HERITAGE

Key Issues and Influences

Many of Moorabool Shire’s towns have significant cultural heritage assets including historic buildings, heritage streetscapes, Avenues of Honour and individual trees, and heritage landscape much of which has strong associations with gold discovery and the highway route to Ballarat. These heritage assets positively add to tourism in Moorabool Shire.

Moorabool has geological, botanical, and zoological sites of scientific and cultural importance. There are numerous sites of aboriginal heritage within the Shire including burials, rock art, occupation sites and scar trees.

Heritage studies exist only for the eastern section of Moorabool Shire taking in the old Shire of Bacchus Marsh boundaries.

Objective—Enhance and Preserve Cultural Heritage

To preserve, promote, and enhance places of heritage significance including those of historical, aesthetic, architectural, scientific, and/or social value.

Strategies

- Ensure new development is sympathetic to existing heritage places and makes a positive contribution to its heritage value.

- Where a permit is required for demolition/significant alterations of a heritage place, an application must be supported with documentation which demonstrates:
  - That the demolition/alterations will contribute to the long-term conservation of the significant fabric and/or part of the building.
  - That the demolition/alterations involve later inappropriate modifications to the heritage place.
  - That any cultural heritage significance of the place will be enhanced.
  - That any significant fabric to be unavoidably removed as part of the demolition/alterations can be re-instated.
  - A heritage impact statement may be required to be prepared, by a person/s of suitable experience and qualification in heritage architecture/interpretation.

- Protect important landscape features, views and built heritage including conservation of natural environment that have significant geological, botanical, zoological or other scientific importance.

- Encourage replanting of a similar type of tree where the removal of a significant tree is unavoidable.

- Protect known and identified sites of Aboriginal cultural heritage, including archaeological and historical places.

- Protect significant built heritage assets and streetscapes especially in Bacchus Marsh, Ballan, Blackwood, Gordon, and Mt Egerton.

Implementation

Zones and Overlays

Specific application of zones and overlays to achieve the strategic objectives includes:

- Apply the Heritage Overlay (HO) to protect significant buildings, heritage precincts, sites, areas, and trees identified in relevant heritage studies.
Further Strategic Work

- Undertake heritage studies in the areas of the Shire not covered by the Bacchus Marsh Heritage Study including the towns of Ballan, Myrniong, Blackwood, Gordon, and Mount Egerton.

- Undertake heritage studies for the heritage precinct areas in the Bacchus Marsh Heritage Study not carried forward in the C6 heritage amendment.

Other Actions

- Raise the awareness of the importance of the Shire’s heritage and cultural qualities as critical factors in building a greater sense of community, identity, and attachment.

- Pursue registration of the Bacchus Marsh Avenue of Honour on the Victorian State Heritage Register.