

Heritage areas

What is a heritage area?

A heritage area is an area that has been assessed as having cultural heritage significance, within which it may be necessary to apply special controls to conserve and enhance the streetscape(s), key heritage features/elements and notable character.

A heritage area may contain elements of only minor individual significance but heightened collective significance. It may also include elements of little or no significance. The places that make or do not make a contribution to the area will be clearly identified in the heritage assessment for the heritage area.

How is a heritage area assessed?

Cultural heritage significance is assessed on the aesthetic, historic, social and scientific values of a place. The Heritage Council of WA has developed criteria to assess the heritage significance of places and areas at a local level. These criteria adhere to well-established 'best practice' in the identification and assessment of heritage places and areas in WA and throughout Australia, both at the State and local levels. The level of contribution of each place to the significance of the area is determined by its heritage values and with reference to the issues of rarity, representativeness, authenticity and condition/integrity.

Why designate a heritage area?

The objective of identifying and designating a heritage area is to protect significant contributory elements of the area and to sensitively accommodate change - not prevent it.

Contributory buildings – what does this mean?

A contributory building means a place that makes a positive contribution to the cultural heritage significance and heritage character of a heritage area. Individually these places are not necessarily of particular heritage significance, but they do possess collective significance within their streetscape context. For further information see the information sheet on contributory buildings.

Non-contributory buildings – what does this mean?

A non-contributory building is a place that does not contribute to the cultural heritage significance and heritage character of a heritage area. For further information see the information sheet on non-contributory buildings.

What are the implications?

Designating a heritage area provides statutory protection for that area – focused on its heritage values and significance. When assessing any development application for that area, the significance of the area will be taken into account.