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CC: Mr Graeme Faulkner
General Manager
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Draft Lithgow Local Strategic Planning Statement

Dear Mr Pfeiffer

We write to provide advice on Lithgow City Council's draft Local Strategic Planning Statement.

Heritage, culture, history and tradition are fundamental aspects of the identity of a place, and can include Aboriginal, non-Aboriginal, natural, archaeological, movable, maritime and intangible cultural heritage. These aspects define the local character of a place and help create and maintain a sense of meaning for communities.

Local Strategic Planning Statements (LSPS) provide an important opportunity for communities to describe the local character of their places, and what makes them distinctive and different from other places. Through the LSPS, Heritage NSW encourages both Council and the Department to consider how known and potential heritage places and values contribute to the local character and sense of place for their community.

We have prepared some general guidance for councils to consider in the preparation of their LSPS, this is provided at **Attachment 1**.

Heritage NSW supports many of the initiatives in Lithgow City Council's LSPS, including:

- preparation of an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Study
- engaging and collaborating with Local Aboriginal Land Councils and Local Aboriginal Representative groups
- protecting areas of character from inappropriate development and/or overdevelopment, and ensuring that planning for towns enhances and builds upon their existing character
- continuing to support Council's Heritage Advisor Service and reviewing terms of reference for the Local Heritage Advisory Committee
- promoting and encouraging heritage related tourism programs, events and conservation
- updating Lithgow's Community Heritage Study and the Heritage Schedule of Council's Local Environmental Plan (LEP) and including heritage controls in the Development Control Plan (DCP)
- ensuring that significant heritage items and areas are protected, and adaptively reusing some heritage items to provide incentive for their upkeep, and
- supporting initiatives and developments that encourage the activation and conservation of heritage items and places.

We believe there is an opportunity to provide a greater level of information on Council's heritage and how it is considered during planning. Areas we suggest that Council and the Department consider when finalising the LSPS are:

- considering the linkages between culture, heritage and tourism, and the opportunities culture and heritage bring for economic growth
- further articulating heritage as it relates to the character of an area, including potentially identifying clusters of places and items which contribute to the significant character of the place, and
- considering the linkages between actions and priorities, for example the ways in which heritage and culture contribute to attractive and liveable places, as well as local employment and community wellbeing.

This would help better align Council's local strategic planning with the *Central West and Orana Regional Plan*, specifically:

- Direction 16 – Respect and protect Aboriginal heritage assets, and
- Direction 17 – Conserve and adaptively reuse heritage assets.

Our records show that, in addition to items of local heritage significance and heritage conservation areas listed under *Lithgow Local Environmental Plan 2014*, the local government area contains:

- part of the World and National Heritage listed Greater Blue Mountains Area
- 32 State Heritage Register items
- One Aboriginal Place - 'Maiyingu Marragu' (Blackfellows Hand), and
- 716 Recorded Aboriginal Sites.

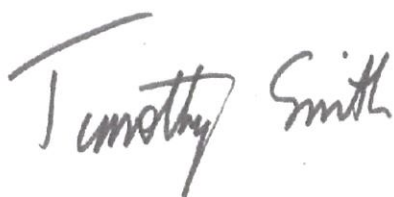
Care must be taken to avoid impacts on these items, places and sites, and consideration needs to be given as to how to mitigate any impacts where they are unavoidable. We can provide specific information and more detailed advice on the State heritage items, Aboriginal place and sites if required.

Heritage NSW has several publications which may be of assistance when addressing the heritage objectives of the LSPS. These objectives should be incorporated with environmental, social and economic considerations to achieve high quality strategic planning outcomes. These publications are available online at environment.nsw.gov.au/Heritage/publications/index.htm.

Additionally, Government Architect NSW's (GANSW) recent publication *Design Guide for Heritage* may be of use, this can be found at governmentarchitect.nsw.gov.au/guidance/heritage. GANSW is also undertaking a project to explore opportunities and approaches for *Designing with Country*, more information on this can be found at governmentarchitect.nsw.gov.au/projects/designing-with-country.

If you have any questions regarding this matter please contact James Sellwood, Senior Heritage Programs Officer, Statewide Programs at Heritage NSW, Department of Premier and Cabinet by phone on 02 9274 6354 or via email at james.sellwood@environment.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



Tim Smith OAM
Director, Heritage Operations
Per **Pauline McKenzie**

Executive Director

Heritage NSW

As delegate of the Heritage Council of NSW

8 April 2020

Heritage in Local Strategic Planning Statements

Heritage NSW encourages councils to take a strategic approach to developing and implementing the priorities, policy positions and actions in its Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS). To ensure that the LSPS provides strong strategic guidance with regards to both Aboriginal and Historic heritage, we recommend that it should consider the following:

Character Statements

Character Statements which recognise heritage and culture as a fundamental aspect of the identity of the place.

Planning Priorities

Planning Priorities which:

- identify Aboriginal cultural heritage and Historic heritage values and opportunities to protect and celebrate those values
- recognise the contribution which Aboriginal cultural heritage and Historic heritage make to the sense of place and belonging of a local area
- support the protection and celebration of heritage sites and values
- identify and celebrate the diversity and heritage of the many cultural groups in the community, and
- recognise that Aboriginal and Historic heritage and diversity are a cultural asset and potential driver of tourism and economic growth and the opportunities that this can provide.

Actions

Actions which:

- capture the identification, appropriate protection, interpretation and promotion of Aboriginal cultural heritage and Historic heritage
- require meaningful and ongoing consultation with the Aboriginal community to identify important values and potential issues regarding cultural heritage and connection to land
- require meaningful, ongoing and representative community engagement which captures the diversity of the local community
- require consultation with State Government agencies in relation to both Aboriginal cultural heritage and Historic heritage
- support the ongoing identification and documentation of heritage places and context early, to assist more detailed planning actions to avoid or mitigate impact on heritage items and places
- where possible, strategically identify key heritage places and clusters
- support heritage asset revitalisation and adaptive reuse
- provide guidance for sensitive heritage areas subject to major infrastructure or development
- identify funding and resourcing for Aboriginal and Historic heritage priorities
- allow for the development of plans and strategies which interpret, celebrate and promote Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal identity, culture and heritage, and
- develop strategies and programs to tell the story of a local area, and the diversity of its history and culture.

Naming of Public Authorities

Following the 2019 Machinery of Government changes, the names of many public authorities have changed. The Office of Environment and Heritage (Heritage Division) is now Heritage NSW. Council's should update their LSPS to reflect these new public authority names.