section of this report at pages 52–53.
- (b) The targets specified are as per the 2025–26 Budget Statements.
- (c) Variations shown in brackets represent a decrease in the actual result compared to the target.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT



Auditor General

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

2026

Heritage Council of Western Australia

To the Parliament of Western Australia

Report on the audit of the financial statements

Opinion

I have audited the financial statements of the Heritage Council of Western Australia (Council) which comprise:

- the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2026, the statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended
- notes comprising a summary of material accounting policies and other explanatory information.

In my opinion, the financial statements are:

- based on proper accounts and present fairly, in all material respects, the operating results and cash flows of the Council for the year ended 30 June 2026 and the financial position as at the end of that period
- in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards (applicable to Tier 2 Entities), the *Financial Management Act 2006* and the Treasurer's Instructions.

Basis for opinion

I conducted my audit in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards. My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of my report.

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

Emphasis of Matter - Restatement of Comparative Balances

I draw attention to Note 7.2.2 of the financial statements, which describes the retrospective application of a revised accounting policy for recognition of grant expenditure. As disclosed in Note 7.2.2, comparative information has been restated to recognise grant expenditure when specified milestones under grant agreements are satisfied. My opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

DISCLOSURES AND LEGAL COMPLIANCE

Responsibilities of the Council Members for the financial statements

The Council Members are responsible for:

- keeping proper accounts
- preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards (applicable to Tier 2 Entities), the *Financial Management Act 2006* and the Treasurer's Instructions
- such internal control as it determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Council Members are responsible for:

- assessing the entity's ability to continue as a going concern
- disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern
- using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Western Australian Government has made policy or funding decisions affecting the continued existence of the Council.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

As required by the *Auditor General Act 2006*, my responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial statements. The objectives of my audit are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists.

Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial statements. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations or the override of internal control.

A further description of my responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Auditing and Assurance Standards Board website. This description forms part of my auditor's report and can be found at https://www.auasb.gov.au/auditors_responsibilities/ar4.pdf

Report on the audit of controls

Opinion

I have undertaken a reasonable assurance engagement on the design and implementation of controls exercised by the Council. The controls exercised by the Council are those policies and procedures established to ensure that the receipt, expenditure and investment of money, the acquisition and disposal of property, and the incurring of liabilities have been in accordance with the State's financial reporting framework (the overall control objectives).

In my opinion, in all material respects, the controls exercised by the Council are sufficiently adequate to provide reasonable assurance that the controls within the system were suitably designed to achieve the overall control objectives identified as at 30 June 2026, and the controls were implemented as designed as at 30 June 2026.

The Council Members' responsibilities

The Council Members are responsible for designing, implementing and maintaining controls to ensure that the receipt, expenditure and investment of money, the acquisition and disposal of property and the incurring of liabilities are in accordance with the *Financial Management Act 2006*, the Treasurer's Instructions and other relevant written law.

Auditor General's responsibilities

As required by the *Auditor General Act 2006*, my responsibility as an assurance practitioner is to express an opinion on the suitability of the design of the controls to achieve the overall control objectives and the implementation of the controls as designed. I conducted my engagement in accordance with Standard on Assurance Engagements ASAE 3150 *Assurance Engagements on Controls* issued by the Australian Auditing and Assurance Standards Board. That standard requires that I comply with relevant ethical requirements and plan and perform my procedures to obtain reasonable assurance about whether, in all material respects, the controls are suitably designed to achieve the overall control objectives and were implemented as designed.

An assurance engagement involves performing procedures to obtain evidence about the suitability of the controls design to achieve the overall control objectives and the implementation of those controls. The procedures selected depend on my judgement, including an assessment of the risks that controls are not suitably designed or implemented as designed. My procedures included testing the implementation of those controls that I consider necessary to achieve the overall control objectives.

I believe that the evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

Limitations of controls

Because of the inherent limitations of any internal control structure, it is possible that, even if the controls are suitably designed and implemented as designed, once in operation, the overall control objectives may not be achieved so that fraud, error or non-compliance with laws and regulations may occur and not be detected. Any projection of the outcome of the evaluation of the suitability of the design of controls to future periods is subject to the risk that the controls may become unsuitable because of changes in conditions.

Report on the audit of the key performance indicators

Opinion

I have undertaken a reasonable assurance engagement on the key performance indicators of the Council for the year ended 30 June 2026 reported in accordance with the *Financial Management Act 2006* and the Treasurer's Instructions (legislative requirements). The key performance indicators are the Under Treasurer-approved key effectiveness indicators and key efficiency indicators that provide performance information about achieving outcomes and delivering services.

DISCLOSURES AND LEGAL COMPLIANCE

In my opinion, in all material respects, the key performance indicators report of the Council for the year ended 30 June 2026 is in accordance with the legislative requirements, and the key performance indicators are relevant and appropriate to assist users to assess the Council's performance and fairly represent indicated performance for the year ended 30 June 2026.

The Council Members' responsibilities for the key performance indicators

The Council Members are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the key performance indicators in accordance with the *Financial Management Act 2006* and the Treasurer's Instructions and for such internal controls as the Council Members determine necessary to enable the preparation of key performance indicators that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the key performance indicators, the Council Members are responsible for identifying key performance indicators that are relevant and appropriate, having regard to their purpose in accordance with Treasurer's Instruction 3 Financial Sustainability – Requirement 5: Key Performance Indicators.

Auditor General's responsibilities

As required by the *Auditor General Act 2006*, my responsibility as an assurance practitioner is to express an opinion on the key performance indicators. The objectives of my engagement are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the key performance indicators are relevant and appropriate to assist users to assess the entity's performance and whether the key performance indicators are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. I conducted my engagement in accordance with Standard on Assurance Engagements ASAE 3000 *Assurance Engagements Other than Audits or Reviews of Historical Financial Information* issued by the Australian Auditing and Assurance Standards Board. That standard requires that I comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to assurance engagements.

An assurance engagement involves performing procedures to obtain evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the key performance indicators. It also involves evaluating the relevance and appropriateness of the key performance indicators against the criteria and guidance in Treasurer's Instruction 3 - Requirement 5 for measuring the extent of outcome achievement and the efficiency of service delivery. The procedures selected depend on my judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the key performance indicators. In making these risk assessments, I obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the engagement in order to design procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances.

I believe that the evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

My independence and quality management relating to the report on financial statements, controls and key performance indicators

I have complied with the independence requirements of the *Auditor General Act 2006* and the relevant ethical requirements relating to assurance engagements. In accordance with ASQM 1 *Quality Management for Firms that Perform Audits or Reviews of Financial Reports and Other Financial Information, or Other Assurance or Related Services Engagements*, the Office of the Auditor General maintains a comprehensive system of quality management including

documented policies and procedures regarding compliance with ethical requirements, professional standards and applicable legal and regulatory requirements.

Other information

The Council Members are responsible for the other information. The other information is the information in the entity's annual report for the year ended 30 June 2026, but not the financial statements, key performance indicators and my auditor's report.

My opinions on the financial statements, controls and key performance indicators do not cover the other information and accordingly I do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with my audit of the financial statements, controls and key performance indicators my responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements and key performance indicators or my knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

If, based on the work I have performed, I conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, I am required to report that fact. I did not receive the other information prior to the date of this auditor's report. When I do receive it, I will read it and if I conclude that there is a material misstatement in this information, I am required to communicate the matter to those charged with governance and request them to correct the misstated information. If the misstated information is not corrected, I may need to retract this auditor's report and re-issue an amended report.

Matters relating to the electronic publication of the audited financial statements and key performance indicators

This auditor's report relates to the financial statements and key performance indicators of the Heritage Council of Western Australia for the year ended 30 June 2026 included in the annual report on the Council's website. The Council's management is responsible for the integrity of the Council's website. This audit does not provide assurance on the integrity of the Council's website. The auditor's report refers only to the financial statements, controls and key performance indicators described above. It does not provide an opinion on any other information which may have been hyperlinked to/from the annual report. If users of the financial statements and key performance indicators are concerned with the inherent risks arising from publication on a website, they are advised to contact the entity to confirm the information contained in the website version.



Patrick Arulsingham
Senior Director Financial Audit
Delegate of the Auditor General for Western Australia
Perth, Western Australia
7 September 2026

CERTIFICATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2026

The accompanying financial statements of the Heritage Council of Western Australia have been prepared in compliance with the provisions of the *Financial Management Act 2006* from proper accounts and records to present fairly the financial transactions for the reporting period ended 30 June 2026 and the financial position as at 30 June 2026.

At the date of signing, we are not aware of any circumstances which would render the particulars included within the financial statements misleading or inaccurate.



Darren Foster

Chair
Heritage Council of Western Australia
7 September 2026



Tina Fu

Acting Chief Finance Officer
Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage
7 September 2026

DISCLOSURES AND LEGAL COMPLIANCE

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2026

	Notes	2026 \$	Restated * 2025 \$
Cost of services			
Expenses			
Supplies and services	2.2	4,970,444	7,047,246
Grants and subsidies	2.1	1,057,313	1,381,477
Other expenses	2.2	119,169	115,940
Total cost of services		6,146,926	8,544,663
Income			
Other income	3.2	-	8,000
Total Income		-	8,000
Total income other than income from State Government		-	8,000
Net cost of services		6,146,926	8,536,663
Income from State Government			
Service appropriation	3.1	1,614,000	1,598,000
Resources received from other public sector entities	3.1	4,737,325	6,810,804
Total income from State Government		6,351,325	8,408,804
Surplus/(deficit) for the period		204,399	(127,859)
Total comprehensive income for the period		204,399	(127,859)

The statement of comprehensive income should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

* Refer to Note 7.2.2 for restatement.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 2026

	Notes	2026 \$	Restated * 2025 \$
Assets			
Current Assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	5.1	1,545,088	1,486,102
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	5.1	7,534,087	7,303,133
Receivables	4.1	10,922	27,966
Total Current Assets		9,090,097	8,817,201
Total Assets		9,090,097	8,817,201
Liabilities			
Current Liabilities			
Payables	4.2	37,200	35,970
Grants payable	4.3	67,267	-
Total Current Liabilities		104,467	35,970
Total Liabilities		104,467	35,970
Net Assets		8,985,630	8,781,231
Equity			
Accumulated surplus		8,985,630	8,781,231
Total Equity		8,985,630	8,781,231

The statement of financial position should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

* Refer to Note 7.2.2 for restatement.

DISCLOSURES AND LEGAL COMPLIANCE

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2026

	Accumulated surplus \$	Total equity \$
Balance at 1 July 2024	6,589,503	6,589,503
Changes in accounting policy (restated) *	2,319,587	2,319,587
Restated balance at 1 July 2024	8,909,090	8,909,090
Surplus/(deficit) for the period as restated	(127,859)	(127,859)
Total comprehensive income for the period as restated	(127,859)	(127,859)
Restated balance at 30 June 2025	8,781,231	8,781,231
Balance at 1 July 2025	8,781,231	8,781,231
Surplus	204,399	204,399
Total comprehensive income for the period	204,399	204,399
Balance at 30 June 2026	8,985,630	8,985,630

The statement of changes in equity should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

* Refer to Note 7.2.2 for restatement.

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2026

	Notes	2026 \$	2025 \$
Cash flows from State Government			
Service appropriation		1,614,000	1,598,000
Net cash provided by State Government		1,614,000	1,598,000
Utilised as follows:			
Cash flows from operating activities			
Payments			
Supplies and services		(233,551)	(226,574)
Grants and subsidies		(990,046)	(1,381,477)
GST payments on purchases		(97,393)	(122,683)
Other payments		(117,937)	(119,401)
Receipts			
GST receipts on sales		-	800
GST receipts from taxation authority		114,867	97,538
Other receipts		-	8,000
Net cash used in operating activities		(1,324,060)	(1,743,797)
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents		289,940	(145,797)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the period		8,789,235	8,935,032
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the period	5.1	9,079,175	8,789,235

The statement of cash flows should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

DISCLOSURES AND LEGAL COMPLIANCE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2026

1. Basis of preparation

The Heritage Council of Western Australia (Heritage Council) is a government not-for-profit entity controlled by the State of Western Australia, which is the ultimate parent.

A description of the nature of its operations and its principal activities has been included in the 'Overview' of this Annual Report, which does not form part of these financial statements.

These annual financial statements were authorised for issue by the Council members on 7 September 2026.

Statement of compliance

The financial statements are general purpose financial statements which have been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards (AAS) – Simplified Disclosures, the Conceptual Framework and other authoritative pronouncements issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB) as modified by Treasurer's Instructions (TI). Some of these pronouncements are modified to vary their application and disclosure.

The *Financial Management Act 2006* and TI, which are legislative provisions governing the preparation of financial statements for agencies, take precedence over AASB pronouncements. Where an AASB pronouncement is modified and has had a significant financial effect on the reported results, details of the modification and the resulting financial effect are disclosed in the notes to the financial statements.

Basis of preparation

These financial statements are presented in Australian dollars applying the accrual basis of accounting and using the historical cost convention. Certain balances will apply a different measurement basis (such as the fair value basis). Where this is the case the different measurement basis is disclosed in the associated note. All values are rounded to the nearest dollar (\$).

Accounting for Goods and Services Tax (GST)

Income, expenses, and assets are recognised net of the amount of goods and services tax (GST), except that the:

- (a) amount of GST incurred by the Heritage Council as a purchaser that is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) is recognised as part of an asset's cost of acquisition or as part of an item of expense; and
- (b) receivables and payables are stated with the amount of GST included.

Cash flows are included in the Statement of cash flows on a gross basis. However, the GST components of cash flows arising from investing and financing activities which are recoverable from, or payable to, the ATO are classified as operating cashflows.

Contributed equity

AASB Interpretation 1038 *Contributions by Owners Made to Wholly-Owned Public Sector Entities* requires transfers in the nature of equity contributions, other than as a result of a restructure of administrative arrangements as designated as contributions by owners (at the time of, or prior to, transfer) be recognised as equity contributions. Capital appropriations have been designated as contributions by owners by TI 8 – Requirement 8.1(i) and have been credited directly to Contributed Equity.

Comparative information

Except when AAS permit or require otherwise, comparative information is presented in respect of the previous period for all amounts reported in the financial statements.

When the presentation of classification of items in the financial report is amended, comparative amounts are reclassified unless the reclassification is impracticable.

1. Basis of preparation (continued)

Judgements and estimates

Judgements, estimates, and assumptions are required to be made about financial information being presented. The significant judgements and estimates made in the preparation of these financial statements are disclosed in the notes where amounts affected by those judgements and/or estimates are disclosed. Estimates and associated assumptions are based on professional judgements derived from historical experience and various other factors that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

2. Use of our funding

Expenses incurred in the delivery of services

This section provides additional information about how the Heritage Council's funding is applied and the accounting policies that are relevant for an understanding of the items recognised in the financial statements. The primary expenses incurred by the Heritage Council in achieving its objectives and the relevant notes are:

	Notes
Grants and subsidies	2.1
Other expenditure	2.2

2.1 Grants and subsidies

	2026	Restated * 2025
	\$	\$
Recurrent		
Heritage Grants Program	1,057,313	1,381,477
Total grants and subsidies	1,057,313	1,381,477

* Refer to Note 7.2.2 for restatement.

Grants are paid as specific purpose grants, which are paid for a particular purpose and/or have conditions attached regarding their use.

Grant payments and transfers are measured at fair value at the time of the transaction. Grant expenses are recognised when the Heritage Council has a present obligation to pay, the amount can be reliably measured, and the related eligible work or claim conditions have been satisfied. Grant approval or execution of a grant agreement does not, by itself, result in recognition of the full approved grant amount as an expense.

Grants and subsidies include transactions made to individuals, local governments, community groups and other eligible recipients under approved grant programs.

2.2 Other expenditure

	2026	2025
	\$	\$
Supplies and services		
Employee expenses	3,453,703	4,588,902
Other	1,294,704	2,233,760
Council sitting fees	197,450	201,061
Superannuation - defined contribution plans	24,432	23,097
Consumables	155	426
Total supplies and services	4,970,444	7,047,246
Other expenses		
Sponsorships	60,000	67,413
Remuneration of auditors	37,200	40,970
Other	21,969	7,557
Total other expenses	119,169	115,940
Total other expenditure	5,089,613	7,163,186

DISCLOSURES AND LEGAL COMPLIANCE

2.2 Other expenditure (continued)

Supplies and services are recognised as an expense in the reporting period in which they are incurred. Conservation works are recognised as expenses as incurred, except where they relate to the replacement of a significant component of an asset. In that case, the costs are capitalised and depreciated.

The Heritage Council has no direct staff or systems. All administrative and operational activities are undertaken by the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (Department) on the Council's behalf. A notional non-cash apportionment of salaries and overheads of the Department's resources is included in 'employee expenses' and 'other'.

Other expenses generally represent the day-to-day running costs incurred in normal operations.

3. Our funding sources

How we obtain our funding

This section provides additional information about how the Heritage Council obtains its funding and the relevant accounting policy notes that govern the recognition and measurement of this funding. The primary income received by the Heritage Council and the relevant notes are:

	Notes
Income from State Government	3.1
Other income	3.2

3.1 Income from State Government

	2026 \$	2025 \$
Appropriation received during the period:		
Service appropriation ^(a)	1,614,000	1,598,000
Total service appropriation	1,614,000	1,598,000
Resources received from other public sector entities during the period ^(b) :		
Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage	4,737,325	6,810,804
Total resources received	4,737,325	6,810,804
Total income from State Government	6,351,325	8,408,804

^(a) **Service appropriations** are recognised as income at the fair value in the period in which the Heritage Council gains control of the appropriated funds. The Heritage Council gains control of appropriated funds at the time those funds are deposited to the bank account.

^(b) **Resources received from other public sector entities** are recognised as income equivalent to the fair value of assets received, or the fair value of services received that can be reliably determined and which would have been purchased if not donated.

Appropriations fund the net cost of services delivered.

Summary of consolidated account appropriations

	2026 Estimate	2026 Actual	Variance
Delivery of Services			
Item 93 Net amount appropriated to deliver services	1,614,000	1,614,000	-
Total appropriations provided to deliver services	1,614,000	1,614,000	-

3.2 Other income

	2026 \$	Restated [*] 2025 \$
Receipt of prior years' unutilised Heritage Grants Program funds	-	8,000
Total other income	-	8,000

* Refer to Note 7.2.2 for restatement.

Other income is the refund of prior years' unutilised grant.

4. Other assets and liabilities

This section sets out those assets and liabilities that arose from the Heritage Council's controlled operations and includes other assets utilised for economic benefits and liabilities incurred during normal operations:

	Notes
Receivables	4.1
Payables	4.2
Grant payables	4.3

4.1 Receivables

	2026 \$	2025 \$
Current		
Trade receivables	532	101
GST receivable	10,390	27,865
Total current receivables	10,922	27,966
Balance at end of period	10,922	27,966

The Heritage Council does not hold any collateral or other credit enhancements as security for receivables.

Receivables are recognised at the original invoice amount less any allowance for expected credit losses. The carrying amount of net trade receivables is equivalent to fair value as they are due for settlement within 15-20 days.

4.2 Payables

	2026 \$	2025 \$
Current		
Accrued expenses	37,200	35,970
Total current payables	37,200	35,970
Balance at end of period	37,200	35,970

Payables are recognised at the amounts payable when the Heritage Council becomes obliged to make future payments as a result of a purchase of assets or services. The carrying amount is equivalent to fair value, as settlement is generally within 20 days.

4.3 Grant payables

	2026 \$	Restated [*] 2025 \$
Current		
Heritage Grants Program	67,267	-
Total current grants payable	67,267	-
Balance at end of period	67,267	-

DISCLOSURES AND LEGAL COMPLIANCE

4.3 Grant payables (continued)

* Refer to Note 7.2.2 for restatement.

Grant payables are recognised where the Heritage Council has a present obligation to pay, the amount can be reliably measured, and the related eligible work or claim conditions have been satisfied before reporting date.

Grant approval or execution of a grant agreement does not, by itself, create a grants payable liability.

5. Financing

This section sets out the material balances and disclosures associated with the financing and cashflows of the Heritage Council.

	Notes
Cash and cash equivalents	5.1

5.1 Cash and cash equivalents

	2026	2025
	\$	\$
Cash and cash equivalents	1,545,088	1,486,102
Restricted cash and cash equivalents		
- Heritage Grants Program ^(a)	2,159,159	1,928,205
- Refund of Heritage Loan Scheme Subsidy Funds ^(b)	384,480	384,480
- Heritage Works Program ^(c)	4,990,448	4,990,448
Total restricted cash and cash equivalents	7,534,087	7,303,133
Balance at end of period	9,079,175	8,789,235

^(a) Funds restricted for heritage grants awarded to the owners of State listed heritage properties for conservation purposes.

^(b) The Heritage Loan Subsidy Scheme ceased and the funds have been restricted with the understanding that the proceeds will be added to either an existing program or be applied to a future program that focuses on regional heritage.

^(c) Funds restricted for future use by the Heritage Works Program.

For the purpose of the statement of cash flows, cash and cash equivalent assets comprise cash on hand and short-term deposits with original maturities of three months or less that are readily convertible to a known amount of cash and which are subject to insignificant risk of changes in value.

6. Financial instruments and contingencies

This note sets out the key risk management policies and measurement techniques of the Heritage Council.

	Notes
Financial instruments	6.1
Contingent assets and liabilities	6.2

6.1 Financial instruments

The carrying amounts of each of the following categories of financial assets and financial liabilities at the end of the reporting period are:

	2026	Restated * 2025
	\$	\$
Financial assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	1,545,088	1,486,102
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	7,534,087	7,303,133
Financial assets at amortised cost ^(a)	532	101
Total financial assets	9,079,707	8,789,336
Financial liabilities		
Financial liabilities at amortised cost ^(b)	104,467	35,970
Total financial liability	104,467	35,970

* Refer to Note 7.2.2 for restatement.

^(a) The amount of financial assets at amortised cost excludes GST recoverable from the ATO (statutory receivable).

^(b) The amount of financial liabilities at amortised cost excludes GST payable to the ATO (statutory payable).

6.2 Contingent assets and liabilities

The Heritage Council has no contingent assets or contingent liabilities as at 30 June 2026 and 30 June 2025.

7. Other disclosures

This section includes additional material disclosures required by accounting standards or other pronouncements, for the understanding of this financial report.

	Notes
Events occurring after the end of the reporting period	7.1
Changes in accounting policies	7.2
Key management personnel	7.3
Related party transactions	7.4
Related bodies	7.5
Affiliated bodies	7.6
Remuneration of auditor	7.7
Supplementary financial information	7.8

7.1 Events occurring after the end of the reporting period

No information has become apparent after the end of the reporting period that would materially affect the financial statements.

7.2 Changes in accounting policies

7.2.1 Initial application of Australian Accounting Standards

There were no new or amended standards and interpretations that became effective for the first time for the financial year beginning 1 July 2025 that were relevant or have a material impact to the Heritage Council.

DISCLOSURES AND LEGAL COMPLIANCE

7.2.2 Change in accounting policy

During the year, the Heritage Council reviewed the accounting treatment applied to the Heritage Grants Program (HGP). Following a detailed assessment of the funding agreements and the requirements of AASB 137 Provisions, Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets, management determined that grant liabilities should only be recognised when a present obligation exists at the reporting date.

Under the revised accounting policy, grant expenditure and the associated liability are recognised only when:

- eligible work has been completed by the grant recipient;
- a valid claim has been submitted in accordance with the funding agreement; and
- the Heritage Council has a present obligation to settle the claim.

Previously, approved grant amounts were recognised as expenditure and grant payables upon execution or approval of funding agreements, irrespective of whether the relevant performance conditions had been satisfied.

The review concluded that approved but unclaimed grant balances do not meet the definition of a liability because the Heritage Council does not have a present obligation until the recipient has completed eligible work and satisfied the claim requirements under the funding agreement.

As a result of this change in accounting policy, comparative information for financial year 2024-25 has been restated and opening accumulated surplus at 1 July 2024 has been adjusted for the cumulative impact relating to earlier periods.

i. Impact to the Statement of Comprehensive Income

	Previously stated (\$)	Adjustment (\$)	As restated (\$)
Expenses			
Grants and subsidies	1,221,000	160,477	1,381,477
Income			
Other income	238,906	(230,906)	8,000
Surplus/(deficit) for the period	263,524	(391,383)	(127,859)

ii. Impact to the Statement of Financial Position

	Previously stated (\$)	Adjustment (\$)	As restated (\$)
Current Liabilities			
Grant payables	1,928,205	(1,928,205)	-
Total Current Liabilities	1,964,175	(1,928,205)	35,970
Equity			
Accumulated surplus	6,853,026	1,928,205	8,781,231

7.3 Key management personnel

The Heritage Council has determined key management personnel to include Cabinet ministers and members of the Council. The Council does not incur expenditures to compensate ministers, and those disclosures may be found in the Annual Report on State Finances.

The total fees, salaries, superannuation, non-monetary benefits, and other benefits for members of the Heritage Council for the reporting period are presented within the following bands:

Compensation band (\$)	2026	2025
40,001 - 50,000	1	2
30,001 - 40,000	-	-
20,001 - 30,000	6	7
10,001 - 20,000	3	-
0 - 10,000	2	1
	\$	\$
Total compensation of key management personnel	221,145	249,180

Total compensation includes the superannuation expense incurred by the Heritage Council in respect of members.

7.4 Related party transactions

The Heritage Council is a wholly owned public sector entity that is controlled by of the State of Western Australia.

Related parties of the Heritage Council include:

- all Cabinet Ministers and their close family members, and their controlled or jointly controlled entities;
- all members of the Heritage Council and their close family members, and their controlled or jointly controlled entities;
- other agencies and statutory authorities, including related bodies, that are included in the whole of government consolidated financial statements (i.e. wholly owned public sector entities);
- associates and joint ventures of a wholly owned public sector entity; and
- the Government Employees Superannuation Board (GESB).

Material transactions with other related parties

Outside of normal citizen type transactions with the Heritage Council, there were no other related party transactions that involved key management personnel and/or their close family members and/or their controlled (or jointly controlled) entities.

Significant transactions with Government-related entities

In conducting its activities, the Heritage Council is required to transact with the State and entities related to the State. These transactions are generally based on the standard terms and conditions that apply to all agencies.

Significant transactions include:

	Notes
Service appropriation received from State and other entities	3.1
Resources received from other Public sector entities	3.1

7.5 Related bodies

The Heritage Council had no related bodies during the financial year 2025-26 and 2024-25.

7.6 Affiliated bodies

The Heritage Council had no affiliated bodies during the financial year 2025-26 and 2024-25.

DISCLOSURES AND LEGAL COMPLIANCE

7.7 Remuneration of auditors

Remuneration paid or payable to the Auditor General in respect of the audit for the current financial year is as follows:

	2026 \$	2025 \$
Auditing the accounts, financial statements, controls and key performance indicators	37,200	35,970
Total	37,200	35,970

7.8 Supplementary financial information

(a) Write-offs

There were no write-offs by the Heritage Council during the financial year 2025-26 and 2024-25.

(b) Losses through theft, defaults, and other causes

There were no losses of public money, public property or other property through theft, default or other causes during the financial year 2025-26 and 2024-25.

(c) Gifts of public property

There were no gifts of public property provided by the Heritage Council during the financial year 2025-26 and 2024-25.

8. Explanatory statements

This section explains variations in the financial performance of the Heritage Council.

Explanatory statement for controlled operations

Notes
8.1

8.1 Explanatory statements for controlled operations

This explanatory section explains variations in the financial performance of the Heritage Council undertaking transactions under its own control, as represented by the primary financial statements.

All variances between annual estimates (original budget) and actual results for 2026, and between the actual results for 2026 and 2025 are shown below. Narratives are provided for major variances which are more than 10% of the comparative and which are more than 1% of the following (as appropriate):

- 1) Estimate and actual results for the current year:
 - Total Cost of Services of the annual estimates for the Statement of comprehensive income and Statement of cash flows (i.e. 1% of \$7,154,000); and
 - Total Assets of the annual estimate for the Statement of financial position (i.e. 1% of \$8,939,000).
- 2) Actual results between the current year and the previous year:
 - Total Cost of Services of the previous year for the Statement of comprehensive income and Statement of cash flows (i.e. 1% of \$8,544,663); and
 - Total Assets of the previous year for the Statement of financial position (i.e. 1% of \$8,817,201).

8.1.1 Statement of comprehensive income variances

	Variance Notes	Estimate ¹ 2026 \$	Actual 2026 \$	Restated [*] Actual 2025 \$	Variance between actual and estimate \$	Variance between actual results for 2026 and 2025 \$
Expenses						
Supplies and services	1, A	5,735,000	4,970,444	7,047,246	(764,556)	(2,076,802)
Grants and subsidies	2, B	1,221,000	1,057,313	1,381,477	(163,687)	(324,164)
Other expenses	3	198,000	119,169	115,940	(78,831)	3,229
Total cost of services		7,154,000	6,146,926	8,544,663	(1,007,074)	(2,397,737)
Income						
Other income		-	-	8,000	-	(8,000)
Total income		-	-	8,000	-	(8,000)
Total income other than income from State Government		-	-	8,000	-	(8,000)
Net cost of services		7,154,000	6,146,926	8,536,663	(1,007,074)	(2,389,737)
Income from State Government						
Service appropriation		1,614,000	1,614,000	1,598,000	-	16,000
Resources received from other Public sector entities	4, C	5,540,000	4,737,325	6,810,804	(802,675)	(2,073,479)
Total income from State Government		7,154,000	6,351,325	8,408,804	(802,675)	(2,057,479)
Surplus for the period		-	204,399	(127,859)	204,399	332,258
Other comprehensive income/(losses)						
Items not reclassified subsequently to profit or loss		-	-	-	-	-
Total other comprehensive income		-	-	-	-	-
Total comprehensive income for the period		-	204,399	(127,859)	204,399	332,258

¹ These are annual estimates published for the financial year ended 30 June 2026.

^{*} Refer to Note 7.2.2 for restatement.

DISCLOSURES AND LEGAL COMPLIANCE

8.1.1 Statement of comprehensive income variances (continued)

Major estimate and actual (2026) variance narratives:

1. **Supplies and services** were lower than the budget estimate by \$0.76 million mainly due to a reduction in the value of services received free of charge from the Department following a reassessment of costs attributable to heritage service delivery activities.
2. **Grant and subsidies** were lower than the budget estimate by \$0.16 million mainly due to the revised accounting treatment for recognising grant expenses and reflects the timing of milestone-based grant activity compared with the original budget assumptions.
3. **Other expenses** were lower than the budget estimate by \$0.08 million due to lower expenditure across a range of operating activities, including travel, marketing and other administrative costs.
4. **Resources received from other public sector entities** were lower than budget estimate by \$0.80 million mainly due to a reduction in the value of services received free of charge from the Department following a reassessment of costs attributable to heritage service delivery activities.

Major actual (2026) and comparative (2025) variance narratives:

- A. **Supplies and services** decreased by \$2.08 million mainly due to a reduction in the value of services received free of charge from the Department following a reassessment of costs attributable to heritage service delivery activities.
- B. **Grant and subsidies** decreased by \$0.32 million mainly due to the timing of milestone-based grant activity and the related recognition of grant expenses across reporting periods.
- C. **Resources received from other public sector entities** decreased by \$2.07 million mainly due to a reduction in the value of services received free of charge from the Department following a reassessment of costs attributable to heritage service delivery activities.

8.1.2 Statement of financial position variances

Variance Notes	Estimate ¹ 2026 \$	Actual 2026 \$	Restated* Actual 2025 \$	Variance between actual and estimate \$	Variance between actual results for 2026 and 2025 \$
Assets					
Current assets					
Cash and cash equivalents	1,241,000	1,545,088	1,486,102	304,088	58,086
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	7,694,000	7,534,087	7,303,133	(159,913)	230,954
Receivables	4,000	10,922	27,966	6,922	(17,044)
Total Current Assets	8,939,000	9,090,097	8,817,201	151,097	272,896
Total Assets	8,939,000	9,090,097	8,817,201	151,097	272,896
Liabilities					
Current liabilities					
Payables	30,000	37,200	35,970	7,200	1,230
Grants payable	2,319,000	67,267	-	(2,251,733)	67,267
Total Current Liabilities	2,349,000	104,467	35,970	(2,244,533)	68,497
Total Liabilities	2,349,000	104,467	35,970	(2,244,533)	68,497
Net Assets	6,590,000	8,985,630	8,781,231	2,395,630	204,399
Equity					
Accumulated surplus	6,590,000	8,985,630	8,781,231	2,395,630	204,399
Total Equity	6,590,000	8,985,630	8,781,231	2,395,630	204,399

¹ These are annual estimates published for the financial year ended 30 June 2026.

* Refer to Note 7.2.2 for restatement.

Major estimate and actual (2026) variance narratives:

1. **Grants payable** was lower than budget estimates by \$2.25 million mainly due to the budget estimates being prepared under the previous grant liability recognition approach, while actuals reflect the revised accounting policy and obligations outstanding at 30 June 2026.

Major actual (2026) and comparative (2025) variance narratives:

- A. **Grants payable** increased by \$0.07 million mainly due to actual grant accruals recognised with no equivalent accrual in 2024-25.

DISCLOSURES AND LEGAL COMPLIANCE

8.1.3 Statement of cash flow variances

	Variance Notes	Estimate ¹ 2026 \$	Actual 2026 \$	Actual 2025 \$	Variance between actual and estimate \$	Variance between actual results for 2026 and 2025 \$
Cash flows from State Government						
Service appropriation		1,614,000	1,614,000	1,598,000	-	16,000
Net cash provided by State Government		1,614,000	1,614,000	1,598,000	-	16,000
Cash flows from operating activities						
Payments						
Supplies and services		(195,000)	(233,551)	(226,574)	(38,551)	(6,977)
Grants and subsidies	1, A	(1,221,000)	(990,046)	(1,381,477)	230,954	391,431
GST payments on purchases	2, B	-	(97,393)	(122,683)	(97,393)	25,290
Other payments	3	(198,000)	(117,937)	(119,401)	80,063	1,464
Receipts						
GST receipts on sales		-	-	800	-	(800)
GST receipts from taxation authority	4, C	-	114,867	97,538	114,867	17,329
Other receipts		-	-	8,000	-	(8,000)
Net cash used in operating activities		(1,614,000)	(1,324,060)	(1,743,797)	289,940	419,737
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents		-	289,940	(145,797)	289,940	435,737
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the period		8,935,000	8,789,235	8,935,032	(145,765)	(145,797)
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the period		8,935,000	9,079,175	8,789,235	144,175	289,940

¹ These are annual estimates published for the financial year ended 30 June 2026.

Major estimate and actual (2026) variance narratives:

- Grants and subsidies** were lower than budget estimates by \$0.23 million due to the timing of payments and the progressive completion of grant-funded activities during the year.
- GST payments on purchases** were higher than budget estimates by \$0.10 million due to GST cash flows being not separately disclosed in the published budget statements.
- Other payments** were lower than budget estimates by \$0.08 million mainly due to lower expenditure across a range of operating activities, including travel, marketing and other administrative costs.
- GST receipts from taxation authority** were higher than budget estimates by \$0.11 million mainly due to GST cash flows being not separately disclosed in the published budget statements.

Major actual (2026) and comparative (2025) variance narratives:

- Grants and subsidies** decreased by \$0.39 million mainly due to the timing of payments and the progressive completion of grant-funded activities across the two reporting periods.
- GST payments on purchases** decreased by \$0.03 million due to lower taxable operating expenditure during the year.
- GST receipts from taxation authority** increased by \$0.02 million mainly due to the corresponding movement in GST recoverable on operating expenditure.

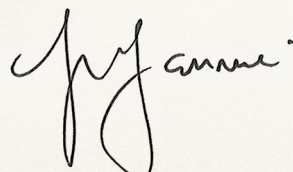
CERTIFICATION OF KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

We hereby certify that the key performance indicators are based on proper records, are relevant and appropriate for assisting users to assess the Heritage Council of Western Australia's performance and fairly represent the performance of the Heritage Council of Western Australia for the financial year ended 30 June 2026.



Darren Foster

Chair
Heritage Council of Western Australia
7 September 2026



Graeme Gammie

Member
Heritage Council of Western Australia
7 September 2026

OUTCOME AND KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

OUTCOME 1:

An effective system for the conservation of cultural heritage places in Western Australia, for the benefit of present and future generations

EFFECTIVENESS INDICATOR

Extent to which development approvals issued for registered places are consistent with the Council's advice to decision-making authorities.

One of the functions of the Heritage Council of WA under the *Heritage Act 2018* is to provide advice to decision-making authorities on development and other proposals that may affect a State Registered Heritage Place to ensure preservation of the place's cultural heritage significance.

If a proposal involves a change to a place listed in the State Register of Heritage Places (or subject to a protection order or heritage agreement to which the Council is a party) the responsible decision maker refers that proposal to the Council for advice. The Department, on behalf of the Council, manages development referrals within strategic, legislative and policy frameworks to ensure provision of informed and consistent advice to decision makers appropriate to the cultural heritage significance of the place.

The decision-making authority must determine the proposal in a way that is consistent with Council advice, unless it finds that there is no feasible and prudent alternative to making that determination.

This indicator measures the extent to which the Council is achieving its desired outcome.

Under the Heritage Regulations 2019, decision makers are required to notify the Council of decisions on previously referred proposals within 10 days of making their decision.

This indicator is calculated by dividing the number of determination advice consistent with Council advice by the total number of determination advice received. The result is expressed as a percentage.

EFFECTIVENESS KPI	2022-23 ACTUAL	2023-24 ACTUAL	2024-25 ACTUAL	2025-26 TARGET	2025-26 ACTUAL
Extent to which development approvals issued for registered places are consistent with the Council's advice to decision-making authorities	100%	98.6%	100%	100%	100%

DISCLOSURES AND LEGAL COMPLIANCE

SERVICE 1:
Cultural heritage conservation services

EFFICIENCY INDICATOR

Average cost of statutory development and planning referrals

The Department supports the Council in carrying out its statutory functions by undertaking day-to-day operations, projects and service delivery (under delegation, as required). This includes providing advice on statutory planning and development proposals such as:

- development or subdivision applications relating to places in the State Register of Heritage Places – or places that are the subject of a protection order or heritage agreement to which the Council is a party – to ensure retention of their heritage values; and
- planning instruments, including local planning schemes and amendments, referred under provisions of the *Planning and Development Act 2005*.

This indicator measures the average cost of providing advice to decision-makers on statutory planning and development proposals that may affect State Registered Heritage Places, which is a key regulatory function of the Council.

This indicator reflects only the costs associated with statutory referral activities and does not represent the full cost of delivering heritage services. The Department supports the Council with management and maintenance of the State Register of Heritage Places, promotion of State heritage and the administration of grant programs and the performance of additional heritage services is measured by the Department.

EXPLANATION FOR SIGNIFICANT VARIANCE

This is a new KPI, commencing 1 July 2025. The 2024–25 actual is backcast for comparison purposes, based on previous expenditure and service levels. It reflected a lower number of statutory planning and development referrals than what was received in the 2025–26 reporting period.

The variance between the 2025–26 actual and the 2025–26 target is due to a higher-than-expected number of statutory planning and development referrals which resulted in a reduction of the average cost of service.

EFFICIENCY KPI	2024–25 ACTUAL	2025–26 TARGET	2025–26 ACTUAL
Average cost of statutory development and planning referrals	\$4,751.04	\$5,518.31	\$3,891.23

GOVERNANCE DISCLOSURES AND POLICY REQUIREMENTS

PARTICULARS OF SHARES

No shares have been issued for the Council.

PARTICULARS OF SHARES IN SUBSIDIARY BODIES OF THE COUNCIL

There are no related or affiliated bodies of the Council.

LIABILITY INSURANCE

No insurance premium has been paid to indemnify any 'director' against a liability.

AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE

In line with the approved Heritage Council service charter with the Department, the Audit and Risk Committee (ARC) has been established as a key component of the governance framework for both the Department and Heritage Council, to enable achievement of the Government's strategic objectives.

The ARC provides structured oversight of governance, risk management, compliance and internal control practices applicable to financial and non-financial operations across the Department, the Heritage Council, the Western Australian Planning Commission and the Aboriginal Affairs Planning Authority.

It operates in accordance with its approved Terms of Reference, aligned with audit committee best practice and in compliance with Treasurer's Instruction 10.

It is independently chaired, has a majority of external members, including a representative from the Council, and met five times during the reporting period.

The following activities are undertaken by the Department and reported in its annual report:

- Act of grace payments
- Advertising, market research, polling and direct mail
- Asbestos management reporting
- Disability Access and Inclusion Plan outcomes
- Employment and industrial relations
- Major capital projects
- Ministerial directions
- National Agreement on Closing the Gap
- Occupational safety, health and injury management
- Premier's Circular 2025/17
- Pricing policies
- Recordkeeping plans
- Substantive equality (optional)
- Unauthorised use of credit cards
- Western Australian Multicultural Policy Framework
- Workforce inclusiveness

OTHER LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

PUBLIC SECTOR STANDARDS AND ETHICAL CODES

The Heritage Council's Code of Conduct has been developed with reference to the Public Sector Commission's Governance Manual for Western Australian Boards and Committees. The Code sets out the minimum standards of acceptable conduct and behaviour of the Council and its members. Department officers supporting the Council must adhere to the Department's Code of Conduct as well as relevant policies and guidelines of the Council, the Department, the Public Sector Commission or other relevant bodies.

Compliance with Public Sector standards and ethical codes, where relevant, is reported in the Department's annual report.

COUNCIL REMUNERATION

The remuneration and allowances paid to Council members are determined by the Minister for Heritage, on the recommendation of the Public Sector Commissioner. The Council formally meets monthly. The Council also allocates time each month for stakeholder engagement, strategic discussion or site visits, for which attendance is not recorded in this table.

Position	Name	Type of remuneration	Period of membership	Base salary/sitting fees	Gross remuneration
Chair	Darren Foster	Per annum	12 months	\$37,535	\$41,702
Deputy Chair	Leigh Barrett	Per annum	12 months	\$20,544	\$25,420
Member	Graeme Gammie	Per annum	12 months	\$20,544	\$22,936
Member	Alan Kelsall (until December 2025)	Per annum	6 months	\$20,544	\$12,261
Member	Flavia Kiperman	Per annum	12 months	\$20,544	\$22,936
Member	Rebecca Moore	Per annum	12 months	\$20,544	\$22,936
Member	Richard Offen	Per annum	12 months	\$20,544	\$22,936
Member	Martin Silk	Per annum	12 months	\$20,544	\$22,936
Member	Catherine Lezer (until December 2025)	Per annum	6 months	\$20,544	\$5,734
Member	Jillian Collard	N/A	12 months	N/A	N/A
Member	Pippa McIntosh (from January 2026)	Per annum	6 months	\$20,544	\$10,674
Member	Kyle Jeavons (from January 2026)	Per annum	6 months	\$20,544	\$10,674

Note: - Jillian Collard is a public sector employee and is therefore ineligible for sitting fees under Premier's Circular 2025/15.

- Gross remuneration includes base pay or sitting fees and superannuation contributions. It excludes expense reimbursements, travel allowance and training costs.

APPENDIX 1

LEGISLATION AND DELEGATIONS

Enabling legislation

The Heritage Council of Western Australia is established under section 11 of the *Heritage Act 2018*.

Administered legislation

The Council assists the Minister for Heritage in the administration of the *Heritage Act 2018*.

Other key compliance legislation

- *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972*
- *Auditor General Act 2006*
- *Building Act 2011*
- *Community Titles Act 2018*
- *Disability Services Act 1993*
- *Equal Opportunity Act 1984*
- *Financial Management (Transitional Provisions) Act 2006*
- *Financial Management Act 2006*
- *Freedom of Information Act 1992*
- *Interpretation Act 1984*

- *Land Administration (South West Native Title Settlement) Act 2016*
- *Land Administration Act 1997*
- *Maritime Archaeology Act 1973*
- *Mining Act 1978*
- *Personal Properties Securities (Commonwealth Laws) Act 2011*
- *Petroleum and Geothermal Energy Resources Act 1967*
- *Planning and Development Act 2005*
- *Procurement Act 2020*
- *Property Law Act 1969*
- *Public Sector Management Act 1994*
- *Public Works Act 1902*
- *Registration of Deeds Act 1856*
- *State Records Act 2000*
- *Strata Titles Act 1985*
- *Superannuation and Family Benefits Act 1938*
- *Transfer of Land Act 1893*
- *Valuation of Land Act 1978*
- *Work Health and Safety Act 2020*

Delegations

To promote a streamlined and efficient approach to heritage management, the Heritage Council has delegated some of its powers and duties as provided under the *Heritage Act 2018*. These cover minor matters that can readily be assessed against a standard or policy that the Council has set, with contentious or complex proposals escalated to the Council for determination.

Delegations are given to nominated roles in:

- the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage
- the National Trust of Australia (WA)
- the City of Fremantle.

These delegates can make decisions on behalf of the Council in accordance with the delegation framework.

APPENDIX 2

GRANT RECIPIENTS

State Heritage Grants awarded 2025–26

Metropolitan places	Type of heritage works	Grant amount
National Hotel, Fremantle	- replacement of copper dome - heritage professional fees	\$50,000
Cottage and Farm Buildings (Guildford Historic Town)	- repairs to dairy including wall strengthening, internal limewash and repair of doors, gables, fascia, gutters and weatherboards - repairs to dairy store including brickwork, roofing and doors - heritage professional fees	\$91,763
St Columba's Church and Hall, Peppermint Grove	- installation of air drain - conservation to internal walls including salt removal using poultice - heritage professional fees	\$33,176
Terrace, 8 Nairn Street, Fremantle	- installation of soak wells and drainage works - removal of cement render, salt vacuum and repointing in lime render - creation of subfloor vents - repair of damaged timber - replacement of front gutter - heritage professional fees	\$50,000

Metropolitan places	Type of heritage works	Grant amount
No.2 Substation, Murray Street, Perth	- repair and repainting of façade - reconstruction of original balcony and balustrade - reinstatement of windows - heritage professional fees	\$50,000
Ajax Building, 49-59 High Street, Fremantle	- damp remediation including plaster removal and repointing of masonry - structural works including removal of loose render, plastering, resin fix - helical bars and painting - heritage professional fees	\$44,941
West Australian Rowing Club	painting of exterior	\$31,728
Chamber of Commerce Building, Fremantle	- removal and replacement of timber roof battens and terracotta tiles - heritage professional fees	\$50,000

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Metropolitan places	Type of heritage works	Grant amount
Clontarf, Waterford	- mortar repair and steam clean to south external wall - drainage works - repairs to rear steps - heritage professional fees	\$27,350
Residence, 52 Mount Street, West Perth	- upper and lower roof replacement - rainwater management - door and window replacement - heritage professional fees	\$50,000
Perth Observatory	conservation management plan	\$16,000
Baker's Terrace (166 Lake St), Perth	conservation management plan	\$16,491
Cathedral of St Constantine and St Helene, Northbridge	conservation management plan	\$16,000
Chung Wah Association Hall	feasibility study	\$14,336

Regional places	Type of heritage works	Grant amount
Bunbury Women's Club, former Anglican Deanery	- treatment of mould and drainage works - removal of render on external walls - repair rendered items in windows and mouldings - carpentry repairs to windows, barge boards and scotias - masonry repairs to brickwork and tuckpointing - replacement of roof plumbing - heritage professional fees	\$55,000
Inlet Park and Chapman's Mill, Reinscourt	- reinstatement of dome shingle roof with fire-resistant material - limestone restoration including removal of existing cement render and replacement with limewash - heritage professional fees	\$110,000
Radio Theatre Building, Geraldton	- demolition and removal of asbestos - structural works including steel trusses strengthening and tiedowns - repointing of façade - roofing and rainwater goods - repair of windows on front elevations - carpentry and painting - heritage professional fees	\$100,000

APPENDICES

Regional places	Type of heritage works	Grant amount
St Mary's Anglican Church and Graveyard, Busseton	replacement of timbers and supports to bell tower	\$47,525
Chapel of San Spirito, Utakarra	- roof works including removal of existing membrane and replacement with new liquid membrane and new parapet capping - ground works including lowering of ground levels and new drainage cell - wall repairs including removal of cement, removal of non-permeable paint coatings, mortar repairs to match original and external joinery repairs - heritage professional fees	\$50,000
Freemasons Hotel, Bridgetown	- restoration of verandah and fascia - heritage professional fees	\$50,000
Fairbridge, formerly Fairbridge Farm School	- engineer's drawings - removal of sub floor structure, flooring and timber wall and roof framing - replacement of footings and installation of steel columns and beams - sanding and varnishing of external deck floors - heritage professional fees	\$44,809
The Rocks, Albany	- roof repairs - heritage professional fees	\$4,680

Regional places	Type of heritage works	Grant amount
St John's Anglican Church, Capel	restoration of flèche	\$3,819
House at 10 Turner Street, Bunbury	conservation management strategy	\$9,504
Southern Cross Post Office	conservation management strategy	\$17,600
Katrine Precinct, Northam	conservation management strategy	\$16,000
Glenbourne Homestead, Gracetown	conservation management strategy	\$13,068
Pemberton Timber Mill Workers' Cottages Precinct	conservation management strategy	\$16,000
York Motor Museum	conservation management strategy	\$5,600
Eyre Bird Observatory	conservation management strategy and building condition assessment	\$9,805
CBH Grain Silos (Bunbury Silos Apartment)	engineer's report and investigation	\$16,000

APPENDICES

Community Heritage Grants awarded 2025–26

Metropolitan places	Type of heritage works	Grant amount
Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale QR code signage project	implement interpretive QR code-based signage at ten heritage-listed sites across the district	\$18,206
Perth Modern Digital Heritage Trail	heritage trail development	\$9,780
State-registered Heritage Places along the Swan River - Research Project	- research the list of 50 heritage sites to be provided by MAAWA as per examples on the Swan River Heritage website - compile information and upload to the website database	\$9,150
East Rockingham Pioneer Cemetery - Interpretation Plan	interpretation plan	\$7,422
Robertson Park (Boojoormelup) Interpretation Project	development and installation of a small-scale sculpture trail, integrated artworks and interpretive signage	\$30,000
SS Pericles 3D Photogrammetry model	3D Photogrammetry model of the wreck of the TSS Pericles to be provided for interpretation of Cape Leeuwin Lighthouse and Quarters P104	\$4,959

Regional places	Type of heritage works	Grant amount
No. 3 Pumping Station (Cunderdin Museum) Interpretation Strategy	interpretation strategy	\$15,782
Eyre Bird Observatory	assessment and inventory of objects and archives, development of policy for provenance and ownership, consultation on Aboriginal items in the collection and development of a collection policy	\$14,505