



Hawkesbury City Heritage

Timber Outbuildings

Working to protect our priceless heritage

Hawkesbury City is rich in heritage. As one of the earliest settled areas it contains a wealth of irreplaceable heritage that must be conserved for future generations of Australians to experience. Council aims to protect our rich heritage of timber outbuildings and rural farm buildings, including the rare barns and timber slab structures.

What are these structures and why are they important?

The slab structures and rural farm buildings that exist throughout the Hawkesbury identify the district's importance as an area where the fertile flood plains supported a thriving agricultural economy in the early years. Many of the best examples of the precious slab buildings can be seen near the river where the early farming practices were most intensive.

Almost all rural properties had a number of simple, timber-constructed buildings that, together, still form part of the distinctive character of the Hawkesbury. These buildings are a highly visible and identifiable component of the heritage of the area. They are recognised as valuable community assets to be protected and promoted as part of the agricultural and tourism industry of the district.

What else is significant about the Hawkesbury District?

Hawkesbury City is favoured by its setting within sight of the spectacular eastern escarpment of the Lower Blue Mountains. The mountains frame the rich and fertile floodlands of the river. The whole city lies within the vicinity of the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage area.

Macquarie Towns

The Macquarie Towns of Richmond, Windsor, Wilberforce and Pitt Town perched on their elevated sites above the flood plains, have a character that is unique in Australia. Not only do the Macquarie Towns contain some of the most significant of all heritage items, but the relationship between the towns and the adjoining farmlands has great heritage significance also.

The modest timber structures are just as important as the more substantial town buildings.

What is Hawkesbury City Council doing to protect these structures?

The Council closely examines all new development proposals to ensure that the likely impacts on the heritage environment would not be adverse. This is done in the public interest. The heritage and environmental impacts are considered, irrespective of whether the places are listed as heritage items or not.

What can owners do to protect these structures?

Owners and managers can take simple steps to prevent timber outbuildings from falling into disrepair and eventual collapse. Roof coverings and ground drainage are vital to keep timber dry and free from termite infestation. Roof sheeting should be inspected regularly and secured.

Vegetation should be kept away from timber structures to avoid dampness and soil build-up at the bases of walls and structural framing.

If timber structures are beginning to lean they can be cross braced with strained fencing wire to prevent collapse. More extensive works would require the input of an engineer or builder.

Sources of advice and information

Council provides a free heritage advisory service to the owners of heritage listed properties and rural outbuildings. Owners or managers of places can contact Council at any time for advice and a free consultation.

Council will also provide assistance with research through the Local Studies Library resources and various other forms of relevant information. Council can provide contact details for skilled trades people, engineers and heritage specialists as well as information on where to find good examples of work.



This document contains important information. If you do not understand it, contact the Telephone Interpreter Service on 131 450.



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