

LAKE  
MACQUARIE  
CITY



# HERITAGE AND MUSEUM STRATEGY

2023-2026

## 1.0

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We remember and respect the Ancestors who cared for and nurtured this Country.

***Dhumaan ngayin ngarrakalu kirraanan barayidin.***

It is in their footsteps that we travel these lands and waters.

***Ngarrakalumba yuludaka bibayilin barayida baaduka.***

Lake Macquarie City Council acknowledges the Awabakal people and Elders past, present and future.

***Lake Macquarie City Council dhumaan Awabakala ngarrakal yalawaa, yalawan, yalawanan.***

Wording by the Aboriginal Reference Group and translated by Miromaa Aboriginal Language and Technology Centre.

Cover:

**Boating party from Maitland**, taken at the rotunda, Wangi Point. Circa 1900

Photographed by T Pywell, Hairdresser and Tobacconist, West Wallsend

Right:

Judith Franklin

Darkinjung

*Rebirth in Springtime* (detail) 2021

Acrylic on canvas



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# VISION FOR HERITAGE AND MUSEUMS IN LAKE MACQUARIE

Enable community-centred preservation, care, access and engagement with our past to enrich and inform our future.

## 2.0 OBJECTIVES

Lake Macquarie City Council aims to:

- become a regional leader in community participation, awareness and appreciation of history and heritage
- implement best practice management and conservation of heritage
- champion sustainable heritage development
- ensure heritage is proactively and positively promoted.



Former Virtue Motors Shell petrol station, Boolaroo.



# 3.0 LINKS WITH OTHER COUNCIL STRATEGIES

The Lake Macquarie Heritage and Museum Strategy is guided by external and internal supporting strategies.

## 3.1 Integrated planning and reporting

The Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework (IP&R) is a quadruple bottom line approach (economic, social, environmental and governance) to long-term strategic planning for councils, in collaboration with their communities. It encourages greater community engagement around the service levels and overall sustainability of Council's activities.

## 3.2 Lake Macquarie City Community Strategic Plan 2022-2032

The Lake Macquarie City Community Strategic Plan (CSP) is a shared community vision developed as a document in the IP&R Framework. It informs policies and actions throughout the city as we move towards 2032.

The Lake Macquarie community expressed aspirations to ensure local heritage is valued, enhanced and celebrated. The Heritage and Museum Strategy will be instrumental in achieving the strategic directions identified within the CSP, as follows:

- New development and growth to complement our unique character and sense of place
- We are proud of our city's heritage and cultures

Section 8.0 and the action table accompanying this strategy contain a series of initiatives that respond to and work towards achieving these objectives.

## 3.3 Arts, Heritage and Cultural Plan 2017-2027

Aligning to the Arts, Heritage and Cultural Plan 2017-2027 "Strategic Goal 3: Champion local heritage and history, this strategy will ensure the tangible and intangible heritage of the city's built and natural environments, and its social history and artefacts are accessible to all community members." (Arts, Heritage and Cultural Plan 2017-2027).

Council plays an important role in fostering creativity by supporting and investing in urban and public art, place activation, creative industries, heritage and cultural development programs.

It provides a clear pathway for partnerships with other key cultural stakeholders to address the arts, heritage and cultural needs and desires of our community.

The vision, goals, strategies and actions presented in this strategy have been developed through an extensive community engagement process, complemented by a review of regional, state, national and international models and ideas.

### 3.4 Relevant Council plans and strategies

The inaugural Museum and Heritage Strategy is not intended to supersede actions or objections in existing documents, but rather build on work undertaken over the last five years.

- Aboriginal Community Plan/Bayikulinan 2019-2023
- Lake Macquarie Community Strategic Plan 2022-2032
- Lake Macquarie Arts, Heritage and Cultural Plan 2017-2027
- Lake Macquarie Cultural Collections Strategy and Policy
- Lake Activation Strategy 2020-2030
- Lake Mac Libraries Business Plan 2019-2023
- Lake Macquarie City Council Environmental Sustainability Strategy and Action Plan 2020-2027
- Lake Macquarie City Council Urban and Public Art Strategy 2019-2029
- Local Strategic Planning Statement
- Lake Macquarie City Council Volunteer Engagement Strategy 2021-2024
- Lake Macquarie City Council Youth Strategy 2020-2023
- Ageing Population Plan
- Children’s and Family Strategy 2021-2024
- Lake Macquarie Events and Festivals Action Plan 2019-2024
- Rathmines Park Conservation Management Plan 2020
- Rathmines Park Master Plan 2021
- Toronto Foreshore Master Plan 2021 and Foreshore Redevelopment Program 2022
- West Wallsend Heritage Management Strategy 2020
- Cemeteries Conservation Management Plan
- Aboriginal Heritage Management Strategy 2011
- Teralba Conservation Management Plan 2022
- Catherine Hill Bay Conservation Management Plan 2000



Dudley miners lamp.  
Lake Macquarie City Council Cultural Collections.



Twentieth century pin collection belonging to Albert Wallbank.  
Lake Macquarie City Council Cultural Collections.





*Heron Island Suite.*  
Judy Watson. 2009.  
Donated through the  
Australian Government's  
Cultural Gifts Program  
by Judy Watson, 2016.  
Lake Macquarie City Council  
Cultural Collections.

### 3.5 Strategic directions for Aboriginal cultural heritage

The Aboriginal Community Plan/Bayikulinan 2019-2023 reflects the needs of, and future opportunities for, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community in Lake Macquarie. The purpose of the Aboriginal Community Plan/Bayikulinan is to set clear targets that aim to improve the overall health and wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living and working in Lake Macquarie, providing opportunities for equal access to services and foundations that encourage and support cultural identity. Together, through extensive community consultation with local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and the wider community, key goals were established. This Strategy will aim to deliver on goal four within the community plan.

**Culture, Country, Heritage, Language:** Aims to “strengthen respect, understanding and preservation of First Nations culture, language and heritage within Council and the wider community, and offer support to reviving traditional cultural practices throughout the city.”

In addition to the Aboriginal Community Plan/Bayikulinan 2019-2023 this Strategy is guided by the Australian Museums and Galleries Roadmap for Enhancing Indigenous Engagement in Museums and Galleries. The roadmap focuses on delivering self-determination for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities through truth-telling, sharing stories, cultural safety and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander-led programming.



## 4.0 HERITAGE AND MUSEUMS IN LAKE MACQUARIE

In NSW, the responsibility for managing and regulating cultural heritage is split between state and local government. Local government has responsibility for local heritage, through environmental planning instruments, regulatory services and community engagement activities.

The Heritage and Museum Strategy is a strategic framework to guide Council's management of heritage places and moveable collections in Lake Macquarie over the next four years. The heritage buildings and places within Lake Macquarie provide context for the historical collections in our care, which give us insight into the history of the area, significant heritage places and the activities that produced them.

The Heritage and Museum Strategy provides detailed actions and an implementation framework based on the key strategic directions of the CSP and the Lake Macquarie Arts, Heritage and Cultural Plan 2017-2027.

Through the CSP, the Lake Macquarie community has expressed its desire for local heritage to be valued, enhanced and celebrated. This Heritage and Museum Strategy allows Council to articulate a framework for achieving this vision, and to meet its statutory responsibilities for managing local heritage and collections. It also aligns with the Hunter Regional Plan 2041, and contemporary heritage guidelines for local government required by the NSW Heritage Council.

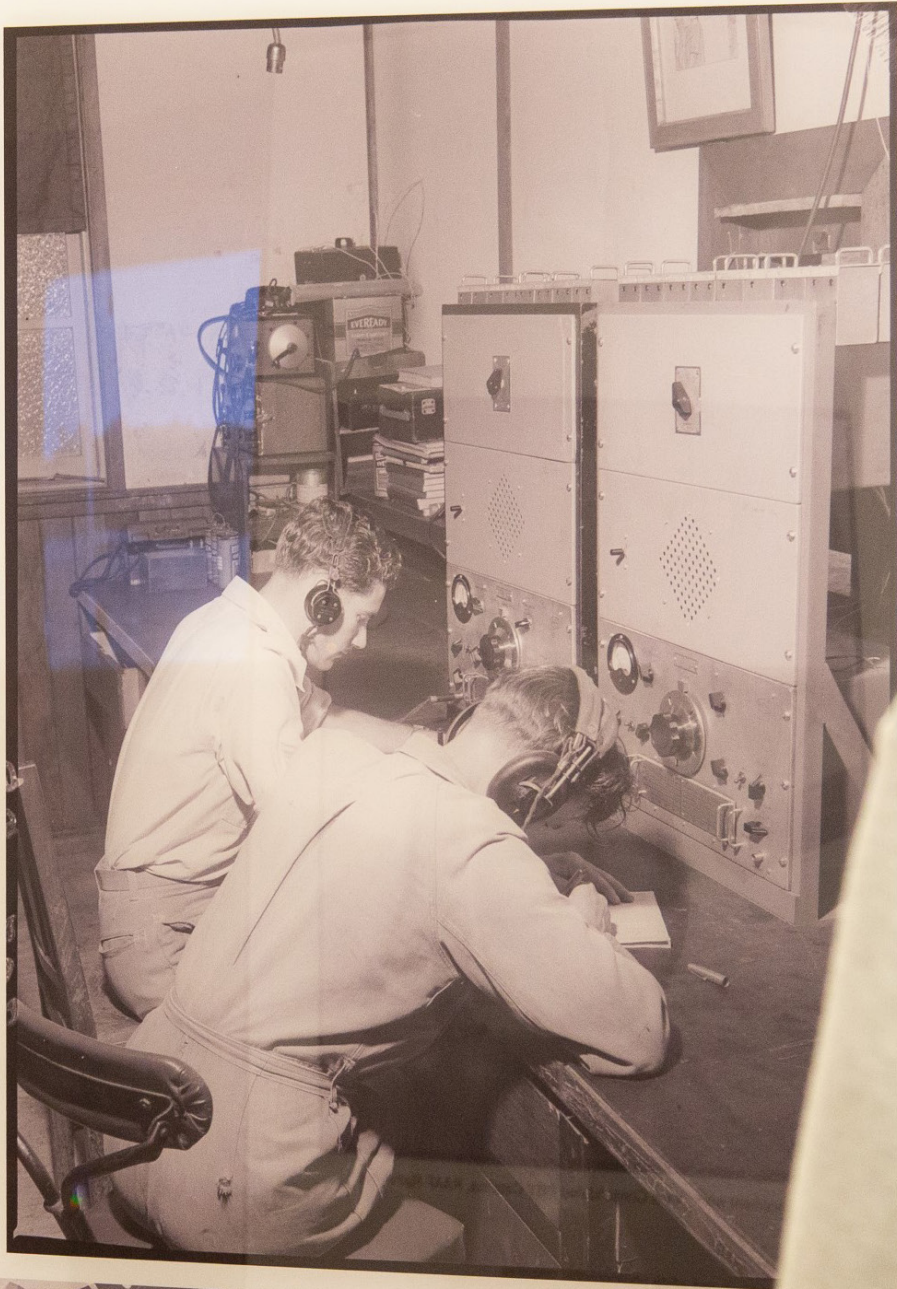
The nine recommendations for Local Council Heritage Management identified by Heritage NSW (formerly the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage) have been reviewed and used in preparing this strategy.

Lake Macquarie's history dates back to the first inhabitants, the Awabakal people. European settlement occurred from 1826, when the first land grants were issued. Both the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and European settlers have shaped the way Lake Macquarie has developed and will continue to develop in the future.

The management of the city's diverse and important history and heritage needs to be a combined effort by Council, the community and land owners. This Strategy draws on the Local Strategic Planning Statement, the CSP, the Aboriginal Heritage Management Strategy and the Aboriginal Community Plan.

**Note:** The reference to "heritage" in this document covers both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and European heritage.





Top: **Telegraphists at work, RAAF Rathmines**

Max Dupain Circa 1942-1944  
Reproduction of a black and white  
photographic negative.  
Collection of the State Library of  
NSW Mitchell Library  
ON 609/Box 12/nos. 800-889



Bottom: **Telegraphist operating a teleprinter, RAAF Rathmines**

Max Dupain Circa 1942-1944  
Reproduction of a black and white  
photographic negative.  
Collection of the State Library of  
NSW Mitchell Library  
ON 609/Box 12/nos. 800-889



LAKE MACQUARIE  
Awaba



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## COUNCIL MANAGED HERITAGE FACILITIES

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### 1 Sugar Valley Library Museum, kirantalcamyari (2022)

- Purpose-built collection facility and exhibition space
- Home to the West Wallsend and District Heritage Group Inc. collection of social history and mining objects
- One state or national travelling show
- Two collection-based exhibitions
- Capacity to care for 7000+ objects on-site

### 2 Rathmines Heritage Centre, nawayiba (June 2020)

- Heritage exhibition space
- Developing collection of objects relating to Rathmines RAAF base
- Exhibitions focus on history of RAAF base with some short-term travelling shows on state and national stories
- Opportunities to develop open storage collections
- Capacity to care for 300+ objects on-site

### 3 SEEN@Swansea, kariyawangiba (October 2017)

- Exhibition space
- Six exhibitions a year with a combination of local stories, travelling shows and community-developed exhibitions
- Limited collection storage

### 4 Morisset Hub (proposed)

- Opportunity to create a combined collection storage and exhibition space
- Partnership opportunity with Morisset Hospital Museum and Biriban Local Aboriginal Land Council
- Design storage area to hold 3000+ objects

### 5 Speers Point Library, milyaba (2000)

- Local studies collection storage
- Capacity to care for 2000+ objects on-site

### 6 Belmont Library, ngarrabangba (2020)

- Small collection storage space
  - Small display area
  - Capacity to care for 200+ objects on-site
- 

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### 7 Museum of Art and Culture, yapang

- Lake Macquarie's regional gallery
  - 30,000 visitors and a rotation of 17 exhibitions each year
  - 800+ items cared for on-site
- 

### 8 Multi-Arts Pavilion, mima

- Digital exhibition and collecting venue
  - 30,000 visitors per year
  - Establishing a new multi-media and digital art collection
- 

## OTHER HERITAGE FACILITIES

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### 9 Dobell House (Wangi Wangi)

### 10 Bahtabah Local Aboriginal Land Council

### 11 Westlakes Miners Retirement Village and Museum

### 12 Sunnyside Historical House

### 13 Toronto Railway Station

### 14 Lambton Colliery, Redhead

### 15 Morisset Hospital Museum

### 16 Catherine Hill Bay, NSW State Heritage Listed Precinct

### 17 Rathmines, NSW State Heritage Listed Precinct

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## REGIONAL HISTORICAL SOCIETIES

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- Biraban Local Aboriginal Land Council
  - Awabakal Local Aboriginal Land Council
  - West Wallsend and District Heritage Group Inc.
  - Lake Macquarie and District Historical Society Inc.
  - East Lake Macquarie Historical Society Inc.
  - Catherine Hill Bay Progress Association Inc.
  - Rathmines Catalina Memorial Association Inc.
  - Heritage of East Lake Macquarie Group
  - Westlakes Miners Retirement Village and Museum
-

# 5.0 LAKE MACQUARIE'S MUSEUM LANDSCAPE

Lake Macquarie is no ordinary city – we are a city made up of many communities.

- We have a strong Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community that enriches our cultural landscape.
- We have a growing commuting population that brings new ideas and expectations to our city.
- We have a strong sense of history and an extensive network of local community members who take pride in our past.

These core ideas help form our 'museum landscape'

In reflecting on our extraordinary city, a traditional single regional museum and collection facility is not a model that best reflects how our community engages with history. The Lake Macquarie 'museum landscape' is spread across our city, bringing local, regional, state and national stories to all communities.



Bush walking on a track in  
Watagan State Forest.  
Circa 1945.



## 6.0 CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

Council has consulted widely across the heritage and non-heritage sectors to develop this inaugural Heritage and Museums Strategy that will drive heritage and museum programming for the next four years. A range of engagement techniques was used to raise awareness and seek input into the draft strategy. Targeted consultation was through direct email to sector stakeholders and feedback from the Heritage Committee (10 October and 5 December 2022).

Historical Society members and groups interested in the heritage of their town, street, culture or family heritage have provided invaluable input into the strategy's development prior to the public consultation process or through the exhibition period. Groups included West Wallsend and District Heritage Group Inc, Morisset Hospital Museum, Rathmines Catalina Memorial Association Inc, History of East Lake Macquarie Group, Catherine Hill Bay Progress Association Inc, Redhead Men's Shed, Warners Bay Sustainable Neighbourhood Group.

Heritage NSW, NSW Department of Planning and Environment, The Office of Local Government NSW, Museum & Galleries NSW and Museums Australia were consulted for guidance and national direction.

Council would also like to acknowledge the contributions from Bahtabah Local Aboriginal Land Council, Biraban Local Aboriginal Land Council, Awabakal Local Aboriginal Land Council and members of the First Nations Community that have attended meetings with the heritage team.

The draft Heritage and Museums Strategy was placed on exhibition between 29 August-25 September 2022. During the public exhibition, there were 319 visits to the Shape Lake Mac website and the draft strategy was downloaded 83 times. 6303 people were reached via social media with 3713 engagements.

The key issues identified through the consultation process included:

- Inclusion of the management of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal cultural heritage
- Support for specific collections or sites and the need to make the most of underutilised

heritage assets

- Support for volunteers, the future viability of some heritage societies and fair allocation of resources to voluntary groups
- The need for collection repositories and the role of libraries and online resources in accessing community history
- Public heritage signage including addressing inaccuracy and physical damage

This consultation resulted in the following amendments to the draft strategy:

- Inclusion of Aboriginal cultural heritage throughout the strategy
- Additional action to investigate a heritage centre at Catherine Hill Bay
- Additional action to support and assistance to volunteer groups that lease Lambton Colliery
- Additional action to develop guidelines for public heritage signage
- Inclusion of Sunnyside Historical House and the Westlakes Memorial Mineworkers Museum
- Various layout and clarity changes including caption corrections

Internal staff consultation with teams from the Arts, Culture and Tourism Department, Integrated Planning Department, Development and Certification, Asset Management and Communications has been completed to ensure all staff have an understanding of responsibilities and have confirmed that the strategy is achievable over a four-year period.

Council would like to thank our local volunteer societies and historians for their contributions. Without their ongoing work and dedication to preserving and interpreting the city's heritage, we would not be able to progress the importance of museums, archives, heritage and history.



## 7.0 PRINCIPLES

### Conservation

Lake Macquarie's heritage places and collections are integral to the city's identity and shape its future. Council will protect and conserve the city's heritage for future generations.

### Investment

Lake Macquarie's significant heritage places and historical collections are a unique resources in Australia and represent an asset for the continuing educational, cultural and economic development of the region. Council will invest in this asset as part of the city's economic and cultural development.

### Reconciliation

We recognise that the city occupies an area inhabited for thousands of years by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and this is our shared cultural history. In fostering the common interests and shared futures of its residents, Council will, in consultation with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community, acknowledge and present the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander heritage of the city along with the presentation and interpretation of its European heritage.

### Integrity

The integrity of heritage places and collections can be undermined by inappropriate uses, unsympathetic structures, uncoordinated landscaping and visual presentation and inadequate interpretation. Such interventions damage the fabric, aesthetics, ambience and meaning of heritage places. Council will aim to protect the integrity of heritage places by ensuring consistent and sympathetic uses, physical and aesthetic treatments and interpretation.

### Environmental sustainability

Embodied energy should be conserved where possible through re-use, alterations and additions, and retrofitting existing buildings.

## 8.0 DEFINITIONS

### ACT

Arts Culture and Tourism Department, Lake Macquarie City Council

### AHC

Lake Macquarie City Council Arts, Heritage and Culture Plan 2017-2027

### CEMT

Cultural Engagement, Marketing and Tourism Group, Arts Culture and Tourism Department, Lake Macquarie City Council

### COPA

Community Partnerships Department, Lake Macquarie City Council

### CSP

Community Strategy Plan

### DAC

Development Assessment and Certification Department, Lake Macquarie City Council

### DMP

Destination Management Plan, Lake Macquarie City Council

### HSO

Heritage Support Officer, within Integrated Planning Department, Lake Macquarie City Council

### IP

Integrated Planning Department, Lake Macquarie City Council

### LLLAE

Lifelong Learning and Audience Engagement Group, Arts Culture and Tourism Department, Lake Macquarie City Council

## 9.0 OBJECTIVES

### **Objective 1: Become regional leaders in community participation, awareness and appreciation of history and heritage**

- 1.1 Ensure continuing community participation in decision-making through active communication.
- 1.4 Build a professional, diverse, contemporary, and engaging heritage and museum industry within Lake Macquarie.
- 1.9 Provide the Lake Macquarie community with a modern and responsive museum and heritage program that reflects the city's diverse identities.
- 1.17 Create historical spaces within already established facilities.
- 1.22 Provide opportunities for the community to tell their stories and gain an understanding of their past, present, and future.
- 1.42 Actively promote museum and heritage programs as tourism products, and share across Council channels.

### **Objective 2: Implement best practice management and conservation of heritage**

- 2.1 Continue to offer merit-based grant funding to encourage owners of heritage items and areas to undertake conservation and maintenance.
- 2.2 Increase knowledge and proactive management of heritage through the management, identification, and listing of heritage items and conservation areas.
- 2.9 Work with local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander groups to ensure appropriate advice is given in relation to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander sites, places, and collections.
- 2.10 Continue to develop collections that ensure quality local stories can be exhibited in Lake Macquarie.
- 2.12 Engage with state and national institutions, organisations and professionals to bring first-class exhibitions, knowledge, and educational opportunities to Lake Macquarie.

### **Objective 3: Champion sustainable heritage development**

- 3.1 Promote the reuse and creative intervention in existing and significant heritage structures.

### **Objective 4: Ensure heritage is proactively and positively promoted**

- 4.1 Develop heritage interpretation guidelines that focus on creative placemaking initiatives that are sustainable and able to be improved over time.
- 4.3 Seek advice from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities in the development of interpretive strategies and programs.
- 4.7 Develop a 'heritage identification' program for community members to bring key areas of significance to Council's attention.
- 4.8 Develop training programs for staff and community members to gain an understanding of heritage and museum practices.
- 4.9 Complete a range of heritage interpretation projects annually.

# 10.0 ACTIONS 2023-2027

## Objective 1. Increase community participation, awareness and appreciation of history

KEY STRATEGY	ACTION	
Ensure continuing community participation in decision-making through active communication. (Strategic alignment AHC 6.7, 3.2)	1.1	Continue monthly updates with all local heritage, museums and engaged community groups (Heritage Network).
	1.2	Develop a series of 'Your Heritage' open sessions, allowing community members to provide feedback and ask questions on museum and heritage projects.
	1.3	Develop an annual 'Your Heritage' survey to ensure Lake Macquarie's Museum and Heritage program is meeting the needs of the community.
Build a professional, diverse, contemporary, and engaging heritage and museum industry within Lake Macquarie. (Strategic alignment AHC 3)	1.4	Review 'Heritage network audit and collection review' from 2018, and action recommendations outlined.
	1.5	Ensure Council continues to engage industry professionals in the development of museum and heritage activities and programs.  This includes the provision of professional and technical advice to Council, the community and owners and managers of listed heritage items.
	1.6	Actively seek external grant funding to develop museum and heritage programs and projects in Lake Macquarie.
	1.7	Support forward planning for volunteer-led historical societies and museums to ensure long-term collection care.
	1.8	Assist in supporting volunteer historical society representation and equity across the city through advocacy and advice.

**Beauty Set.**

Lake Macquarie City Council  
Cultural Collections.





## and heritage

TIMEFRAME	RESOURCES	RESPONSIBILITY
2022, ongoing Start 2022, Aboriginal Community Plan/Bayikulinan ongoing	Operational	ACT
	Operational	ACT, HSO
Start 2023, ongoing	Operational	ACT, HSO
2021-2023	Operational	ACT
Annually	Operational and grant-funding	IP, DAC, ACT
Annually	Grant funding	ACT, IP
Ongoing	Operational	ACT
Ongoing	Operational	ACT



**Telephone.**  
Lake Macquarie City Council  
Cultural Collections.

KEY STRATEGY	ACTION	
Provide the Lake Macquarie community with a modern and responsive museum and heritage program that reflects the city's diverse identities. (Strategic alignment AHC 1.6, 3.4, 3.1, 3.3, 1.1)	1.9	Ensure that all museum spaces acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural heritage.
	1.10	Ensure engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff and consult professionals in heritage programming.
	1.11	Contract a minimum of one Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander practitioner in the development of an exhibition and heritage programs each year.
	1.12	Continue to engage with local heritage societies and Local Aboriginal Land Councils to provide opportunities for stories, objects, and collections to be accessible.
	1.13	Complete Regional Cultural Fund Digitisation Project and establish a continuing digitisation strategy for regional collections.
	1.14	Ensure one exhibition or program a year is co-curated with the local community.
	1.15	Develop one program annually that invites community members to tell stories, research their community or actively participate in the collection of heritage information.
	1.16	Actively engage volunteers in the care and management of collections.

Right  
**No Leaning Sign.**  
 Caves Beach Surf Life Saving Club.

Below  
**Oars.** Caves Beach Surf Life Saving Club.



TIMEFRAME	RESOURCES	RESPONSIBILITY
2021-2022 As new facilities open	Operational	ACT, CEMT, COPA
Start 2023 as an annual program	Operational	ACT, COPA
Annually	Grant funding	ACT
Annually	Operational and grant funding	ACT
2022, ongoing	Operational and grant funding	ACT
Annually	Operational	ACT
Annually	Operational and grant funding	ACT
Ongoing	Operational	ACT

**Glorious Lake Mac,**  
photographic book.  
Lake Macquarie City Council  
Cultural Collections.





KEY STRATEGY	ACTION	
<p>Create spaces that are destinations in themselves and provide the community with co-located services that meet their needs.</p> <p>(Strategic alignment AHC 1.6, 3.4, 3.1, 4.3, 6.1, 6.7)</p>	1.17	Complete development of museum exhibition and collection storage facilities at Sugar Valley Library Museum.
	1.18	Develop a collection storage facility and exhibition space within the proposed Morisset Hub.
		Investigate a heritage centre for Catherine Hill Bay.
	1.19	Complete collection audit on local studies, social history and family history collections to maximise current storage capacity and ensure relevance.
	1.20	Actively engage with new capital projects that may allow for collection exhibition or storage opportunities.
	1.21	Support local societies and groups in displaying and caring for significant collections.
<p>Provide opportunities for the community to tell their stories and gain an understanding of their past, present, and future.</p> <p>(Strategic Alignment AHC 3 )</p>	1.22	Provide assistance and support to the volunteer groups that lease the Lambton Colliery buildings at Redhead to maintain and interpret the existing mining heritage
	1.23	Provide assistance to the Westlakes Memorial Mineworkers Museum to maintain and interpret the existing mining heritage
	1.24	Provide appropriate support to Local Aboriginal Land Councils to develop cultural venues and programs.
	1.25	Develop semi-permanent and temporary exhibitions that tell local stories and engage with local collections.
	1.26	Develop Lake Mac Libraries program to tell local and community stories.
	1.27	Ensure one exhibition annually engages with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.
	1.28	Ensure two exhibitions annually include the collection of oral histories.

TIMEFRAME	RESOURCES	RESPONSIBILITY
2023	Operational and grant funding	ACT
2023-2025	Operational and grant funding	ACT, Morisset Hospital, Museum Volunteers
2023-2025	Operational	ACT, Catherine Hill Bay community
Ongoing, every two years	Operational	ACT
Ongoing	Operational and grant funding	ACT
Ongoing	Operational and grant funding	ACT
2023 - onwards	Grant funding	ACT, Community Assets
2023 - onwards	Operational and grant funding	ACT
Ongoing	Operational and grant funding	ACT, COPA, Local Aboriginal Land Councils
Annually	Operational and grant funding	ACT
Annually	Operational	ACT
Annually	Operational and grant funding	ACT
Annually	Operational	ACT

KEY STRATEGY	ACTION	
Provide opportunities for the community to tell their stories and gain an understanding of their past, present, and future. (Continued)	1.29	Ensure two exhibitions annually invite donations of local history objects (if storage capacity allows).
	1.30	Continue to provide support and opportunities for local societies and groups to exhibit collections and stories.
	1.31	Development of cultural collection online database to ensure community members can engage with objects and stories. Public access including historical narrative content, all objects, photographs, maps, and other items of cultural significance.
	1.32	Ensure all developed exhibition content, interpretive material, and new collection items are accessible online.
	1.33	Continue to provide community access to a range of local history and family history publications, encouraging knowledge development within the community.
	1.34	Enhance access to a range of online databases and information on local and family history, encouraging education within the community.
	1.35	Engage with local interest groups to ensure collections and services are relevant.
	1.36	Offer a range of family history programs annually.
	1.37	Ensure that community members have access to family and local history services.
	1.38	Engage with school students annually through exhibition and heritage programs.
1.39	Develop educational resources for schools, guided by teachers, with a focus on collection items	



TIMEFRAME	RESOURCES	RESPONSIBILITY
Annually	Operational	ACT
Annually	Operational	ACT
2022	Operational	ACT
Ongoing	Operational	ACT
Ongoing	Operational	ACT
Ongoing	Operational	ACT
Ongoing	Operational	ACT
Ongoing	Operational	ACT
Ongoing	Operational	ACT
Annually	Operational	ACT
Continuing	Operational/grant dependent	ACT

KEY STRATEGY	ACTION	
Provide opportunities for the community to tell their stories and gain an understanding of their past, present, and future. (Continued)	1.40	Develop History Week and other public programs to encourage additional visitation and interest in museums and heritage sites.
	1.41	Grow and expand History Illuminated to one of NSW's largest History themed Festivals
	1.42	Encourage and support heritage programs such as LakeFest, ANZAC Day and community events that celebrate our heritage and stories
Actively develop museum and heritage programs as tourism products, and ensure platforms for sharing stories, exhibitions and events are prominent across Council channels. (Strategic alignment AHC 6, 7, 8)	1.43	Develop Museum and Heritage Marketing and Communications Plan for local and regional residents and visitors.
	1.44	Develop history and heritage website presence to allow for the promotion of exhibitions, events, heritage projects and initiatives. Encourage the use of websites by local groups and societies.
	1.45	Define, develop and evaluate heritage tourism opportunities.
	1.46	Develop business plans for all museums and key heritage projects.
	1.47	Develop merchandising, commercial and community hire, and public programs for museums and associated volunteer organisations to encourage economic sustainability.
	1.48	Contribute to the development of Council's DMP and tourism strategies.
	1.49	Engage with state and national heritage networks, awards and conferences.

TIMEFRAME	RESOURCES	RESPONSIBILITY
Annually	Operational	ACT
Annually	Operational and grant funding	ACT
Ongoing	Externally funded	Lake Macquarie City Council
2023-2024	Operational and grant funding	ACT and CEMT
2023-2024	Operational	ACT and CEMT
2023-2024	Operational and grant funding	ACT and CEMT
2023	Operational and grant funding	ACT
2023 onwards	Operational and grant funding	ACT
2023-2024	Operational	IP, ACT, HSO
Ongoing	Operational and grant funding	ACT, HSO



## Objective 2. Implement best practice management and conservation of heritage

KEY STRATEGY	ACTION	
Continue to offer merit-based grant funding to encourage owners of heritage items and areas to undertake conservation and maintenance.	2.1	Administer the Local Heritage Fund program
Increase knowledge and proactive management of heritage through the management, identification, and listing of heritage items and conservation areas.	2.2	Investigate methods for identifying further items of historical/heritage/cultural significance and include in the relevant inventories.
	2.3	Develop online nomination form and guidelines for local heritage listing.
	2.4	Ensure identified key heritage precincts have area, master, conservation management or streetscape plans which conserve their heritage significance.
Increase knowledge and proactive management of heritage through the management, identification, and listing of heritage items and conservation areas. (Strategic alignment AHC 3.3)	2.5	<p>Maintain an up-to-date list of heritage items, with clear statements of significance, photographs, and definitions of curtilage, including the Local Environment Plan schedule and State Heritage Inventory database.</p> <p>Advise National Parks of additional items for its register of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander sites.</p>

TIMEFRAME	RESOURCES	RESPONSIBILITY
2023-2024 2024-2025 2025-2026	Operational and grant funding	IP
Ongoing and grant funding	Operational	IP
2023	Operational	IP
Ongoing and grant funded	Operational and grant funding	IP, DAC, ACT
Ongoing	Operational	IP

KEY STRATEGY	ACTION	
<p>Increase knowledge and proactive management of heritage through the management, identification, and listing of heritage items and conservation areas.</p> <p>(Strategic alignment AHC 3.3)</p>	2.6	Investigate options to review and photograph all local heritage listings.
	2.7	Establish overall policies and management controls for the maintenance and conservation of heritage-listed cemeteries.
	2.8	Ensure Council maintenance staff have adequate training and guidance in relation to the management and maintenance of Council's heritage assets.
<p>Work with local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander groups to ensure appropriate advice is given in relation to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander sites, places, and collections.</p>	2.9	Ensure Council's planning documents include appropriate controls and guidelines for the assessment of development associated with heritage items, conservation areas, and sensitive Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander landscape areas.
<p>Continue to develop collections through the Cultural Collections Policy and Strategy that ensure quality local stories can be exhibited in Lake Macquarie.</p> <p>(Strategic alignment AHC 1.6, 3.4)</p>	2.10	Develop suitable collection storage locations ensuring an annual increase in collection items can be achieved for the life of this plan if acquisition aligns with the Cultural Collections Policy and Strategy.
	2.11	Complete actions outlined within the Lake Macquarie Cultural Collections Strategy.
<p>Engage with state and national institutions, organisations and professionals to bring first-class exhibitions, heritage knowledge, and educational opportunities to the Lake Macquarie community.</p> <p>(Strategic alignment AHC 5.1)</p>	2.12	Develop six exhibition programs annually that engage with community groups, state and national institutions travelling/loan exhibition programs.
	2.13	Engage with industry professionals through <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annual GLAM and Heritage Symposium</li> <li>• Grant opportunities</li> <li>• Networking and professional development opportunities</li> </ul>
	2.14	Explore creative and innovative ways to interpret digital heritage trails and heritage tourism programs.



TIMEFRAME	RESOURCES	RESPONSIBILITY
Ongoing	Grant funding	IP
Ongoing	N/A	ACT, COPA
Ongoing	Operational	IP
Ongoing	Operational and project	IP, DAC
Annually	Operational and grant funding	ACT
Ongoing	Operational and grant funding	ACT
Annually	Operational and grant funding	ACT
Annually	Operational and grant funding	ACT
N/A	N/A	N/A

KEY STRATEGY	ACTION	
Promote the reuse and creative intervention in existing and significant heritage structures as being the cornerstone of sustainable building and development practice.	3.1	Promote retention and adaptive reuse of structures, where possible.
	3.2	Continue to promote the Burra Charter principles of doing as much as is necessary but as little as possible in intervening in heritage fabric.
	3.3	Work with the community to support the retention and conservation of Morisset Community Hall as a key feature within the development of the community hub precinct.

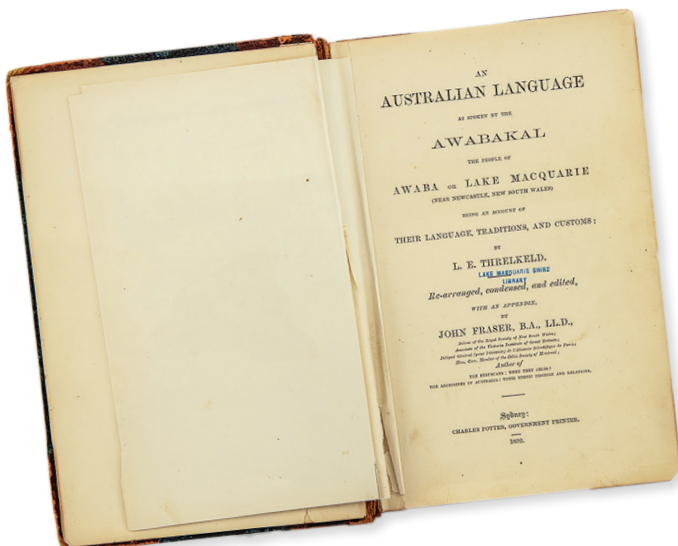
### **Objective 4: Ensure heritage is proactively and positively promoted**

KEY STRATEGY	ACTION	
Develop heritage interpretation guidelines that focus on creative placemaking initiatives that are sustainable and able to be improved over time. (Strategic alignment AHC 9.7, 3.1 & UPAS)	4.1	Development of guidelines that include a consultative and collaborative approach to developer, Council and community funded signage.
	4.2	Review of guidelines.
Actively seek advice from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities in the care and development of interpretive strategies and programs. (Strategic alignment AHC 1.4)	4.3	Investigate employment opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural officers within departments caring for and interpreting history and heritage.
	4.4	Review all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural content currently published on Lake Mac History website.  Engage an identified consultant to develop updated content.
	4.5	Ensure all heritage interpretation projects consider Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives.
	4.6	Ensure cultural knowledge offered is correctly attributed and suitable compensation is offered.

TIMEFRAME	RESOURCES	RESPONSIBILITY
Ongoing	Operational	DAC
Ongoing	Operational	DAC, HSO
Ongoing	Grant funding	ACT, DAC, IP

TIMEFRAME	RESOURCES	RESPONSIBILITY
2023	Operational	ACT, HSO, IP, DAC
2024	Operational	ACT, HSO, IP, DAC
2023-2025	Operational and grant funding	All
2023-2024	Grant funding	ACT
Ongoing	Operational and grant funding	ACT
Ongoing	Operational and grant funding	ACT

KEY STRATEGY	ACTION	
Develop a 'heritage identification' program for community members to bring key areas of local significance to the attention of Council for suitable interpretation. (Strategic alignment AHC 3.3)	4.7	Development of program concept and pilot.
Develop training programs for staff and community members understanding of heritage and museum practices. Complete a range of heritage interpretation projects annually. (Strategic alignment AHC 3.2)	4.8	Delivery of four training programs.
	4.9	Complete virtual underground project, interpreting West Wallsend mining heritage.
	4.10	Work within recreation master plans for Toronto Foreshore and Catherine Hill Bay to ensure suitable heritage interpretation is included on site.
	4.11	Add to heritage interpretation of former Rathmines RAAF Air Base.
	4.12	Investigate development of a heritage walk connecting Sugar Valley Library Museum to West Wallsend main street precinct.  Implementation following investigation stage.
	4.13	Investigate opportunities to restore the Lambton Colliery poppet head building at Redhead as a visitor destination.
	4.14	Support community-led heritage interpretation projects.
4.15	Complete heritage interpretation for Pirrita Island and Miners Point.	



**An Australian Language Book.** Landmark Aboriginal studies works were created in nineteenth-century Toronto, championed by Aboriginal leader and diplomat Biraban and missionary Lancelot Threlkeld's partnership. Lake Macquarie City Council Cultural Collections.





# 11.0 SUPPORTING CONTEXT

## LEGISLATIVE CONTEXT

Several policies and statutes establish obligations and provide a framework and context for Council's approach to the management of cultural heritage values in the city.

It is important to note that the management of non-Indigenous collections in Australia is not regulated in the same way as the management of Indigenous objects and sites. Australia is a signatory to a number of international treaties that primarily deal with the protection of cultural property during war and regulate the international trade in significant items of cultural property. Examples include: *UNESCO Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property, 1970*; *Australian Movable Cultural Heritage Prohibited Exports Register*; *Continuous Cultures, Ongoing Responsibilities: Principles and Guidelines for Australian Museums working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Heritage, 2005*, and the *Protection of Moveable Cultural Heritage (PMCH) Act, 1986*.

However, single pieces of unifying legislation relevant to local museum collections are lacking at both the Commonwealth and State level. While there are useful standards and guidelines available, such as the Australian Museums and Galleries Association's National Standards for Australian Museums and Galleries, museum management tends to be regulated by the acts, policies and statutes relevant to individual collecting institutions. This makes the development and adoption of relevant policies and guidelines relating to museum management and collection management in Lake Macquarie of significant importance. Council's museum management and collecting are guided by its Cultural Collection Policy (2020). This document sets out clear acquisition, deaccession, loan and ethical practice guidelines.

### Commonwealth

The City of Lake Macquarie contains one 'Aboriginal Place', located in the vicinity of West Wallsend, which is a declared area under the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act 1984* (ATSIHP Act). The site's location is culturally sensitive and is restricted for its protection. The site is also registered as an Aboriginal Place under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*.

The City of Lake Macquarie also contains one site, in the vicinity of Catherine Hill Bay, where marine relics

are protected under the *Commonwealth Underwater Cultural Heritage Act 2018* (UCHA). The act requires that land owners as owners of the site have custody for the relics, which comes with certain obligations to not trade or sell them, to not damage or destroy them, and to maintain them to a reasonable standard to ensure their long-term conservation. This site also forms part of the State Heritage Register listed Catherine Hill Bay Cultural Precinct and is protected under the *Heritage Act 1977*.

The *Australian Government Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act 1984* and *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* may also be relevant to Council's decision-making, in very specific circumstances.

### State

Recognition of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural heritage values of the landscape and traditional spiritual attachment to Country are now primary objectives of planning, natural resource and social, economic and cultural management legislation and policy in NSW.

In NSW, the responsibility for managing and regulating cultural heritage is split between state and local government. The NSW Heritage Council is responsible for items of state heritage significance listed on the State Heritage Register and for relics of state and local significance. Local government is responsible for local heritage, through environmental planning instruments including Local Environmental Plans and Development Control Plans.

The State Heritage Register lists items and areas that have significance to the people of NSW, while nationally significant places are listed on the National Heritage List administered by the Commonwealth Department of Environment, Water, Sustainability, Population, and Communities.


There are four legislative instruments that regulate cultural heritage in NSW:

1. *NSW National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*.
2. *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, 1979*
3. *NSW Heritage Act 1977*
4. *Local Government Act 1993*

### NSW National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974

Heritage NSW is primarily responsible for regulating the management of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural heritage in NSW under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* (NPW Act). The NPW





Ship, stores and RAAF workboat on a cradle at Silver Point, RAAF Rathmines

Max Dupain  
Circa 1942-1944  
Reproduction of a black and white photographic negative  
Collection of the State Library of NSW  
Mitchell Library CN 609Box 12nos. 800-889



RAAF 011-118 open hull workboat motoring into RAAF Rathmines

Max Dupain  
Circa 1942-1944  
Reproduction of a black and white photographic print  
Collection of the State Library of NSW  
Mitchell Library CN 609Box 12nos. 800-889



Servicing landing gear, RAAF Rathmines

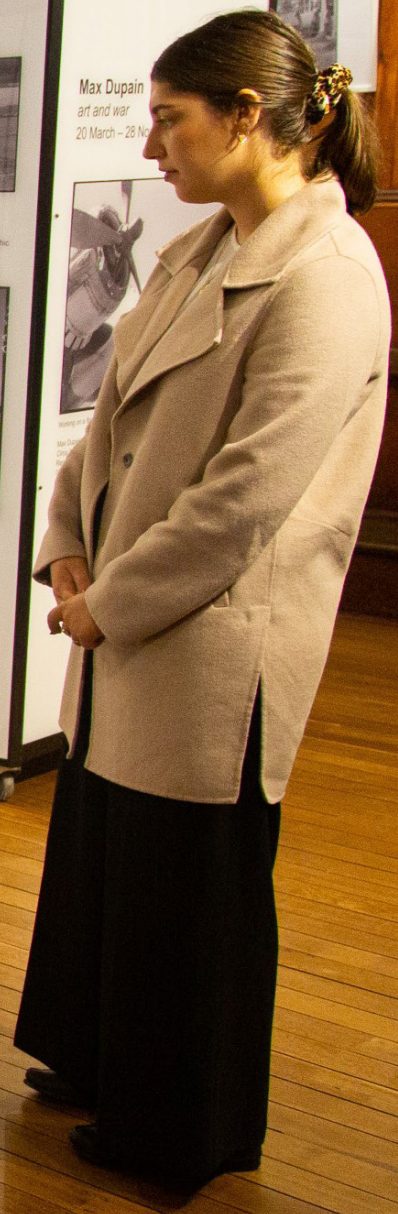
Max Dupain  
Circa 1942-1944  
Reproduction of a black and white photographic negative  
Collection of the State Library of NSW  
Mitchell Library CN 609Box 12nos. 800-889



Working on a Consolidated PBV Catalina, RAAF Rathmines

Max Dupain  
Circa 1942-1944  
Reproduction of a black and white photographic negative  
Collection of the State Library of NSW  
Mitchell Library CN 609Box 12nos. 800-889

Max Dupain  
art and war  
20 March – 28 Nov



Max Dupain: Art and War exhibition.  
Rathmines Heritage Centre. March 2021.



Act is accompanied by the *National Parks and Wildlife Regulation 2019* (the Regulation) and a range of codes and guides including the *Guide to Investigating, Assessing and Reporting on Aboriginal Cultural Heritage in NSW* (OEH 2011), the consultation requirements and the Code of Practice.

Cultural heritage value refers to the spiritual, traditional, historical or contemporary associations and attachments a place has for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people (OEH 2011:8). There is not always a consensus about the cultural value of a place as people experience places and events differently. With regards to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural heritage in Lake Macquarie, it is noted that cultural significance can only be determined by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and is identified through Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community consultation.

An Aboriginal Place is an area of land that has special significance to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. It can have spiritual, historical, social, educational, natural resource use or other types of significance to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. As of 2022, there are three Aboriginal Places listed under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act* in Lake Macquarie.

- Butterfly Cave
- Pulbah Island
- Lake Macquarie Resting Place

The Act also provides protection for Aboriginal objects and sites, whether registered or unregistered. Aboriginal objects provide physical evidence of the use of an area by Aboriginal people. Physical objects could include items such as stone, wood and shell artefacts that were used to make tools, weapons and implements. They could include also fish traps, stone arrangements, middens, scarred or carved trees and sites of occupational fringe camps that still exist today. Known Aboriginal objects and sites are recorded in the Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) and are protected under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act*.

Currently (2021) there are 1207 Aboriginal sites or objects in Lake Macquarie recorded in AHIMS. The number of sites changes dynamically as sites are reported by the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community or identified during survey or research work.

### ***Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, 1979***

*Under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*, Council is the consent authority for most development in Lake Macquarie.

Council itself is an important land manager and is

responsible for multiple reserves on both Crown Land and Community Land, which contain Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander sites or have other significance to local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

### **Environmental planning instruments**

The principal tool guiding local government heritage management decisions is the Lake Macquarie Local Environmental Plan (LEP) 2014.

Heritage items, heritage conservation areas and archaeological sites are listed in Schedule 5 of the Lake Macquarie LEP 2014 and regulated through the provisions at Part 5 of the LEP.

As well as the LEP, there is an adopted Development Control Plan (DCP), pursuant to the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, 1979*. It provides detailed guidance for development in specific localities, such as heritage conservation areas. These deal with the treatment of fences, colour schemes, replacement of vegetation, setbacks and other factors that contribute to the heritage significance of an area.

Currently, there are 351 heritage items in Lake Macquarie which are listed on the LEP and/or by state government agencies under s.170 of the *Heritage Act*. In the LEP, this number includes 241 local Heritage Items, three Heritage Conservation Areas and 12 Archaeological Sites. The process of adding a heritage item to the LEP is a lengthy process that requires an LEP amendment and includes a requirement for public exhibition.

In 2002, Council and representatives of Local Aboriginal Land Councils signed a Statement of Commitment that recognized the contribution of Aboriginal culture to the city's landscape and to its social and cultural diversity. The preparation and adoption of an Aboriginal Heritage Management Strategy for Lake Macquarie in 2011 sets out how Council and the local Aboriginal community will work as partners to implement the Statement of Commitment. The Strategy addresses a number of important aspects of Council's operations that interact with Aboriginal cultural heritage values including:

- strategic planning and conservation streamlined and inclusive development assessment
- managing public land

The Strategy identified and mapped Sensitive Aboriginal Cultural Landscapes using local knowledge and predictive modelling. This information has been incorporated into an Aboriginal Heritage Map layer within the LEP and accompanying DCP. The Map identifies where a development application



will be necessary based on the Aboriginal Cultural Landscapes that are mapped in the Strategy. The Map in the LEP is updated regularly.

### **NSW Heritage Act 1977**

The Heritage Act seeks to protect and conserve items of State or Local Heritage significance through the operation and establishment of the Heritage Council of NSW and its associated functions. The Act provides for the identification, registration and protection of items of State heritage significance which may include places, buildings, works, relics, moveable objects or precincts.

The Act also provides certain protections against unauthorised excavation for unregistered relics which are any deposit, artefact, object or material evidence that:

- (a) relates to the settlement of the area that comprises NSW, not being an Aboriginal settlement, and
- (b) is of state or local heritage significance, including historic shipwrecks.

Currently, there are seven state-listed heritage items in Lake Macquarie, protected under the *NSW Heritage Act*.

- Catherine Hill Bay Cultural Precinct
- Dobell House
- Glenrock early coal mining sites
- Morisset Hospital Precinct
- Rathmines Park, former RAAF Seaplane Base
- Wangi Power Station Complex
- WWII RAAF Radar Station (Catherine Hill Bay)

### **NSW State Heritage Criteria**

The NSW heritage assessment criteria encompass the four values of the Australia ICOMOS Burra Charter, which are commonly accepted as generic values by Australian heritage agencies and the heritage conservation sector:

- historical significance
- aesthetic significance
- scientific significance
- social significance.

The NSW state heritage criteria provide detailed performance measures to ensure there is a rigorous and unambiguous process for assessing heritage significance. These criteria were gazetted following amendments to the Heritage Act in April 1999.

### **Local Government Act 1993**

The advent of the Local Government Act in 1993 established the legal framework in which local councils operate. Clause 8 of the Act specifically notes several elements of a Council's charter, including that it exercises community leadership and properly manages, protects, restores, enhances and conserves the environment of the area for which it is responsible, in a manner that is consistent with and promotes the principles of ecologically sustainable development. Both of these notions are relevant to the approach Council takes in regard to cultural heritage. Clause 89 of the Act specifically requires councils to take heritage matters into consideration when assessing a proposed activity.

### **Local heritage studies**

Council prepared and adopted a city-wide Heritage Study in 1993 (which was reviewed in 2004) to identify the city's non-Indigenous heritage items and areas of archaeological potential. The study led to the inclusion of local heritage items in the LEP and the inclusion of guidelines in the DCP. Council also developed a Thematic History of Lake Macquarie in 2010, which clarified important local themes and set priorities, to inform further research of Lake Macquarie's heritage assets. As of December 2021, there are around 257 individually listed items in the Lake Macquarie LEP, including three heritage conservation areas and 12 archaeological sites

## 12.0 EMERGING ISSUES

The Australian Productivity Commission conducted an inquiry into the conservation of Australia's historic heritage in 2006. The inquiry identified two emerging trends in heritage conservation - the greater shift to adaptive reuse over demolition, and the growth in heritage tourism. The inquiry noted that rising levels of wealth, gentrification, advances in knowledge and education, and shifts in social attitudes could be expected to lead to changes in the way Australians view, and positively value heritage buildings. It was concluded that in the future, this trend would lead to new positive approaches to heritage items and greater levels of private investment in heritage buildings.

Conserving heritage places and collections have long been recognised for the economic and social benefits returned to the city, and recently, the environmental benefits of conserving buildings have been recognised outside the conservation sector. Conserving heritage buildings reduces energy usage associated with demolition, waste disposal and the manufacture of new materials and construction, and promotes sustainable development by conserving embodied energy.

This strategy has adopted a commitment to adaptive reuse and building renovation, in preference to the demolition of heritage items and buildings in heritage conservation areas. Demolition of heritage buildings undermines the effort to create sympathetic and appropriately scaled infill development. Wherever possible, development controls should be designed to facilitate the retention, renovation and use of historic buildings to achieve a liveable and distinctive built environment.

It is worth noting that many older buildings constructed of timber, concrete or brick have lower-scale embodied energy than modern buildings of glass, steel and aluminium, and often lower operational costs owing to better thermal mass, verandas, window and wall proportions, all of which support passive cooling and heating. Furthermore, one of the most important factors in reducing the impact of embodied energy is to design long-life, durable and adaptable buildings, characteristic of many heritage buildings.

The Productivity Commission Inquiry also noted that where historic heritage is conserved for tourism purposes, significant economic benefits will flow through the local economy. For example, hotels,

shops, and restaurants may be established in historic precincts to cater for the tourism market. The development of tourism infrastructure can in turn bring benefits such as the income stream to fund repair and maintenance. This is relevant to Lake Macquarie because there is both a viable tourism sector in the city as well as a critical mass of heritage items that offer products to the tourism market. Council's recently completed Destination Management Plan identifies heritage and history as one of the eight key tourism assets for Lake Macquarie.

The Australian Heritage Commission investigated the economic value of tourism and heritage and found that heritage tourism is a significant contributor to the economic development of regional Australia (Australian Heritage Commission, 2001). In terms of Lake Macquarie's role in the Hunter region, the city contains a critical mass of heritage items that offer tourism products, and many of these items are owned or managed by Council. Tourism and interpretative plans have been prepared to guide the development of such sites including:

- Catherine Hill Bay
- Rathmines
- Teralba
- West Wallsend
- Fernleigh Track

as well as currently undeveloped heritage sites with unexplored potential:

- Wangi Wangi Power Station
- Morisset Hospital
- Pirrita Island and Miners Point
- Richmond Vale Rail Trail
- Toronto Railway Station and foreshore precinct

Further investment in these sites will ensure Lake Macquarie continues to grow its heritage tourism offering and maintains its reputation for unique and interesting heritage tourism experiences, which in turn delivers economic benefits to the region.

Council has undertaken extensive research into the city's heritage, providing a robust and well-informed heritage management framework. Studies include: Lake Macquarie City-wide Heritage Study; Aboriginal Heritage Study; the Conservation Management Plan and Master Plan for Catherine Hill Bay, the Master Plan and Area Plan for West Wallsend, the Area Plan for Teralba, the Conservation Management Plan and Master Plan for Rathmines Park.

These studies are the basis for best practice and sound governance, so the need to maintain the currency of these studies is important.

## Implications for the Heritage and Museum Strategy

- Lake Macquarie has a rich cultural heritage that is being promoted, conserved and protected through Council's Community Strategic Plan, organisational governance, external regulations and planning incentives. The community expects that Council will continue to play a role in supporting a viable future for the city's heritage.
- In adopting the Heritage and Museum Strategy and actions in the Community Strategic Plan (2017-2027), adaptive reuse and building renovation is preferred to wholesale demolition of heritage items and conservation area buildings. Wherever possible, development should retain, renovate, and re-use heritage buildings to achieve a liveable and distinctive built environment. The Lake Macquarie Sustainability Strategy also supports this principle.
- The way that our urban areas have historically developed means there will be a higher concentration of historic (and heritage) buildings close to the centre of suburbs and villages. At the same time, the planning framework and recent higher land values can place pressure on heritage buildings within village nodes. Paradoxically, there are latent opportunities to recycle, refurbish and upgrade heritage buildings while meeting density targets and revitalising these village nodes at the same time.
- Incentives for management of heritage places could be expanded beyond the existing zoning incentives in the local environmental plan to include additional height allowances or relaxation of car parking requirements where heritage items are kept. It would also be prudent to support more intensive development on such sites in exchange for positive heritage outcomes. However, it should not impact on the essential characteristics that contribute to the significance of the area. The sensitivities of these areas are further heightened where there are areas of state significance.
- There is latent tourism potential in the city's major heritage items. These items can be further enriched as high-quality tourism product, bringing economic benefits to the city. The environmental benefits in conserving buildings (regardless of heritage status) is another tool in managing the environment and new construction should be balanced with the environmental benefits of building conservation. Conversely, Council development guidelines should offer innovative and high-quality guidance on designing for long-life, durable and adaptable buildings that offset the impacts of embodied energy and building waste that goes to landfill.

## 13.0 MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Council staff will report on progress against the actions in the Heritage and Museums Strategy 2023-2026 through the Operational Plan quarterly reports. Council will also report on this strategy as part of the Lake Macquarie City Council Annual Report, which is available on Council's website. Local heritage society volunteers, historians and other community members will be kept

informed of Council's heritage program via regular updates on Lake Macquarie's history website [history.lakemac.com.au](http://history.lakemac.com.au), and via Lake Mac Libraries and other regular newsletters.

The Heritage and Museums Strategy will be reviewed and updated in 2026.

***For more information contact Council***

Arts, Culture and Tourism 0417 519 283

Heritage Support Officer 02 4921 0422

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