

Heritage Grants Policy

As at 4 December
2007



POLICY

TITLE	Heritage Grants Policy		
DATE ADOPTED	6 December 2006	MINUTE	Minute 256/06
REVISED	4 December 2007	REVIEW	2010
RECORD	D/W no: 217361		
ASSOCIATED LEGISLATION	Section 356 (2) Local Government Act 1993		
ASSOCIATED POLICIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of Local Government Circular to Councils 06-32 (18/5/2006) • NSW Heritage Office Local Government Guidelines • Strathfield Council Financial Assistance Policy 		

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Title and Commencement

This policy is titled *Heritage Grants Policy*. This policy was adopted by Council 6 December 2006 and last amended on 4 December 2007. It replaces the previous policy titled *Heritage Assistance Policy* (Section 2) that was first adopted by Council in 2000. The following amendments have been made:

Date	Type	Minute
4 December 2007	Revision	269/07

1.2 Background and Purpose of Policy

The purpose of the policy is to provide financial assistance to owners of properties subject to statutory heritage listing by Strathfield Council planning instruments. This policy provides guidelines for Council's Heritage Grants Fund, which operates on an annual basis. This program is provided under Section 356 (2) of the Local Government Act 1993.

The primary objective of heritage conservation is to preserve items and places, which are significant to past, current and future generations. Heritage is important as it helps people to understand what kind of community they live in, what it was, and what it hopes to be. It also defines what is distinctive about a local area and its people and establishes identity.

In Strathfield Municipality, many heritage items and places are privately owned. Access to financial assistance from Strathfield Council provides owners with incentives to undertake conservation work. This is more likely to occur with a financial assistance program. Council's program enhances the quality of Strathfield's heritage and built environment for the local community and assists in the conservation and maintenance of historic properties.

Items and places listed on Strathfield Council's statutory heritage lists have been identified and assessed by heritage professionals as significant to the Municipality of Strathfield. Significance may involve assessment of an item or place's aesthetic, cultural, social or historic importance.

1.3 Objectives of the policy

The objectives of the Heritage Grants Policy are to:

- encourage appropriate conservation work that contributes to streetscape and historic amenity of Strathfield Municipality
- assist in urgent repairs and enhancement of significant heritage items and places
- assist in the conservation of sites and structures which the community regard as important
- encourage and assist in the conservation of heritage items within the Strathfield Municipality through funding assistance.

1.4 Coverage of the Policy

The policy applies to owners of privately owned residential, religious and educational properties, not used for commercial purposes, that are heritage listed on local statutory planning instruments.

1.5 Definitions

For the purpose of this policy 'conservation work' means the restoration of the fabric of a heritage item or property within a heritage conservation area and it's setting.

2.0 Policy Statement

2.1 Eligibility

Access to Council's Heritage Grants Fund is offered to owners of privately owned residential, religious and educational properties, which are not used for commercial purposes or government owned and are listed as a Heritage Item or within a Heritage Conservation Area on Strathfield Council's Local Environmental Planning Instruments including draft Local Environmental Plans (LEP).

2.2 Funding Limits

The Heritage Grants Fund is subject to the following limits:

- Funds offered to each successful applicant will be subject to upper limits, which are prescribed by this policy
- Funds are to be limited to a certain amount per type of conservation work proposed and are to be based on expenses
- The funds offered are not intended to cover the total cost of conservation work but to assist with the partial cost of conservation work
- Funding limits are to be applied to different types of conservation work to spread the amount of assistance that can be offered in a financial year
- The funds will be directed to those properties that demonstrate the most urgent need for conservation work. Council will set the total funds available each year in the Annual Budget.

Where no funding limits have been provided for a particular type of conservation work, a recommendation will be made to Council for consideration. This amount will depend upon

the proposed conservation work (ie the expense of the conservation work, the heritage significance of the property etc).

Funding limits to be applied to different types of conservation are as follows:

Damp proof coursing/restumping	\$1100
Restoration of exterior path/verandah tiles	\$350
Interior restoration work	\$350
Replacement of windows (sympathetic to heritage of building)	\$650
Painting	\$400
Restoration and/or replacement of damaged fencing	\$350
Restoration of roofing materials	\$850
Landscaping materials (for sympathetic garden)	\$350
Other - to be determined	

Where it can be demonstrated that the type of conservation work required on a property is excessive in comparison to other heritage properties, an increase of the funding limits may be potentially approved. Council will review funding limits on a regular basis and may change limits to account for increased costs.

2.3 Opening of Applications

Strathfield Council calls for applications on an annual basis. Applications to the fund are generally called at the commencement of a financial year and it is expected that work outlined on approved applications be finalised by the end of financial year period.

Applications are called by:

- Placement of advertisement in local newspapers
- Publication of relevant information on Council's website
- Letters sent to all owners of residential properties listed as a Heritage Item or within a Heritage Conservation Area inviting them to apply for assistance

Application forms and general information is available from Council's Customer Service Centres and Council's website.

2.4 Application Requirements

Applications to the fund require a completed application form by the specified date, with the following completed attachments:

- A brief history of the building (if known) along with architectural description
- Plans of the work to be carried out and how it will benefit the heritage property
- Photographs of property (current and historic), including specific areas of proposed works
- Estimated total cost of the work including copies of quotations
- Information on whether applicant is in receipt of grants or financial assistance from other sources eg NSW Heritage Office

For works where a Development Application is required, consent approval must be given for the development prior to consideration of the funding application.

Applications, which do not provide the above information, will not be considered.

2.5 Assessment

To determine which application(s) are to receive funding, the following criteria is to be used:

- the heritage significance of a property
- the location of a property (ie is it in a prominent location and therefore appreciated by many)
- the expense of the conservation work proposed
- the importance of a property to the community
- where it is demonstrated that urgent or critical work needs to be undertaken ie property is 'at risk'
- how critical the proposed works are to the conservation and preservation of the heritage item.
- information on whether applicant is in receipt of grants or financial assistance from other sources eg NSW Heritage Office.

Applications will be assessed by Council staff, which will result in a report of recommendations being presented to a Council meeting for consideration. Approval of Council funds for financial assistance must be made by Council resolution in accordance with the Local Government Act.

2.6 Accountability

The agreed amount of financial assistance will be paid by Council to the applicant after Council undertakes an inspection of completed works and is satisfied works have been completed in accordance with the approved grant.