



# Council Policy

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| <b>Policy Title:</b>    | <b>Heritage Incentives</b>  |
| <b>Policy Number:</b>   | 11.5                        |
| <b>Focus Area:</b>      | Rural and Urban Development |
| <b>Responsibility:</b>  | Asset Planning              |
| <b>Meeting Adopted:</b> | 21 July 2015 - 210715/13    |

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## OBJECTIVE

To ensure adequate incentives are available to owners of properties which have been identified as having heritage significance to assist the conservation and protection of local heritage.

## POLICY

The retention, preservation and conservation of items of environmental heritage are beneficial and important to the community and for future generations. Items, locations, structures and the like which have been identified as having heritage significance are generally scheduled and protected by legislation such as the Heritage Act and Local Environmental Plans. Various requirements in relation to heritage items are contained within legislation, the most common being the requirement to obtain Development Consent prior to demolition or alteration of a heritage item, Aboriginal object, or a building, work, relic or tree within a heritage conservation area.

In order to encourage proactive conservation and management of heritage assets in the Richmond Valley Local Government Area, owners of Heritage Items or items within a Heritage Conservation Area shall be given some incentive by Council.

### **Waiving of prescribed Development Application fees**

Development Application fees (not including any applicable advertising, archiving fee component or the like) will be waived for proposals pertaining to restoration and conservation works on scheduled Heritage Items or items within a Heritage Conservation Area. These works would include, but not be limited to:

- roofing, waterproofing and drainage works;
- re-instatement of fences, verandah's, architectural features; and
- exterior painting.

The General Manager has the discretion to waive Development Application fees in relation to scheduled Heritage Items or items within a Heritage Conservation Area.

## **Heritage Advice**

Council receives funding from the Office of Environment and Heritage - Heritage Branch which partly funds the engagement of the services of a qualified Heritage Advisor. One of the key roles of the Heritage Advisor is to provide comment and recommendations in relation to development proposals. Council offers free heritage conservation advice to owners of heritage listed items from both Council's technical staff and the appointed Heritage Advisor.

In addition, the Heritage Advisor is available to provide free pre-lodgement advice in relation to proposed alterations/additions and infill development for properties which are heritage listed. The Heritage Advisor is also able to provide free advice regarding suitable management strategies, such as Conservation Management Plan preparation, for properties of heritage significance to achieve best heritage outcomes.

## **Local Heritage Assistance Fund**

Each year Council offers owners of Heritage listed properties an opportunity to apply for small grants to assist with the conservation or reinstatement of heritage fabric. This program is partially funded by the Office of Environment and Heritage - Heritage Branch.

Grant rounds are announced each March/April for funding in the following financial year. To be eligible, the project must have a current heritage listing, or be on an interim heritage list, and be located within the Richmond Valley Council area.

Grants are offered on a dollar-for-dollar basis, usually up to a maximum amount of \$2,000, however, larger grants may be offered towards more significant or high priority projects on a two dollar - for dollar basis up to \$10,000.

Projects must be completed, and a grant claim made by 15 April in the financial year the grant was offered and no extensions are available. Grants will be paid on lodgement of a written claim that describes the project and includes evidence demonstrating satisfactory completion.

The ongoing provision of the Local Heritage Assistance Fund will be subject to budget provision being made from year to year.

## **REVIEW**

This policy will be reviewed by Council at the time of any relevant legislative changes, compliance requirements or at least every four years.