

CITY OF MELVILLE

Local Heritage Survey 2019: Answers to frequently asked questions

1. What's a Local Heritage Survey?

Local Heritage Surveys (formerly known as Local Government Inventories, Municipal Inventories or Municipal Heritage Inventories) are buildings or places which, in the opinion of the local government, are of cultural heritage significance.

Local Heritage Surveys can help us work with private owners to manage heritage places. Surveys are compiled to “tell the stories” of their districts, rather than serve as blunt instruments for control of development.

2. What's Cultural Heritage Significance?

Cultural Heritage Significance is the aesthetic, historic, scientific or social significance a place may have for present and future generations. Cultural heritage extends beyond buildings and can include landscapes, artefacts and cultural institutes. We recognize a broad scope of listings, from landscape features and parks to historic buildings or structures.

3. Why is the City preparing a Local Heritage Survey?

Every local government in Western Australia is required under Section 45 of the *Heritage of Western Australia Act 1990* to prepare a list of places of local heritage significance. The Act also requires that the list be updated every 4 years. As our last such document dates to 2014, it's time for us to prepare an updated version.

4. What's the difference between the Local Heritage Survey and the Heritage List?

Surveys are compiled to “tell the stories” of their districts, rather than serve as instruments for control of development.

A survey makes management recommendations. There are no binding implications for owners, who are free to develop their properties in accordance with the normal planning scheme provisions which apply to all properties in the City.

As part of the listing process, the history of each place is carefully researched. You may find out some interesting things about your property should it be included!

The Heritage List is different. This list is part of the City's planning scheme and it comprises the best of places in the Local Heritage Survey. Properties on the Heritage List have significant heritage value and are worthy of some protection. A wide range of development options remains possible under these listings.

Only fully informed and consenting owners would have properties listed in the scheme.

	Local Heritage Survey	Heritage List
Heritage Management Recommendations	Yes	Yes
Need for formal Development Application	Not beyond normal requirements	Yes for some works such as demolition
Funding/subsidies	No	No
Free development advice from heritage specialist	Possible by appointment	Possible by appointment

5. What if I would like to see the heritage qualities of my property better protected?

You should consider nominating your place for the Heritage List.

6. What about the State Register of Heritage Places?

Just as the listing of a place in the Local Heritage Survey is recognition of the importance of a place to the local district, the listing of a place on the State Register recognises the significance of a place to the whole of the state of Western Australia.

Only places of exceptional value in fine condition are recognised on the State Register. Local examples include Heathcote, the Applecross District Hall, Wireless Hill Park and the Miller Bakehouse.

The development and even the maintenance of State Registered places are carefully guided by the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage. While this sounds onerous to some at first, there are many benefits for owners, including significantly higher property values, and the prestige associated with owning buildings of recognised heritage value.

The State Register of Heritage Places is administered by the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage. Completely independent from the City, this department determines the suitability a nominated place for inclusion on the State Register.

It's entirely possible for a place to be listed in the Local Heritage Survey, the City's planning scheme, and on the State Register at the same time.

8. Can a place be listed in the Local Heritage Survey without the owner's consent?

No, the City won't usually list a place if the owner objects. The only exceptions are for places of exceptional heritage significance.

Having said that, there's no need to fear a listing should it be suggested as there are no formal development restrictions that follow from the Local Heritage Survey. Indeed, a listing may well be the perfect opportunity for an owner to learn more about the history of his or her property, and receive free of charge, expert guidance in its restoration and/or improvement!

The City of Melville has adopted an open and transparent approach to the Local Heritage Survey, consulting with all affected owners.

There are many stages in consultation. Owners of properties proposed for listing are individually consulted, and the wider community is consulted more broadly. Councillors will examine the issues raised during consultation and make decisions if necessary.

9. Who can nominate a place for listing and what is the process?

Any member of the community can nominate a place for inclusion on the Local Government Inventory. Just be sure to reach us by 21 June 2019.

Your submission does not need to be more than a paragraph or two. Start with your full name, and your interest in the place you're nominating. Are you the owner, for example? We'll also need the address of the place, plus a short description of it. The best submissions give us a sense of why the place might have heritage significance to the area. Here's an example:

I'm JC Smith, owner of the dwelling at 299 Sample Street, Sampleton. My house dates to the 1920s and is in excellent condition, with most of the original materials intact. Our records show that the house originally belonged to Mr Bignotes, who owned the general store on nearby Corner Street for 30 years.

Should a place be considered significant, the City of Melville will contact the owner of the place nominated and seek their consent to list.

Once the public consultation period is closed and further research is complete, a final version of the Local Heritage Survey and Heritage List will be put to Council for adoption.

We'll then make the final Local Heritage Survey available for public perusal at the Civic Centre and at our libraries. A copy of the survey is also forwarded to the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage.