



Office of
Environment
& Heritage

Applicant Information and Guidelines

Local Heritage Strategic Projects program 2016-17

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Introduction

Heritage Near Me is an initiative of the Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH), and an innovative program that empowers NSW communities to protect, share and celebrate their local heritage. The program has been developed to address an identified gap in current heritage programming.

The Heritage Near Me Incentives program includes three grant streams:

- Local Heritage Strategic Projects program
- Local Heritage Activation Grants program
- Heritage Green Energy Grants program

These guidelines are for the Local Heritage Strategic Projects program.

Program purpose

The Local Heritage Strategic Projects program will provide support to local communities to enhance and protect their local heritage assets. The key focus of the program is to drive reform and innovation to improve the long term sustainability and management of NSW's heritage spaces and values.

All projects supported through the Local Heritage Strategic Projects program will be developed and implemented in collaboration with the Heritage Near Me Roadshow team.

This framework will:

- allow communities and councils to strategically establish local priorities
- provide opportunities for collaboration across a number of stakeholders
- facilitate projects involving multiple owner/managers, heritage items, organisations, beneficiaries and participants
- facilitate community, organisation and Council access to specialist heritage assistance
- provide opportunities for community skills development and training in heritage processes
- actively support improvements to the internal processes and procedures which Councils have in place for heritage management.

The funding is targeted at:

- owners and managers of local heritage items – to undertake minor works, seek design guidance and access expert technical advice and services in order to preserve and enrich the values and significance of local heritage
- local government – to support best-practice heritage management
- managers of projects that seek to connect a local community with its heritage
- managers of activities and programs that will lead to a broader understanding of diverse heritage values within a local community.

Application Process

Applicants are invited to submit an expression of interest (EOI) through the SmartyGrants online grants management system, in line with OEH grants processes, and provide an overview of their proposed project. These will be accepted throughout the year.

EOIs will only be accepted on the approved application form completed through the on-line SmartyGrants grants management system. The application form can be accessed on the [SmartyGrants](#) site.

All applicants will be asked to identify one of four project categories that their activity falls under. Expressions of interest will be assessed against both the priorities established for the current program period, and the general assessment criteria used in all OEH funding programs. Further detail on the categories, priorities and criteria is provided below.

The Heritage Roadshow Team will collaborate with successful applicants to develop project scopes, identify other collaborators, source specialist expertise and resources, and support the implementation and evaluation phases as appropriate.

Who can apply?

EOIs are sought from a wide range of applicants, including owners and managers of heritage items, local government, and businesses and organisations seeking to develop projects that fit into one of the four project categories and meet the program's priorities.

Projects that are eligible for funding through existing OEH heritage funding programs are not eligible for funding through the Heritage Near Me Incentives program. Owners and managers of heritage items listed on the State Heritage Register (SHR) or gazetted as an Aboriginal Place are urged to review the State Heritage Grants programs on the [NSW Heritage Grants](#) page before submitting an EOI.

Project categories

The Local Heritage Strategic Projects program will support projects under the following four project categories.

1. Support sustainable futures for heritage

- Projects may include conservation and restoration works, and the production of reports, plans and strategies supporting the development and implementation of such works.
- Financial support for building works will generally be limited to the 'heritage deficit' i.e. the additional cost to a project due to heritage concerns, restrictions or requirements.
- Priority will be given to projects which:

- involve a number of owner/managers and/or multiple heritage items
- include an opportunity for skills development or training
- demonstrate opportunities for community participation and the sharing of heritage values
- are part of a community plan or priority.

2. Connect communities and heritage

- Projects, programs, activities or events which aim to raise community awareness of local heritage will be considered under this category. This could include:
 - interpretation and planning strategies
 - heritage tourism plans and strategies
 - festivals and events.

3. Support effective heritage management

- This category is for projects that support the establishing of an effective heritage stewardship model for NSW, such as:
 - community engagement and facilitation programs
 - the development of strategies for identifying, managing and celebrating local heritage
 - inventory update and management.
- Local government is envisaged as the principal applicant under this category, but projects from other applicants will be considered.

4. Diversify understanding of heritage values

- Projects, programs, activities or events that lead to communities broadening and diversifying their understanding of heritage values will be considered under this category. This could include projects that celebrate heritage outside the building environment, such as:
 - Aboriginal cultural heritage
 - stories of particular groups or industries e.g. migrant or mining
 - heritage conservation areas
 - natural heritage.

Priorities for 2016-17

Priority will be given to projects that:

- are collaborative and multi-disciplinary
 - projects that are inclusive of different types of heritage and involve collaboration with multiple partners including community groups, not-for-profit and for-profit organisations and local government
- support long term sustainability through the transfer of skills, knowledge and experience

- projects that can demonstrate a reasonable expectation that it will lead to an increased capacity in the community to manage and protect their heritage
- projects that demonstrate in their design that knowledge and/or skills in restoration and conservation will be transferred to groups or individuals in the local community
- address an identified community need
 - projects that demonstrate a likelihood of resulting in quantifiable social or cultural benefits
- increase awareness of local heritage values
 - projects that include opportunities for increasing community use and awareness of, and participation in, its local heritage.

General assessment criteria

All EOIs will be assessed against the general assessment criteria common for all OEH funding programs.

Economic sustainability

Projects should demonstrate a reasonable expectation of culminating in an activity that will contribute to the long-term sustainability of local heritage.

Public benefit and enjoyment, community leadership

Priority will be given to projects that can demonstrate a reasonable expectation of a community's increased awareness and enjoyment of its local heritage as a direct result of the funding, and that can also demonstrate inclusivity and accessibility.

Innovation

Projects that are innovative, creative, unusual, provide new solutions, demonstrate imagination and are likely to generate anticipation, excitement and discussion in the community will be highly regarded.

Capacity and commitment to undertake and complete the project

Applicants should demonstrate both a willingness to contribute human and financial resources to the project, and a level of competence in project and budget planning appropriate to the project.

Assessment process

Assessments of the EOIs will be completed by the Heritage Near Me Roadshow team in collaboration with a specialist assessment panel and submitted to the Executive Director, Heritage for his/her approval under delegation.

Members of the Roadshow team will be allocated to each successful project to collaborate in the development of the project scope, including all budgeting, resourcing, scheduling, monitoring and reporting requirements.

At this stage, project scopes will be assessed once again by the specialist assessment panel, and successful projects will be advanced to the implementation stage.

Both assessments will be against the priorities and general criteria outlined above.

Successful and unsuccessful applicants will be notified in writing of any assessment decisions as soon as possible.

Agreement

Participants in the Local Heritage Strategic Projects program will be required to enter into an Agreement which specifies the terms and conditions attached to the particular project. All participants are expected to contribute fully to the acquittal and evaluation process.

The names of collaborators, stakeholders, project details and amount of assistance approved will be made public.

Key contact details and further information

To contact the Heritage Near Me Roadshow team phone: 02 9873 8544 or email: heritage.nearme@environment.nsw.gov.au.

For more information about the Local Heritage Strategic Projects program visit the [Heritage Near Me Incentives program](#) page.

For help in using the on-line grants management system, please go to [SmartyGrants help](#).