

HERITAGE GUIDELINES



LOCAL HERITAGE ASSISTANCE FUND 2023-2024



## Background

The appeal and unique character of the Bellingen Shire has been recognised by residents and visitors alike for generations. The Shire is characterised by some of the finest natural and cultural landscapes in the region and is a place of great natural beauty and diverse landscapes. This is further enhanced by the large number of heritage buildings and settings, which reflects the region's earlier settlement history and timber and dairying industries. Consequently the Bellingen Shire has more than 300 listed heritage items, including numerous landscape features, and a Conservation Area in the town of Bellingen.

The Local Heritage Assistance Fund was established over 20 years ago by Council, with the assistance of the NSW Heritage Branch, to assist in the conservation and restoration of buildings or items that are of heritage significance within the Bellingen Local Government area.

Applications are called for once every year.

## Aims of the fund

Funding local heritage projects:

- Encourages and assists with good heritage conservation works and well maintained properties
- Promotes appreciation and interest in local heritage within the community
- Encourages works to heritage places because funding is provided on a contributory basis
- Supports sustainability and heritage tourism
- Encourages good urban design and well-designed adaptive reuse, sympathetic alterations and additions and infill developments for heritage buildings and items

## Available funding

The total amount of funding available comprises of a grant from the Heritage Branch, NSW Office of Environment and Heritage and a contribution from Council. Unfortunately the total amount of funding available is limited so sometimes not all eligible projects are funded.

Generally on offer is a dollar for dollar grant of up to \$3000, although larger grants will be considered, as will larger projects completed in stages.

Funding offered must be matched dollar for dollar by the applicant, however applicants can undertake larger projects and pay the balance. Funding will be reimbursed only after the project has been completed and all works have been carried out in accordance with the Agreement.



## Examples of previously funded projects

- Roof replacements
- Veranda reinstatements
- Reinstatement of original fences
- Repainted dwellings and farm buildings
- Removal of unsympathetic elements and reinstatement of original fittings (eg aluminium windows with timber, window hoods, metal ceilings)
- Replacement building supports
- Repairs to original mosaic tile-work in footpaths and shop facades, restoration of shop facades
- Repairs to buildings associated with the rail, dairy and timber industries (eg workshops, sheds, milking bails, milk stands)
- Works involving community halls, showground buildings, churches

Funds are not restricted to residential works only, but can be allocated to projects that focus on indigenous culture, agricultural, industrial, rural buildings etc.

Funds are also not restricted to conservation, maintenance and restoration works only. Projects such as interpretation projects, adaptive reuse projects, urban design projects and conservation management plans may also apply.

## Who can apply?

Owners or managers of heritage items that are either:

- Listed as a heritage item in *Bellingen Local Environmental Plan 2010 (BLEP 2010)*, or
- Included in the *Bellingen Conservation Area*, or
- Supported by your local Council's Heritage Advisor or other heritage specialist as being of heritage significance, or
- None of the above, provided sufficient background information is provided (i.e. not listed in BLEP 2010)

NOTE: You cannot apply for funding if you are a state government agency (but may be involved as a project partner)

## Eligible projects

Projects that are:

- For heritage item/s in a well maintained heritage streetscape or rural landscape setting
- Non-residential items that reflect agricultural, industrial, commercial uses etc
- For urgent maintenance works to avert management risks (eg severe deterioration, demolition, or demolition by neglect)
- For a heritage item/s with public access and visibility
- Part of a heritage group or a precinct



## Projects not funded

- New buildings
- Routine maintenance (eg lawn mowing, gutter cleaning or carpet cleaning)
- Projects where adequate funding is available from the applicant or other sources
- New commemorative monuments or works
- Purchase of heritage buildings
- Relocation of buildings
- Private headstones, unless there is no possibility of descendent support for the project
- Flood lighting of heritage buildings
- Purchase of equipment
- Movable railway heritage items
- **Projects that are already underway or completed**

## Common selection criteria all projects

Funding is generally targeted to projects with:

- Sustainable long term heritage benefits
- Public benefit and enjoyment
- Innovation and leadership
- Capacity and commitment to undertake the project
- Funding equity and cost effectiveness

## What you need to do to apply for funding

- Consider any tasks that could form basis of a potential project
- Read the application form so you know what information you need and if your project fits the funding offered
- Obtain **at least 2 quotes** from appropriately qualified tradespersons - ensure quotes include a schedule of works and all costs
- Fill in the application form (keep a copy for your records)
- Do some background research on your heritage item and project proposal (talk to previous owners, local museum, local residents etc)
- Provide background information on the heritage significance of the property to support your application (include for example photographs, details of its age, history, previous owners, previous uses etc). Historical information may prioritise your project, especially if the item is not already identified as a heritage item in *Bellingen Local Environmental Plan 2010*.
- Take before photographs – ensure photographs are clear and include the setting of the item and close-ups of the area/s requiring work. These photos will assist Council's Heritage Advisor to assess the applications. 'Before and after' photographs may also be included in an Annual Report submitted by Council to the Heritage



Branch at the completion of the annual program and consent to use these images for this purpose or other promotional purposes will be assumed unless otherwise noted.

- Plans and sketches – depending on the size of the project you may need to include these to show what you intend to do

## Any Questions?

Before you submit your application for funding, discuss your project with Council's Senior Strategic Planner Daniel Bennett on 6655 7300 or by email: [council@bellingen.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@bellingen.nsw.gov.au). If necessary, Council can also obtain further advice from Council's Heritage Advisor, via inquiries submitted through the Senior Strategic Planner.

## Processing your project application

Council will acknowledge receipt of your application within 21 days of the closing date

Projects will be assessed by Council's Heritage Advisor in conjunction with Council's Senior Strategic Planner in November 2021. Following this meeting, recommendations to support particular projects will be reported to Council for adoption. A funding offer and Agreement will be issued to all successful applicants, and any unsuccessful applicants will also be notified in writing.

## Application closing date

Applications open on **Friday 11 August 2023** and close on **4.30pm on Friday 8 September 2023**. All Applications must be submitted via Council's Electronic Grants Platform which can be accessed via the following link.

<https://www.bellingen.nsw.gov.au/Community/Grants-and-Funding/Heritage-Grants>

**All projects must be completed and all funding claimed by 30 April 2024.**

*The Bellingen Shire Local Heritage Fund is a targeted funding program. Projects must meet eligibility criteria, funding priorities and common selection criteria. However in exceptional circumstances, the Council reserves the right to recommend funding for projects that may not fully meet these requirements.*

*All applications and supporting material will be retained by Bellingen Shire Council and may be used for promotional and other purposes at the discretion of Council.*