



Heritage buildings - what's their value?



Some people look at old, run down buildings and ask why they shouldn't be demolished to make room for something more modern and attractive.

There are many reasons why old buildings are treasured within the community.

1) Significance

A link with a historically significant event or person often leads to a building or place being recognised as having great value. People are proud of an area's history because of its significance.

Significance is not always on a grand scale. A community meeting place where people undertook wedding vows or other important life events, often holds fond memories for a large proportion of the community.

2) A sense of place

93% of the community see heritage as forming part of Australia's identity. On a local level, heritage buildings help to create character, a 'special something' which is unique to the area.

Buildings that are a result of artistic or architectural creativity help to develop this character. Buildings which feature a

type of architectural or building style that is no longer used are also highly regarded.

The perception that a community has of itself, and that others have of it, can be affected by heritage. Historic heritage places have the ability to create and sustain people's sense of identity of the community as a whole.

Places of cultural significance enrich people's lives, often providing a deep and inspirational sense of connection to community and landscape.

Illustrated Burra Charter

People like to know about their local area and often actively seek information that reveals the origins of the present.

The opportunity for social interaction in a safe, local environment contributes to social stability and cohesion in the community.

3) Connecting the past with the future

Many people like to find out about their own family's history, and in the process



discover connections between family members and their local community. This is often closely related to the community's own development.

A community's old buildings can illustrate how life was lived in past times. There may be an example of pioneering spirit, or of the free spirit of the 1960s. In these cases, old buildings can show and record a community's shared cultural legacy while celebrating its diversity.

This built record may provoke grandparents' memories of times past which can be shared with their grandchildren.

Heritage places are a good tool for education. The City's Museum at the historic Wilkinson Homestead in Gosnells runs education programs for groups which showcase life as it was during the pioneering days of Gosnells.

The comparison between then and now is regarded with astonishment by most children who attend the programs.

4) Economics

It has been proven that, over time, well maintained heritage buildings increase in value at a higher rate than non-heritage buildings.

Owners of heritage listed properties within the City of Gosnells have access to many benefits (see the City's "Benefits of owning heritage-listed property" fact sheet).

Reusing a heritage home, in a sensitive way, is the ultimate in recycling and it helps to save energy and the environment.

The tourism value of historic buildings shouldn't be overlooked, including its contribution to providing local jobs and business income.

COMMUNITY VIEWS AND PERCEPTIONS OF HERITAGE-RELATED VALUES

Value type	Statement	'Strongly agree' and 'Agree'	'Strongly disagree' and 'Disagree'	Neither agree or disagree
Direct use value	Looking after heritage is important in creating jobs and boosting the economy	56.1%	11.0%	32.9%
Indirect use value	My life is richer for having the opportunity to visit or see heritage	78.7%	4.6%	16.8%
Option value	It is important to protect heritage places even though I may never visit them	93.4%	1.5%	5.0%
Existence value	Heritage is part of Australia's identity	92.3%	5.3%	2.3%
	The historic houses in my area are an important part of the area's character and identity	80.2%	5.2%	14.5%
Other non-use values	It is important to educate children about heritage	96.9%	0.3%	2.8%

(Table: Valuing the priceless: the value of historic heritage in Australia. Prepared by The Allen Consulting Group for the Heritage Chairs and Officials of Australia and New Zealand, November 2005.)

For information about any items in this brochure, or for general enquiries about history and heritage in the City of Gosnells, please contact the Heritage Coordinator on 9391 6011.