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VC37**HERITAGE****Overview**

Pastoral settlement occurred at Carisbrook in the 1840's, although gold mining, in various forms, was the initial reason for the region's development and set the land use and settlement patterns that are evident in the shire today. Gold is proudly the origin of the Shire's name.

Heritage buildings, streetscapes and places provide the Shire and its towns with their distinctive identity and image. Heritage is also the foundation of the Shire's tourism industry.

Heritage of the shire has been documented in several studies including the City of Maryborough Heritage Study (1992), Shire of Bet Bet Conservation Study (1987), Talbot and Clunes Conservation Study (1987) and the Tullaroop District Heritage Study - Stage One (1999).

Whilst there are currently 11 buildings on the State Heritage Register a further sixty-one (61) buildings, objects, historic sites, mine sites and structures are proposed for the Victorian Heritage Register. Included is a cluster of heritage buildings in the civic precinct area of Maryborough and various buildings in the townships of Talbot and Dunolly. A total of sixty-four (64) new entries are similarly proposed for the Register of National Estate (some being different sites to the State Register proposals).

Issues

- Significant heritage streetscapes, buildings and precincts exist in Maryborough, Dunolly and Talbot.
- Maryborough Railway Station has become a heritage and tourism icon for the shire.
- Further heritage identification and subsequent protection in the planning scheme is required for buildings, streetscapes and places located in the Shire's urban centres.
- Cultural tourism in Central Goldfields is closely associated with the shire's heritage assets.
- Interpretation and awareness of the Shire's heritage would be improved by better interpretative signage and heritage brochures.
- Evidence of pastoral cultural settlement (eg homesteads, infrastructure) that needs to be protected.
- Deep lead mines located in proximity to former settlements are a significant part of larger cultural landscape.
- Significant aboriginal heritage sites are located in the shire (middens, scarred trees aboriginal rock wells and ceremonial site).
- Many heritage places in the Shire, which are in a ruinous condition, need to be documented to raise community awareness and attract funds for restoration works.

Objective 1

Conserve and enhance those buildings, works, streetscapes, areas, precincts, objects, trees and sites in the Shire which are of scientific, aesthetic, architectural or historical interest or otherwise of special cultural or social value.

Strategies

- Continue to identify and protect places of heritage, natural or cultural value.
- Promote recycling and the re-use of heritage buildings for compatible new uses.
- Promote the protection and management of Aboriginal cultural heritage sites and values.
- Utilise the Heritage Restoration Fund to assist in funding appropriate heritage restoration projects, in consultation with the Heritage Adviser.
- Continue to joint fund, with the Department of Infrastructure, a Heritage Advisory Service in the Shire to assist with expert advice on a broad range of heritage matters including heritage education and promotion initiatives.

Objective 2

Protect the shire's heritage from intrusive and unsympathetic development.

Strategies

- Promote sympathetic design and construction in respect to new "in-fill" developments in the vicinity of listed buildings and in heritage precincts and areas.

Implementation

These strategies will be implemented by:

- Include in a Heritage Overlay schedule those places listed on the Australian Heritage Commission's Register of the National Estate and classified by the National Trust of Australia (Victoria).
- Include in the Heritage Overlay schedule the recommendations of the various heritage/conservation studies undertaken within the Shire including Maryborough, Bet Bet, Talbot and Tullaroop studies.
- Use of the Aboriginal cultural resource management grid map and guidelines provided by Aboriginal Affairs Victoria as a reference document in the assessment of land use and development applications with potential to affect sites of aboriginal cultural significance.
- Use of a Heritage local policy to guide decision making in the assessment of proposed developments that have heritage value or proposed developments that have the potential to have a visual impact on adjacent heritage buildings or places
- Use of an Urban Design local policy in the assessment of development proposals to protect the heritage identity and image of urban areas in the shire.

Undertake further strategic work

- Complete the Shire's heritage studies including Stage Two of Tullaroop Heritage Study.
- Pursue funding to assist in preservation and protection of heritage buildings and sites.