
Merri-bek Heritage

Action Plan

2017 - 2032

Protecting Merri-bek's Heritage

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Merri-bek City Council acknowledges the traditional owners of the land, the Kulin Nation, of which the local indigenous people are the Wurrundjeri.

Council is committed to building a trusting, collaborative and supportive relationship with indigenous groups, and to respecting identified Aboriginal sacred sites and special places.

Mayor's Foreword

The protection and enhancement of Heritage in Merri-bek helps to conserve links to our past and how we developed over time. Merri-bek City Council has a strong and continuing commitment to conserving the rich cultural heritage of the City, which forms an important part of the municipality's identity and character.

The Merri-bek Heritage Action Plan 2017 – 2032 provides a clear framework for Council and its partners in identifying, managing, protecting and celebrating our City's heritage, under the following four themes:

Knowing - To know where we have come from and understand the significance of our heritage.

Protecting - To protect Merri-bek's heritage places from inappropriate demolition, development or subdivision.

Supporting - To assist in conserving and education others about our heritage places.

Communicating - To celebrate, connect with and enjoy our heritage places.

This Action Plan includes a comprehensive set of strategies and actions to implement the above four themes have been developed to guide Council's role in heritage. Each action has been prioritised in terms of high, medium, low or on-going. Budget implications, delivery timeframes and measures have also been developed for each action.

Merri-bek City Council is committed to working with its partners, including local historical groups, local Indigenous communities, the custodians of heritage places and Heritage Victoria, to deliver its heritage objectives.

I would like to thank all those people who contributed to the development of the Merri-bek Heritage Action Plan 2017 – 2032, including: the representatives from the historic societies, Heritage Victoria, the Merri-bek community, Councillors and Council Officers.

Cr Helen Davidson
Mayor, Merri-bek City Council

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Merri-bek's Heritage

Executive Summary

The purpose of the Merri-bek Heritage Action Plan 2017 - 2032 is to assist Council to meet its heritage obligations as set out in various legislation in an integrated manner.

This Plan sets out the parameters for the further identification, conservation and management of the City's heritage and also identifies heritage actions already underway.

This Plan is underpinned by the heritage vision (set out on page 4) and a framework of principles, objectives and strategies. The strategies are based on four key themes:

Knowing, Protecting, Supporting and Communicating.

Current and future key heritage related challenges and opportunities facing Merri-bek have informed the development of this plan and include: managing growth whilst protecting and enhancing our heritage; identifying and protecting our Indigenous heritage; streamlining our planning processes; and celebrating and protecting our bluestone history.

Actions to address each of these matters and more are included in the Implementation Plan, which guides the prioritisation and execution of actions (subject to the outcomes of Council's annual budgeting processes).

It is important to note that this Plan's implementation plan focusses on actions that assist Council to meet its heritage obligations. However protecting, enhancing and celebrating Merri-bek's Heritage cannot be achieved by Council alone. It will also require investment and commitment from residents, businesses, landowners and community groups. It will also require supportive State and Commonwealth policies, programs and grant funding to support implementation of this Plan.

This document was updated on 21 December 2023 to reflect the City's and Organisation's name change from 'Moreland' to 'Merri-bek' on 26 September 2022. No other changes have been made to the content of this document.

Introduction

Merri-bek City Council has a strong commitment to conserving the rich cultural heritage, which forms an important part of the City's identity and character. It also plays a critical role in the identification, protection, management and promotion to our legacy of valued heritage places.

This commitment has been demonstrated over many years, including by establishing a vision for reconciliation where Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are recognised as the traditional custodians of the land. This commitment has also resulted in the inclusion of over 10,400 individual heritage places and precincts of Local and State significance in the Merri-bek Planning Scheme as part of its Heritage Overlay as a result of various Heritage Studies completed..

Ultimately, the Merri-bek Heritage Action Plan 2017 – 2032 will guide Council in addressing the following principles:

Conserving the heritage of the City of Merri-bek. To protect what we have for the enjoyment of current and future generations.

Making good decisions about a heritage place. We need to be clear about the significant elements of a place, in order for it to be protected. This is especially important when new development is proposed which may threaten the integrity of a heritage place.

Contributing to the local economy. Heritage places and spaces are a fundamental part of Australia's tourism industry. Visitors and residents want to experience the distinctive natural, indigenous and historic heritage places and the rich stories associated with them.

Connecting with our past. Knowing where we have come from can provide a sense of unity and belonging within a group and allows us to better understand previous generations and their use of a place.

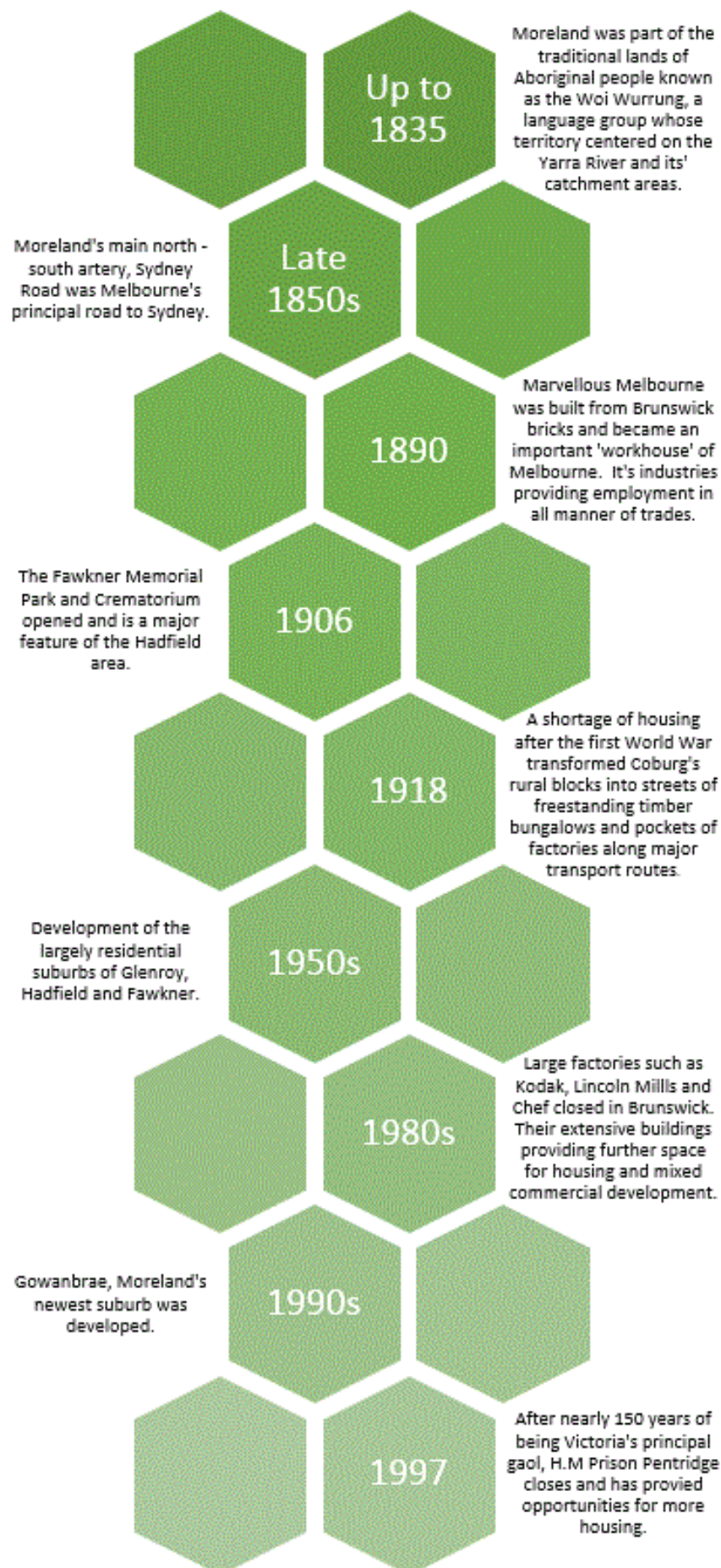
Contribute to a sense of place. Historic places enrich the character of the spaces where we live and work and helps us to distinguish one from another. The feelings and connections with locations in Merri-bek make these places unique. It also supports the wellbeing of residents and visitors and contributes to the richness of character in these places.

The Merri-bek municipality has a diverse history and has developed as separate traditional lands, local government areas, townships and communities with quite different patterns of economic and social development.¹

Merri-bek's heritage assets range from stone artefact scatters, scarred trees, buildings of state significance to substantial Victorian mansions, humble workers cottages and historic parklands. The protection and management of these significant heritage assets helps our understanding of the past, enriches the present and will be of value to future generations. A brief historic chronology of Merri-bek is outlined in table 1, on the following page.

¹ Merri-bek Thematic History 2010

Figure 1 – Historic Chronology of Merri-bek



Heritage Action Plan Framework

The Merri-bek Heritage Action Plan 2017 – 2032 is underpinned by the framework below, which includes the vision, themes, objectives and strategies for this Action Plan.

The vision for this Plan is:

That the urban fabric of Merri-bek meets the needs of our growing community whilst protecting what we have for future generations. To encourage the conservation and enhancement of all heritage places. To recognise and celebrate our heritage for the contribution it makes to Merri-bek. That our heritage places are respected, well conserved and maintained as unique spaces to live and work.

This Plan contains objectives, strategies set out under the following four themes derived from the *Municipal Heritage Strategies: A guide for Councils* prepared by the former Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning.

Theme 1: Knowing

Objective 1: To know where we have come from and understand the significance of our heritage.

Strategies:

- Continue to identify, assess and record places of heritage significance.
- Continue to protect the Indigenous history of Merri-bek.

Theme 2: Protecting

Objective 2: To protect Merri-bek's heritage places from inappropriate demolition, development or subdivision.

Strategies:

- Ensure protection is applied to significant heritage places and spaces in the City.
- Ensure that buildings and works respect the significance of heritage places as identified in the Statement of Significance.
- Ensure policy in the planning scheme streamlines decision making.
- Ensure heritage places are correctly documented and mapped to enable clear decision making.
- Actively manage and protect remnant indigenous vegetation sites as irreplaceable natural heritage assets.

Theme 3: Supporting

Objective 3: To assist in conserving and educating others about our heritage places.

Strategies:

- Ensure conservation management is inherent in relevant Council processes.
- Continue to provide advice and training to staff to help conserve heritage places and spaces.
- Engage with interested and relevant parties to determine the best conservation outcomes for our heritage assets.
- Continue to work with the Wurundjeri Tribe to understand heritage values, legal obligations and to ensure ongoing connections with traditional owners of the land.

- Continue to partner with active community historical organisations in raising awareness of Merri-bek's history.

Theme 4: Communicating

Objective 4: To celebrate, connect with and enjoy our heritage places.

Strategies:

- Create opportunities to raise awareness and appreciation of the heritage of our City.
- Enable wide distribution of our City's heritage studies and documents.
- Celebrate our City's heritage in the built environment through art and other objects.
- Advocate to the state government for more incentives for protection of heritage places.
- Conserve and interpret places of cultural and archaeological heritage.

The Implementation Plan provides specific actions for each theme and will inform Council's budget forecasting (Council Plan, Strategic Resource Plan and Annual Budget Cycles) and will need to be embedded in each relevant Unit's Service Unit Plan.

This Plan has a longer term time horizon to 2032. The Implementation Plan will be reviewed every 5 years to coincide with the new Council term and priorities.

Strategic Context

This section sets out the role and duties of Local Government in the conservation and enhancement of buildings, areas and other places which are of scientific, aesthetic, architectural or historical interest, or otherwise of special cultural value.²

To protect and conserve our heritage effectively, heritage conservation needs to be considered in the context of the relevant legislation and policies. When identifying the heritage items of a given area, a purely visual approach is inadequate. It is important to understand the underlying historical influences which have shaped and continue to shape the area.

Merri-bek's heritage places and spaces are managed by several Federal, State and Local legislative frameworks listed below.

National and Commonwealth Heritage Protection

- The Burra Charter 2013 - The Australia ICOMOS Charter for Places of Cultural Significance
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act 1984
- Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999

State and Local Heritage Protection

- Planning and Environment Act 1987
- Heritage Act 1995
- Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006 (amended 2016)
- State Planning Policy Framework
- Merri-bek Planning Scheme

The Heritage Overlay forms part of the Merri-bek Planning Scheme and is an inventory of identified local heritage places and spaces of significance within the City of Merri-bek. The inventory has been informed by heritage studies. Each study has assessed and documented the historic importance of each place.

Most studies also set out recommendations for appropriate statutory planning protection as well as other recommendations, controls, policies and guidelines to encourage the conservation of the identified heritage places. The majority of the recommendations from each study were implemented via various amendments to the Merri-bek Planning Scheme.

As a result of these amendments many noteworthy heritage assets have already been captured and afforded protection through the Heritage Overlay. However, there are also several potential cultural heritage places identified through various studies that require further investigation to check if they meet the threshold for inclusion in the Heritage Overlay.

² Section 4(1)(d) – *Planning and Environment Act 1987*

In addition to the local places included in the Merri-bek Heritage Overlay, forty places of State significance within the Merri-bek City Council boundary are included on the Victorian Heritage Database. This includes places such as: H.M. Prison Pentridge, Iron Cottages in Brunswick, Fawkner Memorial Cemetery, various bridges and Churches and the Coburg Drive-In.

Implementation actions included in this Plan are also aligned to the following Council adopted plans and policies:

- Council Plan 2013 – 2017
- Merri-bek 2025 Community Vision
- Structure Plans for Brunswick, Coburg and Glenroy
- Merri-bek Open Space Strategy 2012 - 2022
- Merri-bek Human Rights Policy 2016 - 2026
- Economic Development Strategy 2016 - 2021
- Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2013 - 2017
- Arts and Culture Strategy 2011 - 2016
- Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2016-2020
- Merri-bek Street Landscape Study 2012 - 2022

Heritage Achievements

Over the years Council has successfully completed a number of achievements that protect, enhance and celebrate our heritage. This is in addition to the protection of over 10,400 buildings, landscapes and streetscapes, identified and documented through studies, conservation management plans and planning controls. Some notable achievements are summarised below.

Heritage Services – Merri-bek City Council has had an internal heritage advisor for more than a decade. The advisor assists Council’s urban planners with heritage applications. The advisor provides regular training to staff and assists in providing advice on development applications when relevant.

Heritage guidelines – Guidelines were established in 2010 to assist owners and applicants in preparing planning permit applications for buildings covered by a Heritage Overlay. The guidelines provide assistance for building, altering or demolishing a fence within a Heritage Overlay, and alterations and additions to houses in a Heritage Overlay. The guidelines are included in the Merri-bek Planning Scheme as a reference document to Clause 22.06 – Heritage Local Planning Policy, which can be viewed online via the following link: www.Merri-bek.vic.gov.au/heritage

Partnerships – Council is committed to working with its partners to deliver positive heritage outcomes. Council acknowledges and appreciates the work of the Local Historical Societies and other Merri-bek heritage groups, organisations and entities such as the Brunswick-Coburg [World War 1] Anti Conscription Commemorative Committee, Pentridge Community Action Group, The Save the Bluestones Lane Group and the Residents Against McDonald’s group in communicating the City’s history.

Talks and Lectures on Historical Themes – For over a decade, the Coburg Historical Society in partnership with a section of the Merri-bek Libraries has furthered its residents knowledge of their history via monthly public meetings. The talks centre around historical, often Coburg-Merri-bek topics.

Guidelines for Planning of Parks with Heritage Value – The Merri-bek Open Space Strategy 2012 - 2022 nominated a number of parks as ‘historic’. The guidelines have assisted Council in the preparation of management plans for Merri-bek’s historic parks.

Photographic Heritage Panel/Plaque – Over the past decade Council in partnership with local historical societies and resident community organisations has facilitated the installation of plaques, photographic panels and the printing of pamphlets.

Historic Signage – Acknowledging our Indigenous heritage, interpretive signage was installed at Bababi Djinanang to educate the local community and school children about Aboriginal culture. Signage has also been erected on the corner of Murray Road to describe the burning off practices based on the traditional Aboriginal knowledge. Signage along the Merri Creek notes that the grassland forms part of an innovative system of Wurundjeri names for native grasslands along Merri Creek as making up parts of the mother’s body. These sites have both environmental and cultural significance.

Celebrating Place Community Grants Program – Merri-bek City Council supports community groups and organisations to organise an event or celebration that enriches the social life of Merri-bek’s community. Recent successful heritage related grants include: the Merri and Edgars Creek Confluence Area Restoration Group and Wurundjeri Tribe,

who organised the Murnong Gathering, a unique community celebration of Indigenous Australia's culture and heritage on the banks of the Merri Creek.

Interpretive Landscape – Bush Reserve, Coburg was redeveloped with funding from Melbourne Water. The reserve has state level heritage significance due to the association of William Thomas who provided protection from the effects of European settlement for many men, women and children of the Kulin Nation. Specialist archaeologies excavated the historically significant footings of the former homestead on the site which have now been successfully restored and included in an interpretive landscape.

Merri-bek Remembers WWI – August 2014 marked the 100th anniversary of the start of World War 1. In April 2015 the library service launched an exhibition titled 'Merri-bek remembers World War I' which is travelling around Merri-bek's libraries and other community spaces. Council prepared a visual exhibition that consisted of 20 banners outlining Merri-bek's War experience, both on the battlefield and on the home front. The exhibition was developed in consultation with the local community. This included consultation with the Reconciliation Advisory Committee which resulted in two panels dedicated to Aboriginal service at War and the story of brothers Herbert and William Murray, two of the many Aboriginal people who served in World War I.

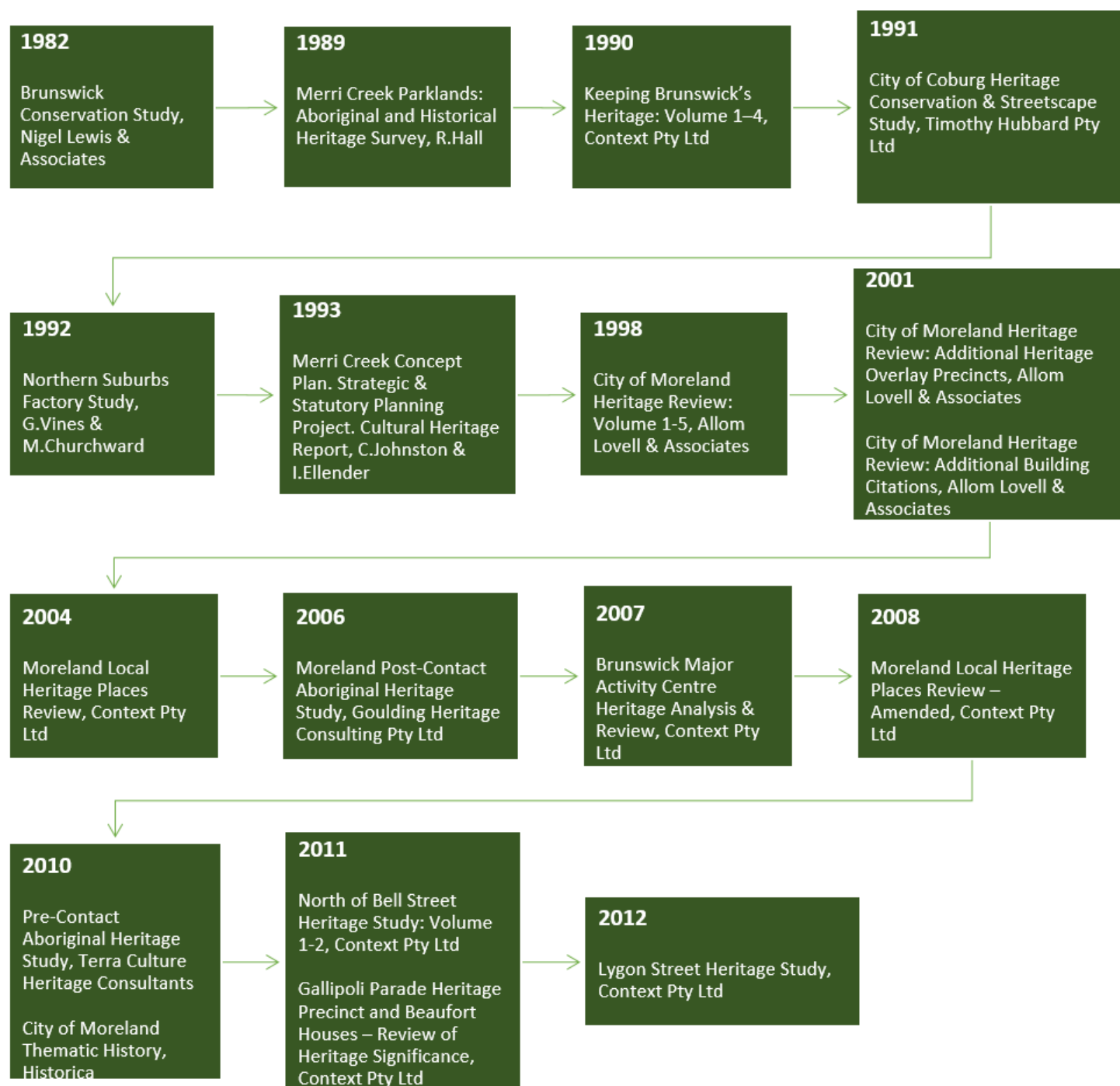
Researching History - Council have recently established a depository of information to assist in the researching of all aspects of our built and cultural history. Merri-bek libraries and website provide links to State Government resources and publications to assist in researching past histories, including the history of your house, Indigenous history, suburb history, design and construction history, sale and ownership history, past property changes and evolution, and photograph archival data.

Public Heritage Nominations – From October to November 2016, a public heritage nomination process was undertaken to assist the preparation of the forthcoming heritage gaps study. Nominations for heritage places and spaces including buildings or groups of buildings (including houses, shops, statues and signage), structures, precincts (groups of houses), and other places including trees, landscapes, parks, churches and schools were sought. Various places and spaces were nominated as part of this process including, commercial buildings, rows of cottages, trees, maternal child health centres and individual houses.

Archival Photographs – In 2011, Council determined to fund archival photographic records to be taken of the Lorensen and Housing Commission of Victoria Fowler Estate precincts (identified in the Merri-bek Local Heritage Places Review, November 2004). All images were uploaded onto Victoria's Heritage Database (HERMES - a web delivered database, specifically designed and customised to manage information for heritage places) in which Heritage Victoria is the custodian.

Heritage Studies - Over the past thirty years a number of heritage studies have been undertaken in the area that is now defined as the City of Merri-bek (the former Cities of Broadmeadows, Brunswick and Coburg). The timeline below provides an overview of the heritage studies that have been carried out by the present and former municipalities over the past thirty five years.

Figure 2 – Heritage Study Timeline



Heritage Challenges and Opportunities

This Action Plan provides an opportunity to focus current and future heritage challenges and opportunities. The following related challenges and opportunities were identified and have informed the content of this Plan and more specifically, the implementation plan:

- Managing population growth whilst protecting and enhancing our heritage
- Embrace emerging Aboriginal Heritage
- Streamlining planning permit requirements
- Identifying and protecting our bluestone heritage.

Over time, new types of heritage are continually recognised and constantly changed by people's perceptions. Over the years, heritage conservation has had to adapt to emerging technological, economic, demographic, environmental and social trends.

The Australian Department of Environment and Heritage noted that rising incomes, advances in knowledge and education, and shifts in social attitudes could be expected to lead to changes in the way the Australian community views historic heritage.³ As the scope of interest in heritage changes, the need to adapt and continue to identify, record and celebrate our heritage places and spaces develops.

The above list of identified heritage challenges and opportunities is discussed in more detail on the following pages.

Managing growth whilst protecting and enhancing our heritage

Merri-bek's population is projected to increase to 216,300 people by 2031, an increase of 62,100 people from 2011. This change means Merri-bek will need an additional 25,300 dwellings or 40% more dwellings by 2031.⁴

Activity Centres

The Merri-bek Municipal Strategic Statement encourages increased density housing to be located within the boundaries of the Coburg, Brunswick and Glenroy activity centres and within Commercial, Mixed Use and Residential Growth Zones in Neighbourhood Centres.

The challenge is how to enable the appropriate level of future development to meet our housing needs whilst setting clear parameters about the protection and conservation of our heritage places and spaces. Planning controls in each of the activity centres in Merri-bek, Coburg, Brunswick and Glenroy, identify areas where change is undesirable or where change should be limited or carefully controlled.

This Plan includes strategies that will assist in enabling future development in our activity centres whilst protecting what we have for future generations, in particular:

- raise awareness and utilise different types of media to communicate and celebrate the City's heritage assets

³ Conservation of Australia's Historic Heritage Places, Productivity Commission Inquiry Report, 2006.

⁴ Victoria in Future, 2016, DELWP

- continue to identify, assess and record places of identified heritage significance
- continue to strengthen policy to streamline decision making
- continue to check that heritage places are correctly documented and mapped to enable clear decision making.

The protection of heritage places is a challenge in all areas of the municipality given the anticipated extent of growth. The heritage local planning policy at Clause 22.06 applies to all heritage places and provides direction for the conservation and enhancement of all land in the heritage overlay.

Neighbourhood Residential Zone – Minimal Change Area

The Neighbourhood Residential Zone (NRZ) was formally introduced into the Victorian Planning Provisions in July 2013. The purpose of the zone is to restrict housing growth and protect identified neighbourhood character.

In applying the NRZ in Merri-bek, Council had regard to the principles and criteria of Practice Note 78 (PN78), *Applying the Residential Zones*, December 2013. In particular PN78 suggested that residential areas with Heritage Overlays (such as larger heritage precincts, rather than individually recognised heritage sites) be included in an NRZ. Consequently the NRZ was applied to all areas within a precinct based Heritage Overlay.

A Managing Residential Development Advisory Committee (RZSAC) was appointed by the Minister for Planning to review the new residential zones which were applied to all residential areas in Merri-bek in April 2015. The report of the advisory committee was provided to the Minister for Planning in July 2016 and was released by the State Government on 27 March 2017

The RZSAC expressed its concerns about the widespread application of the NRZ in some municipalities, and noted that the existence of a Heritage Overlay did not automatically justify application of the NRZ. It went on to note that accessibility to public transport, including walking and cycling routes, and the permeability of areas, require greater consideration in the application of the residential zones. It was intended that overlays, rather than the zones, would be the principal mechanism for protecting identified places of cultural heritage significance.

Embrace emerging Aboriginal Heritage

The Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006 was amended 1 August 2016 to include intangible heritage.

The Act defines intangible heritage as *any knowledge of or expression of Aboriginal tradition, other than Aboriginal cultural heritage, and includes oral traditions, performing arts, stories, rituals, festivals, social practices, craft, visual arts, and environmental and ecological knowledge, but does not include anything that is widely known to the public.*

This intangible heritage is generally perceived through cuisine, clothing, shelter, traditional skills and technologies, religious ceremonies, performing arts, storytelling. Today, we consider the tangible heritage inextricably bound with the intangible heritage.

Legislative changes will now require intangible heritage to be recorded on the Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Register.

Agreements with Registered Aboriginal Parties will allow Traditional Owners to decide on whether and how their traditional knowledge is used and for what purpose. Strategies of the Action Plan specifically incorporated to recognise these legislative changes include:

- to continue to identify and protect the Indigenous history of Merri-bek
- to continue to work with the Wurundjeri Tribe to understand heritage values, legal obligations and to ensure ongoing connections with traditional owners of the land.

Streamlining Planning Permit Requirements

Recent recommendations from Planning Panel Reports, feedback from internal Council departments and the introduction of VicSmart the state-wide assessment process for straightforward planning permit applications, have recommended changes to the decision making process relating to heritage places. In particular, suggestions have been made to improve and streamline the planning permit process to reduce superfluous requirements and reduce the number of matters that unnecessarily require planning approval by preparing an Incorporated Plan for minor heritage matters. This opportunity is discussed in more detail below.

Incorporated Plan

An Incorporated Plan could be developed in order to establish planning permit exemptions for properties included in Merri-bek's Schedule to the Heritage Overlay, under the provisions of Clause 43.01 Heritage Overlay. In accordance with Clause 43.01-2, no permit would be required for works identified in an Incorporated Plan. The plan would not apply to places included on the Victorian Heritage Register.

The intent for any Incorporated Plan would be to exempt works which are minor in nature; are generally assessed in a timely manner under Council's internal 'Fast Track' planning permit process or that are classified as a VicSmart proposal and are already exempt from notice and review.

The Panel for Amendment C129 to the Merri-bek Planning Scheme recommended that:

"...in order for the Heritage Overlay to have its best force and effect there is a benefit in preparing an Incorporated Plan that would apply to all heritage places in the Merri-bek Planning Scheme, to exempt minor matters from requiring planning permission under the HO and allowing greater permit exemptions for non-contributory buildings within precincts. For instance an Incorporated Plan could be developed for each place allowing permit exemptions for non-significant parts of the interiors and listed in the Schedule to Clause 81.01. Reference should be made in the policy at Clause 22.13 to the inclusion of the lists and/or maps in the Incorporated Document." Page 51.

A specific action to prepare an Incorporated Plan that sets out the permit exemptions from the provisions of the Heritage Overlay for minor matters on non-contributory heritage places has been included in this Plan as part of the Implementation Plan. Minor matters could be considered for contributory places that have no public realm impact or impacts on the frontage of the place and may include:

- repairs and routine maintenance works
- new or replacement roofing
- painting
- modifications and alterations to the rear parts of buildings
- construction or extension of pergolas and verandas
- demolition and construction of fences
- construction or extension of swimming pools and spas
- signage.

Identifying and protecting our bluestone heritage

The network of bluestone laneways and bluestone infrastructure is an integral part of Merri-bek's heritage and urban character. The bluestone fabric for many of Melbourne's early roads, gutters and buildings, including Pentridge Prison, was hewn from local quarries. Our 67.2 km bluestone network of laneways, kerbs and channels is the longest in Australia.

Over the next 50 years, most of the bluestone laneways in Merri-bek will require reconstruction. A specific action has been included in the Implementation Plan to undertake an assessment of the entire bluestone laneway network, bluestone buildings, bridges and foundations against the standard Heritage Victoria HERCON criteria in order to establish the heritage significance for the City of Merri-bek. Comparisons would be made with laneways within the Heritage Overlay areas, and the results would be mapped. The outcome of the project would be a schedule of laneways of heritage significance, mapping and recommendations.

Heritage Implementation Plan

Action Prioritisation Criteria

This Implementation Plan sets out for each of the four themes of this Plan (Knowing, Protecting, Supporting and Communicating) relevant actions to accomplish this Plan's vision.

Actions were prioritised based on the following criteria:

- **Ongoing** – Action is currently being provided and is included in current work plans. Council is obligated to undertake the action on an ongoing basis as part of standard work practices and / or legislative requirements. Implementation is delivered under existing resources e.g. base budget and/or existing staff time. An example of this Council's heritage advisor service, where the advisor assists Council's urban planners with heritage applications.
- **High** – Existing budget and resource allocated in the next financial year **or** new resources and/or budget is required in the following financial year, which is subject to the outcomes of Council's annual budgeting process. Project has been identified in a current work plan as a realistic item to be delivered with urgent importance, however implementation may be subject to resource / budget availability.
- **Medium** - Project has been identified in a current work plan as a realistic item to be delivered over the next five years, however new resources and/or budget is required to implement. These actions are subject to the outcomes of Council's annual budgeting process and are not in Council's existing adopted Strategic Resource Plan (i.e. implementation is subject to resource / budget availability).
- **Low** – Action derives from an emerging issue or responds to a particular need, however new resources and/or budget is required to implement. Project has been identified as an item to be delivered over the next five to ten years. These actions are subject to the outcomes of Council's annual budgeting process and are not in Council's existing adopted Strategic Resource Plan (i.e. implementation is subject to resource / budget availability).

The full list of actions that follow includes further detail including what each action will involve, who will be responsible for delivering and supporting the action, the cost of each action and how it will be measured. Each action will contribute towards the protection, identification, management and celebration of our City's heritage.

The status of each action with regard to the adopted Strategic Resource Plan (SRP) is indicated for reference i.e. what actions are already funded and included in Council's SRP versus actions which are not included in the SRP and therefore can only be implemented if new funding is received, partnerships assist in delivery or external grant funding is received.

As included in the Executive Summary of this Plan, this Plan's vision and delivery can only be achieved through collaborative effort, partnerships and commitment across all stakeholders and all levels of Government. The Implementation Plan has been prepared to focus on actions that Council can lead and influence.

Funding amounts specified for the actions are indicative only and based on best information available at the time of writing of this Plan and may change over time (e.g. rising costs, funding opportunities etc.).

Theme 1 - Knowing

Strategies

- Continue to identify, assess and record places of heritage significance.
- Continue to protect the Indigenous history of Merri-bek.

Actions

Ref.	Key Actions	Lead Unit(s)	Supporting Unit(s) / Partners	Within Strategic Resource Plan	Budget / Resource	Delivery	Measures
K1	Commission heritage expert assistance to undertake a detailed assessment of confirmed potential heritage places, Merri-bek Heritage Gaps Study - based on the preliminary assessment completed May 2016.	Amendments Unit	City Development Branch, Capital Works Planning & Delivery Branch, Property Unit, Open Space - Design & Development Unit, Aquatics & Leisure Unit, Youth & Leisure Branch	Yes	Existing Operating Funding (\$180,000 General Amendments) 2016/2017	2016/2017	Merri-bek Heritage Gaps Study adopted by Council 2017
K2	Update the <i>Pre-Contact Aboriginal Heritage Study 2010</i> to address the relevant section of the SPPF and to reference the correct contact at the Wurundjeri Tribe Land and Compensation Cultural Heritage	Strategy Unit		Yes	Existing Base Funding (approximately one week of staff time)	2017/2018	Updated Study available on the Merri-bek City Council website by 2018

Ref.	Key Actions	Lead Unit(s)	Supporting Unit(s) / Partners	Within Strategic Resource Plan	Budget / Resource	Delivery	Measures
	Council.						
K3	Commission heritage expert assistance to undertake a detailed assessment of the entire bluestone laneway network, kerbs and channels, wet crossings, bluestone buildings, bridges and foundations.	Capital Works Planning & Delivery Branch	Strategy Unit, City Development Branch, Property Unit, Open Space - Design & Development Unit	No	New Operating Funding (\$30,000 for the assessment of bluestone heritage)	2018/2019	Merri-bek Bluestone Heritage Assessment adopted by Council 2019
K4	Develop a Councillor staff procedures manual to ensure compliance with the heritage protection process in the <i>Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2016</i> .	Community Development & Social Policy Unit	Strategy Unit, External Heritage Consultant	Yes	Existing Base Funding (administration resource as part of the role of the Social Policy and Projects Officer) and New Operating Funding required	2018/2019	Final procedures manual endorsed by Council 2019.
K5	Commission heritage expert assistance to undertake a preliminary assessment of the potential heritage places identified as part of the public nomination process held in 2016.	Strategy Unit	External Heritage Consultant	Yes	Existing Base Funding (approximately 3 weeks of staff time to review new information and General Amendments Base Funding (approximately \$20,000 for heritage advisor to assess and confirm changes to the heritage overlay schedule)	2018/2019	Final Preliminary Assessment of potential heritage places adopted by Council 2019
K6	Review and implement the existing, documented heritage development plans for Methven, Fleming and Warr parks, including implementing the recommendations of the 2009 Connellan report.	OpenSpace - Design & Development Unit		Yes	Existing Base Funding (staff time administration resource as part of the role of the Landscape Architect Officer)	2018/2020	Heritage parks afforded appropriate protection with current heritage development plans
K7	Develop a park interpretive signage suite for environmental, cultural heritage, direction and educational purposes.	Open Space - Design & Development Unit	Community Development & Social Policy Unit, External Heritage Consultant	Yes	Existing Base Funding (administration resource as part of the role of the Landscape Architect Officer)	2018/2020	Promotion and celebration of Indigenous and post contact heritage in the built environment

Ref.	Key Actions	Lead Unit(s)	Supporting Unit(s) / Partners	Within Strategic Resource Plan	Budget / Resource	Delivery	Measures
K8	Review the Right of Way policy that includes reinstatement of bluestone pitchers for the future reconstruction of laneways, where these have been removed, with priority given to laneways in heritage areas.	Capital Works Planning & Delivery Branch		No	Existing Operating Funding (staff time resource as part of the role of the Asset Management Coordinator)	2019/2020	Final policy adopted by Council 2020
K9	Scope a Treaty process aimed at the Wurundjeri First Nation and other First Nations in Merri-bek	Community Development & Social Policy Unit	Wurundjeri Tribe	Yes	Existing Base Funding (administration resource as part of the role of the Social Policy and Projects Officer)	2019/2020	Scoping complete by 2020 and relationship with Wurundjeri First Nation and other First Nations strengthened
K10	Undertake an audit of heritage places and precincts within the Merri-bek Industrial Land Strategy Areas to determine whether prohibited uses, including residential uses, are necessary for their ongoing conservation and to amend the Heritage Overlay schedule accordingly.	Strategy Unit	City Development Branch	No	Existing Base Funding (approximately 3 weeks of staff time to review new information and New Operating Funding required (approximately \$2,000 for heritage advisor to assess and confirm changes to the heritage overlay schedule)	2019/2020	Final MILS Heritage Analysis Report adopted by Council 2020
K11	Develop a policy entitled 'Merri-bek: a Bluestone City' to recognise the historic and cultural significance of bluestones across the municipality and to provide in-principle support for preserving bluestones in kerb and channel reconstructions, giving preference to bluestones in future paving options and to recognise and celebrate our historic and iconic bluestone buildings, bridges and foundations.	Capital Works Planning & Delivery Branch	Strategy Unit, City Development Branch, Property Unit, Open Space - Design & Development Unit,	No	Existing Base Funding (staff time administration resource as part of the role of the Asset Management Coordinator and Senior Strategic Planner)	2020/2021	Final 'Merri-bek: a Bluestone City' policy adopted by Council 2021
K12	Update the <i>City Of Merri-bek Thematic History</i> by simplifying some of the major themes and improving the content and	Strategy Unit	Heritage Consultant	No	Existing Base Funding (approximately 3 weeks of staff time to review new information)	2020/2021	Updated Study available on the Merri-bek City

Ref.	Key Actions	Lead Unit(s)	Supporting Unit(s) / Partners	Within Strategic Resource Plan	Budget / Resource	Delivery	Measures
	structure of Theme 6: Building Merri-bek's Houses and Theme 9: Shopping and Retailing in Merri-bek.				and New Operating Funding required (approximately \$12,000 based on 10 days at a rate of \$150 per hour)		Council website 2021
K13	Commission archival photographic records to be compiled for the Ford Factory Housing precinct Fawkner, and Maternal Child Health Centres at Pascoe Vale and Merlynston, consistent with Heritage Victoria Technical Note Photographic Recording for Heritage Places and Objects.	Strategy Unit	Heritage Consultant	No	Existing Base Funding (approximately 1 month of staff time) and New Operating Funding required (approximately \$5,000 for a heritage consultant to prepare and document archival records)	2021/2022	Archival information collected and preserved
K14	Commission heritage expert assistance to undertake a heritage study of Pre War and Post War Modern architectural style heritage places identified as part of the public nomination process held 2016 (this action is based on the outcomes of the Preliminary Assessment as per Action K5). Note 2 studies may be prepared i.e. Pre War and Post War.	Strategy Unit	Heritage Consultant	No	New Operating Funding required (approximately \$220,000 for a full heritage study).	2019/2020	Merri-bek Pre and Post War/ Modern Heritage Study(s) adopted by Council 2020
K15	Prepare heritage reports as required to assist with the assessment of planning applications or planning scheme amendments where there is no current heritage control.	Amendments Unit	City Development Branch	No	General Amendments Base Funding (approximately \$2,000 per assessment, approximately 2 assessments per year) Note: reactive work program estimate per annum.	Ongoing	Completed assessments
K16	Deliver a project to celebrate and communicate the Indigenous history and culture of Merri-bek.	Arts & Culture Unit	Community Development & Social Policy Unit	Yes	Existing Base Funding (staff time administration resource as part of the role of the Arts Officer).	Ongoing	At least two projects that promote and celebrate the Indigenous history of Merri-bek during Reconciliation Week.

Ref.	Key Actions	Lead Unit(s)	Supporting Unit(s) / Partners	Within Strategic Resource Plan	Budget / Resource	Delivery	Measures
K17	In accordance with Council's resolution from December 2016, to continue to progress a submission for the listing of the Pentridge Heritage Precinct on the National Heritage List, commencing with the preparation of a heritage study review, to determine if by today's standards there are any aspects of the site's physical or social history which can be determined as having national heritage significance.	City Development Branch	Heritage consultant	No	New Operating Funding, approximately \$50,000 is required (this item is referred to the 2016/2017 Council Mid Year Budget Review Process to seek funding required).	2016/17 – 2017/18	Completed Heritage Study review.

Theme 2 - Protecting

Strategies

- Ensure protection is applied to significant heritage places and spaces in the City.
- Ensure that buildings and works respect the significance of heritage places as identified in the Statement of Significance.
- Ensure policy in the planning scheme streamlines decision making.
- Ensure heritage places are correctly documented and mapped to enable clear decision making.
- Actively manage and protect remnant indigenous vegetation sites as irreplaceable natural heritage assets.

Actions

Ref.	Key Actions	Lead Unit(s)	Supporting Unit(s) / Partners	Within Strategic Resource Plan	Budget / Resource	Delivery	Measures
P1	Prepare a planning scheme amendment to introduce the places identified and assessed in the Merri-bek Gaps Study 2017 into the Merri-bek Planning Scheme, via application of the Heritage Overlay.	Amendments Unit	City Development Branch, External Heritage Consultant, Capital Works Planning &	No	Existing Base Funding (approximately 8-12 months of staff time) and General Amendments Base	2017/2018	Council adopted amendment submitted to the Minister for Planning for approval.

Ref.	Key Actions	Lead Unit(s)	Supporting Unit(s) / Partners	Within Strategic Resource Plan	Budget / Resource	Delivery	Measures
			Delivery Branch, Property Unit, Open Space - Design & Development Unit		Funding (approximately \$45,000 to undertake planning scheme amendment process including external heritage consultant as expert witness at Panel and post Panel changes).		
P2	Undertake a critique of the Pentridge Master Plans to determine whether there is a need to update the Master Plans to achieve more appropriate outcomes within the Pentridge Redevelopment.	Strategy Unit	City Development Branch	Yes	Existing Base Funding (approximately 1 month of staff time) and Existing operating budget Funding (\$35,000)	2017/2018	Completed review, report to Council and advocate to DELWP in line with recommendations.
P3	Prepare a planning scheme amendment to introduce the places identified and assessed as part of the Pre War and Post War Modern architectural style Heritage Study(s) (aligned with Actions K5 and K14) into the Merri-bek Planning Scheme, via application of the Heritage Overlay.	Amendments Unit	City Development Branch, External Heritage Consultant, Capital Works Planning & Delivery Branch, Property Unit, Open Space - Design & Development Unit	No	Existing Base Funding (approximately 12 months of staff time) and General Amendments Base Funding (approximately \$50,000 to undertake planning scheme amendment process including external heritage consultant as expert witness at Panel and post Panel changes). Should the Panel Hearings be combined for the pre war and post war studies the Panel costs will increase.	2020/2021	Council adopted amendment submitted to the Minister for Planning for approval.
P4	Prepare an Incorporated Plan that sets out the permit exemptions from the provisions of the Heritage Overlay for minor matters on non-contributory heritage places to streamline the planning process for heritage places in accordance with Clause 43.01-2. Investigate allowing relocation of heritage places outside of the	Amendments Unit	City Development Branch	No	Existing Base Funding (6-8 months of staff time)	2018/2019	Final Incorporated Plan adopted by Council by 2019

Ref.	Key Actions	Lead Unit(s)	Supporting Unit(s) / Partners	Within Strategic Resource Plan	Budget / Resource	Delivery	Measures
	municipality as part of this project.						
P5	Prepare a Planning Scheme Amendment to introduce the Incorporated Plan into the Merri-bek Planning Scheme	Amendments Unit	City Development Branch	No	Existing Base Funding (6-12 months of staff time) and General Amendments Base Funding required (\$453 to process planning scheme amendment), (approximately \$17,000 for a 2 person Panel to consider submissions)	2019/2020	Council adopted amendment submitted to the Minister for Planning for approval by 2021
P6	Conduct a comprehensive review of current heritage overlay mapping to identify inaccuracies with Property Unit allocation. Correct any errors through the planning scheme amendment process.	Amendments Unit	GIS Unit	No	Existing Base Funding (approximately 100 hours of staff time)	2020/2021	Complete list of Heritage map anomalies
P7	Prepare a Planning Scheme Amendment to change the schedule to the Heritage Overlay to allow prohibited uses based on findings of the Merri-bek Industrial Land Strategy Heritage Analysis Report 2020	Amendments Unit	City Development Branch	No	Existing Base Funding (approximately 8-12 months of staff time) and General Amendments Base Funding required (approximately \$20,000 to process planning scheme amendment with heritage advisor as expert witness at Panel)	2021/2022	Council adopted amendment submitted to the Minister for Planning for approval 2022
P8	Prepare a Planning Scheme Amendment in accordance with 20(A) of the Planning and Environment Act to rectify map anomalies in the Heritage Overlay of the Merri-bek Planning Scheme (to implement Action P5)	Amendments Unit		No	Existing Base Funding (approximately 3 months of staff time) and General Amendments Base Funding required (\$906 to prepare an amendment in	2021/2022	Council delegate adopted amendment submitted to the Minister for Planning for approval

Ref.	Key Actions	Lead Unit(s)	Supporting Unit(s) / Partners	Within Strategic Resource Plan	Budget / Resource	Delivery	Measures
					accordance with 20A)		
P9	Continue to request that the Minister for Planning apply interim Heritage Overlays to significant places that have detailed heritage information under imminent threat of demolition/ development and after the commencement of exhibition of a heritage amendment.	Amendments Unit	External Heritage Consultant, City Development Branch	No	Existing Base Funding (1 month of staff time) and General Amendments Base Funding required (\$3,764 per planning scheme amendment, approximately 1 place per year) Note: reactive work program estimate per annum.	Ongoing	Request submitted to Minister for Planning as required
P10	Continue to review new and emerging heritage in Merri-bek as it develops. E.g. Bluestone Heritage, Post War / Modern Heritage	Amendments Unit	City Development Branch, Marketing & Communications Unit	No	Existing Base Funding (1-3 months staff time) Note: reactive work program estimate per annum	Ongoing	Investigation of new and emerging heritage completed

Theme 3 – Supporting

Strategies

- Ensure conservation management is inherent in relevant Council processes.
- Continue to provide advice and training to staff to help conserve heritage places and spaces.
- Engage with interested and relevant parties to determine the best conservation outcomes for our heritage assets.
- Continue to work with the Wurundjeri Tribe to understand heritage values, legal obligations and to ensure ongoing connections with traditional owners of the land.
- Continue to partner with active community historical organisations in raising awareness of Merri-bek's history.

Actions

Ref.	Key Actions	Lead Unit(s)	Supporting Unit(s) / Partners	Within Strategic Resource Plan	Budget / Resource	Delivery	Measures
S1	Investigate works or maintenance required for public buildings on the Victorian Heritage Register that can take advantage of the Living Heritage Program established by Heritage Victoria.	Capital Works Planning & Delivery Branch, Property Unit	Amendments Unit, Heritage Victoria	No	Existing Base Funding (approximately 2 months staff time)	2018/2019	Funding sought for relevant opportunities
S2	Recognise Aboriginal cultural heritage through ongoing connection and engagement with traditional owners of the land.	Community Development & Social Policy Unit	Arts & Culture Unit, Marketing & Communications Branch, Heritage Victoria, DELWP, Wurundjeri Tribe	Yes	Existing Base Funding (administration resource as part of the role of the Social Policy and Projects Officer)	Ongoing	Two meetings per year to be convened with the Wurundjeri Council.
S3	Continue to support Merri-bek's historical societies.	All relevant Units	Local Historical Societies	Yes	Existing Base Funding (approximately 1 month of staff time per year)	Ongoing	Active local historic societies
S4	Ensure heritage conservation is considered for relevant Council policies and plans, e.g. Conservation management plans.	All relevant Units		Yes	Existing Base Funding (staff time)	Ongoing	Council policies or plans prepared and reviewed considerate of heritage conservation
S5	Ensure that staff involved in heritage related matters have access to heritage training and related professional development.	City Development Branch	Local Historical Societies, Qualified Historians	Yes	Existing Base Funding (administration resource as part of the role of the Heritage Advisor)	Ongoing	Training program available to relevant staff
S6	Continue to provide heritage advice and assistance to staff for planning and building permits triggered by the Merri-bek Heritage Overlay. Review the capacity of Council's Heritage Advisory Service in light of additional Heritage Overlays being added to the Planning	City Development Branch		Yes	Existing Operational Funding (administration resource as part of the role of the Heritage Advisor) and New Operational Funding required (\$10,000 per year –	Ongoing	Heritage advice for planning and building permits within the Heritage Overlay

Ref.	Key Actions	Lead Unit(s)	Supporting Unit(s) / Partners	Within Strategic Resource Plan	Budget / Resource	Delivery	Measures
	Scheme.				for approximately 1000 new places)		

Theme 4 - Communicating

Strategies

- Create opportunities to raise awareness and appreciation of the heritage of our City.
- Enable wide distribution of our City's heritage studies and documents.
- Celebrate our City's heritage in the built environment through art and other objects.
- Advocate to the state government for more incentives for protection of heritage places.
- Conserve and interpret places of cultural and archaeological heritage.

Actions

Ref.	Key Actions	Lead Unit(s)	Supporting Unit(s) / Partners	Within Strategic Resource Plan	Budget / Resource	Delivery	Measures
C1	Advocate to Heritage Victoria to formulate a standard fact sheet that can be used by all Planning Authorities to provide community information on the operation and implications of the Heritage Overlay.	Amendments Unit	Heritage Victoria	Yes	Existing Base Funding (approximately 2 days of staff time)	2017/2018	Response from Heritage Victoria
C2	Provide a biennial report on the status of this Implementation Plan.	Amendments Unit	All relevant Units	Yes	Existing Base Funding (administration resource as part of the role of the Senior Strategic Planner)	2018/2019	Biennial report provided to Council by 2018
C3	Establish a program of walking tours and other activities aimed at	Community Development &	Marketing & Communications	No	Existing Base Funding (approximately 1 – 3 months)	2020/2021	Established walking tours publicly

Ref.	Key Actions	Lead Unit(s)	Supporting Unit(s) / Partners	Within Strategic Resource Plan	Budget / Resource	Delivery	Measures
	promoting the City's history and heritage places.	Social Policy Unit	Unit, GIS Unit, Economic Development Unit, Strategy Unit, historical societies and local heritage groups		of staff time) and New Operating Funding required (approximately \$5,000 for graphic design and printing).		available
C4	Update WikiNorthia content – updated with key heritage sites	Library Services Unit		Yes	Existing Base Funding (approximately 5 days of 1.0 FTE staff time)	2020/2021	Up to date WikiNorthia content for public access
C5	Investigate promotion of heritage related work produced by Council in municipal libraries, via exhibits/displays	Library Services Unit	Amendments Unit, Arts & Culture Unit, Community Development & Social Policy Unit	Yes	Existing Base Funding (approximately 5 days of 1.0 FTE staff time)	2020/2021	Heritage exhibit as a feature in public libraries
C6	Investigate mapping the migration history of Merri-bek	Community Development & Social Policy Unit	Marketing & Communications Unit, GIS Unit	Yes	Existing Base Funding (approximately 3-6 months of staff time)	2021/2022	Migration maps available to view on the Merri-bek Web page
C7	Continue to review and update the content of Council's online heritage web pages to include relevant information, improve usability and increase access to heritage information.	All relevant Units		Yes	Existing Base Funding (ranges from a few hours for minor content updates to 1-2 week for complex projects)	Ongoing	Up to date heritage information on the Merri-bek web page
C8	Continue to collect, preserve and archive the City's historic documents and objects.	Records Management Unit	Public Records Office of Victoria, Local Historic Associations	Yes	Existing Base Funding (administration resource as part of the role of the Archivist / Records Officer)	Ongoing	Collection and preservation of historic documents and objects
C9	Ensure completed heritage studies are provided to historical associations, municipal and state libraries.	Amendments Unit		Yes	Existing Base Funding (one day of staff time as heritage studies are completed)	Ongoing	Timely distribution of all heritage related information
C10	Continue to promote the City's heritage in local media e.g. 'Inside	Marketing & Communications	Arts & Culture Unit, Local Historic	Yes	Existing Base Funding (administration resource as	Ongoing	Historic information provided to local

Ref.	Key Actions	Lead Unit(s)	Supporting Unit(s) / Partners	Within Strategic Resource Plan	Budget / Resource	Delivery	Measures
	Merri-bek' newsletter and 'City News' section of the Merri-bek Leader Newspaper.	Unit	Associations		part of the role of the Marketing and Communications Officer)		media
C11	Continue to support initiatives that benefit heritage conservation as part of the community grants program.	Recreation Services Unit,	Local Historic Associations	Yes	Existing Base Funding (administration resource as part of the role of the Community Grants Administration Officer)	Ongoing	Integration of conservation in community grants program
C12	Investigate commissioning a public art project with historical context to Merri-bek's heritage	Arts & Culture Unit	Property Unit, Open Space Design & Development Unit	Yes	Existing Base Funding (administration resource as part of the role of the Public Art Officer) and Existing annual Capital Funding (\$13,000)	Ongoing	At least two heritage related public art displays in Merri-bek over the next four years.
C13	Encourage installations during MoreArt to respond to the historical sites along the Upfield train line	Arts & Culture Unit		Yes	Existing Base Funding (administration resource as part of the role of the Public Art Officer)	Ongoing	Promotion and celebration of historic sites along the Upfield rail line

Monitoring and Review

This Plan has a longer term time horizon to 2032 to fit in with 3 Council Planning cycles. The Implementation Plan will be reviewed towards the end of each Council term every 5 years to monitor progress with its completion and set priorities, actions and responsibilities for the coming term. Actions will be prioritised into the following three categories:

Short – to be delivered in the next financial year

Medium – to be delivered in the next 5 years

Long – to be delivered in the next 5-10 years

Ongoing – to be delivered as required

Implementation of a range of actions does require new resources and/or budget are subject to outcomes of Council's annual budgeting process and/or partnerships and grant funding that could assist delivery.

A monitoring and milestone report will be presented to Council in 2018 to ensure the actions committed to have commenced, are underway or have been completed.