



Municipal Heritage Inventory (2011) Review Process Information Sheet



The Shire of Denmark is currently reviewing its Municipal Heritage Inventory (2011).

This information sheet provides information on the current Municipal Heritage Inventory (2011), what listing means and the review process.



The Shire Of Denmark's Municipal Heritage Inventory (2011) – What Is It?

The Shire of Denmark's Municipal Heritage Inventory (MHI) is a list of places that the community recognises as having local cultural heritage significance - noting such significance may be the aesthetic, historic, scientific or social significance that the place may have for present and future generations.

The Shire's MHI (2011) includes a brief history of the Shire plus 123 place records, which briefly locate and describe each place, outline its significance and provide a recommendation for the management of its cultural heritage values. The MHI (2011) was adopted by Council at the Ordinary Meeting held on 28 June 2011 (Res No: 150611), thus superseding the 1999 version of the MHI.

What Is Heritage And Why Does It Matter?

Our heritage is “the stuff we want to keep” in order to remember and record our past, and to provide a foundation for the future. They are the things that are important to our local cultural identity.

Heritage matters as it represents the kind of community we live in; what it was in the past; what is distinctive about the area and its people; and because it gives the community a sense of identity.

How Is A Place Identified As Having Cultural Heritage Significance?

Cultural heritage significance is assessed on the aesthetic, historic, social and scientific values of a place. Places that are considered by the Shire of Denmark, in consultation with the community, to have important heritage values are listed in the MHI.

The current MHI assigns a level of significance to each place having regard to the following:

- **Exceptional Significance**

Essential to the heritage of the locality. Rare or outstanding example. The place should be retained and conserved unless there is no feasible and prudent alternative to doing otherwise. Any alterations or extensions should reinforce the significance of the place, and be in accordance with a Conservation Plan (if one exists for the place).

- **Considerable Significance**

Very important to the heritage of the locality. High degree of integrity/authenticity. Conservation of the place is highly desirable. Any alterations or extensions should reinforce the significance of the place.

- **Some/Moderate Significance**

Contributes to the heritage of the locality. Has some altered or modified elements, not necessarily detracting from the overall significance of the item. Conservation of the place is desirable. Any alterations or extensions should reinforce the significance of the place, and original fabric should be retained wherever feasible.

- **Little Significance**

Does not fulfil the criteria for entry in the local Heritage List. Photographically record prior to major development or demolition. Recognise and interpret the site if possible.

At this stage the Management Categories that will be assigned to listings in the reviewed MHI have not been determined, however it is highly likely the above Management Categories will be retained as they are consistent with the recommendations from the State Heritage Office.

How Do I Know If My Property Is Listed On The MHI?

A copy of the current MHI is available on the Shire of Denmark website (www.denmark.wa.gov.au/heritage), at the Shire offices and the Denmark Historical Society located at No. 16 Mitchell Street, Denmark. Data from the Shire's MHI is also available via searching the database on the State Heritage Office's website (www.inherit.stateheritage.wa.gov.au/public).

If a property is listed on the current MHI, the Shire will write to the registered landowner(s) as part of the review process inviting comment on the current listing – which can include providing comments in relation to re-listing, deleting or amending the information contained in the current MHI.

What Will The Current Review Process Involve?

Section 45 of the Heritage of Western Australia Act 1990 requires a MHI Review process to be undertaken every four (4) years. It will involve community consultation that informs and empowers the community by calling for comments on the current listings and nominations for new places to be considered in an updated MHI.

The Shire's Municipal Heritage Inventory Advisory Committee will then consider all comments, undertake additional research as required in relation to any new nominations and make a recommendation(s) to Council on the draft MHI to facilitate public comment on in due course.

The public and all landowners of places listed in the draft MHI will be provided the opportunity to comment on the draft review report before it is considered by Council for final adoption.

Can A Place Be Nominated For Inclusion In The MHI?

Yes. The Shire of Denmark is currently calling for nominations. Anyone can nominate a place for inclusion on the MHI. Community involvement is a central part of the review process.

Does Listing In The MHI Impact On What I Can Do With My Property?

Listing in the MHI does not affect what you can do with your property as it is not a statutory listing – it merely is a document that lists the local heritage value of places and sites within the Shire of Denmark.

As per current Town Planning Scheme No. 3, planning approval is generally required for any development. When a property is listed in the current MHI, in addition to assessment of the proposal against relevant Town Planning Scheme No. 3 provisions, Residential Design Codes and/or relevant planning policies, due consideration is also given to the level of significance assigned to the place to guide the decision making process in relation to any development proposal for the property.

As a minimum requirement of the planning process, the application is referred to the Denmark Historical Society for comment. Where a property is also listed in Appendix VII – Schedule of Places of Heritage Value in Town Planning Scheme No. 3 (noting that 61 places on the current MHI are listed in Town Planning Scheme No. 3), additional public notification processes may apply (i.e. newspaper advertising, letters to adjoining landowners and/or referral to the State Heritage Office inviting comment).

For more information as to whether planning approval is required to be obtained in accordance with Town Planning Scheme No. 3 prior to any works being undertaken on a listed property, please contact Planning Services at the Shire of Denmark on (08) 9848 0313 or via email enquiries@denmark.wa.gov.au .

As part of Local Planning Scheme No. 4 considerations, the Shire of Denmark will be considering the preparation of a Heritage List – being a list of places for which planning approval will be required to be obtained for works such as demolition, alterations or other development affecting the cultural heritage significance of the place.

A Heritage List must be compiled having regard to the MHI listings but does not necessarily include all places in the MHI given the four levels of significance assigned to places on the MHI.

The compilation of a Heritage List in accordance with a Planning Scheme is a process that will be the subject of separate community consultation, including individual landowner consultation, as this listing will have statutory implications in relation to development proposals and the assessment process that relates.

Does Listing In The MHI Offer Legal Protection?

Places listed in the MHI generally do not have legal protection unless they are also on a Heritage List and/or on the State Register of Heritage Places.

There is no legal obligation to maintain a heritage listed property in any way other than under existing regulations.

Does Inclusion On The MHI Affect Ownership Or Access?

No, places remain the sole property of the owner. No-one has the right to enter a heritage listed property without the consent of the owner or occupier.

Further Information

For further information regarding the Review Process or to obtain a nomination form, please contact Planning Services on (08) 9848 0313 or via enquiries@denmark.wa.gov.au .

Nomination forms can also be obtained from the Shire's website – www.denmark.wa.gov.au/heritage.

Additional information regarding Municipal Heritage Inventories can also be found on the State Heritage Office's website (www.stateheritage.wa.gov.au).

