

HERITAGE GRANTS GUIDELINES 2019

Adopted by resolution of Council on 16 July 2019

The Greater Shepparton Heritage Grants Program has been established to assist owners of properties listed as 'individually significant' or 'contributory' heritage places in a Heritage Overlay to conserve these places. The Grants Program seeks to promote conservation (maintenance, preservation, reconstruction or restoration) works that improve the physical security or appearance of a place, whilst being respectful of the place's significance.

Grants of up to \$15,000 are available but are generally only for 50% of the cost of works recommended for funding on a \$1 to \$1 basis.

You can find out if your property is in the Heritage Overlay by checking on the planning maps online website at: <http://services.land.vic.gov.au/maps/pmo.jsp> or by contacting the Building and Planning Department on (03) 5832 9730.

Objectives

The provision of funding for works undertaken to places of cultural heritage significance assists in realising the following benefits:

- enhance, protect and conserve places and sites included in the Heritage Overlay;
- provide financial and advisory assistance for the repair, maintenance, or enhancement of heritage sites included in the Heritage Overlay that have a community benefit;
- promote cultural heritage conservation by providing financial assistance to those in the community who may otherwise not be able to afford to undertake conservation works;
- strengthen and foster a sense of community identity and community ownership in the long-term conservation of local heritage sites; and
- increase public awareness and understanding of heritage places and sites in the Municipality.

Eligibility

To be eligible for funding assistance under the Heritage Grants Program, applications should satisfy the following:

1. places must be identified as an 'individually significant' place and/or a 'contributory' place in a Heritage Overlay;
2. owner approval is necessary for an application to proceed through the Heritage Grants Program; and
3. projects should be for works or for documentation projects, as described below.
 - a) works should satisfy the following:
 - be for conservation, restoration and/or reconstruction, including repair and conservation works that contribute to the significance of the place or object; and
 - be visible from a public place or improve a building or structure's external appearance, with an overall focus on external appearance; and
 - be put forward by the property owner or a lessee who has written consent from the owner and whose term of lease is longer than any completion deadline.
 - b) documentation projects should demonstrate a commitment to undertake urgent 'at risk' works and should satisfy the following:
 - be for specialist assessments or studies that would result in the future undertaking of eligible works; or
 - be for the preparation of conservation management plans that include a prioritised and costed works action plan.

(Please note, restoration or reconstruction of a place can take many forms, but always aims to return a building or structure to a known earlier state. This could mean repair of an early cast iron fence, replacement of a modern tiled roof with original slates, reinstatement of a missing verandah, removal of a modern carport addition or a wide variety of other interventions. However, it must be clear that the works go some way towards restoring the original appearance of the building. That appearance can be established through early documentation of the property in the form of building plans, photographs and drawings or through evidence available through an examination of the building. Please note that the Heritage Grants Program cannot assist with speculative reconstruction works in which the early appearance of the building is not known.)

Eligible works generally do not include routine maintenance works, unless that maintenance ensures the longevity of a place's cultural heritage significance. Eligible works may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- works to restore missing physical elements, including verandah and fence reinstatements (based on historic evidence); and

- works that ensure the physical security and improve longevity of significant elements of the place such as re-stumping, re-roofing, and replacing guttering, windows and doors, etc.

Works that will not be considered for funding include the following:

- works to Council-managed properties;
- works that have already commenced;
- new additions or extensions;
- routine maintenance considered to be for the general upkeep of any property;
- speculative reconstruction works where there is no evidence of the early appearance of the place; and
- internal alterations to buildings and dwellings where internal controls do not apply.

Assessment criteria

Funding applications are assessed on the following criteria:

1. Significance of the place.
2. Need for the works.
3. Community benefit, such as the conservation of a historically or architecturally significant place or increasing the public awareness of heritage.
4. Additional consideration will be given to projects that encourage heritage trade skills.
5. Capacity of the applicant to fund the works independently.

A judging panel will be formed that comprise members of the Heritage Advisory Committee, Council's Heritage Adviser and delegated planning officer. The Judging Panel will advise Council of its recommendations.

Approvals and permits

In order for an application for funding to be processed, you must provide a copy of your approved planning permit and endorsed drawings, or written confirmation from the Greater Shepparton City Council in which the property is located, stating that no permits are required for the works you propose in this application. If your place is included on the Victorian Heritage Register, you will need a permit or permit exemption from Heritage Victoria, rather than Greater Shepparton City Council.

All applications that receive funding assistance require that a temporary sign be erected for the duration of the works funded. The applicants are also required to make the building available for photography, which may be used in any Council documentation.

How to make an application

Application forms are available on the Greater Shepparton City Council website via www.greatershepparton.com. If you require any further information or need assistance with your application, please contact the Building and Planning Department or the Grants Department by telephone on (03) 5832 9700.

Acquittal

If your application is successful you will be required to report back on the outcome of your project to Council once your works have been completed.