



Fact Sheet 1 – About the Local Heritage Register

What is the Mount Isa Heritage Register?

Part 11 of the *Queensland Heritage Act 1992* requires that local governments keep a local heritage register of places of cultural significance in its area. The Mount Isa City Council Local Heritage Register includes places that reflect the important historic themes of the area such as mining, transport, multiculturalism and struggling with isolation. The Register is therefore more than simply meeting a legislative obligation: the significant places provide a sense of identity for local communities and reflect their unique history, especially the need for ingenuity and strong social bonds in a difficult environment. These places need to be identified and protected so that future generations can appreciate the history and heritage of the area bounded by the Mount Isa City Council local government area.

The Queensland Heritage Act 1992 can be viewed at:

<http://www.legislation.qld.gov.au/LEGISLTN/CURRENT/Q/QldHeritageA92.pdf>

How has the Local Heritage Register been compiled?

Mount Isa City Council engaged a professional cultural heritage firm, Converge Heritage + Community, to undertake a local heritage study. Converge undertook the study in a number of stages, which involved considering the historical themes for the region, examining previous heritage studies, inventories of places and existing heritage registers, undertaking fieldwork and consulting with a range of stakeholders. The significance of identified places was assessed using recognised heritage criteria. The register entry for a place is represented on a Place Card, which includes important details such as the name of the place, its location, history, description, photos, map and a Statement of Significance.

Criteria for entry into the Local Heritage Register

The *Queensland Heritage Act 1992* (QHA) establishes a number of criteria that are used to assess the significance of places recommended for entry onto the Queensland Heritage Register. The criteria are consistent with those used by heritage bodies and professionals throughout Australia. The QHA criteria has been adapted to determine the significance of places recommended for entry on the Local Heritage Register. The criteria are:

- A *The place is important in demonstrating the evolution or pattern of the region's history.*
- B *The place demonstrates rare, uncommon or endangered aspects of the region's cultural heritage.*
- C *The place has potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of the region's history.*





- D The place is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a particular class of cultural places important to the region.*
- E The place is important to the region because of its aesthetic significance.*
- F The place is important in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement at a particular period for the region.*
- G The place has a strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons important to the region.*
- H The place has a special association with the life or work of a particular person, group or organisation of importance in the region's history.*

Each place is unique and only the relevant criteria are used to generate a Statement of Significance for a place. Only one criterion is required to enter a place on the Local Heritage Register and this is consistent with the *Queensland Heritage Act 1992* (section 35).

What does it mean if a place is entered on the Local Heritage Register?

The purpose of listing heritage sites is to give them recognition and protect their important heritage values, listing does not:

- ❑ Change ownership;
- ❑ Prevent ongoing maintenance and repairs;
- ❑ Put a stop to all development or change;
- ❑ Impede operations, in particular in relation to safety and health; or
- ❑ Give the public permission to access private property.

If your place is listed on a register you can still make changes or additions provided they do not detract from the heritage value. In making changes to heritage fabric or additions, you may need to make a development application.

In considering any changes or additions the Mount Isa City Council and/or the Department of Environment and Resource Management recognise that future uses of a heritage building may require adapting it to allow its reuse.





Property owners and developers of a local heritage place should therefore contact Council in the initial phase of planning for a development. Where necessary, development is assessed against the Code for IDAS (Schedule 2 of the *Queensland Heritage Regulation 2003*) and any relevant provisions in the Mount Isa City Council planning scheme. In addition, places that are also entered on the Queensland Heritage Register are assessed by the Department of Environment and Resource Management.

Mount Isa City Council recognises that to conserve the significance of local heritage places, flexibility and a sympathetic approach to development applications is often required. In most cases, it is possible for development to ensure the ongoing use and viability of a place whilst allowing for the conservation of the heritage significance.

The *Queensland Heritage Regulation 2003* and the Code for IDAS can be viewed at: <http://www.legislation.qld.gov.au/LEGISLTN/CURRENT/Q/QldHeritageR03.pdf>

Mount Isa City Council is in the process of preparing a new Planning Scheme for the local government area (estimated to be adopted in mid 2013). The new Planning Scheme will contain a Local Heritage Overlay Code that will apply during the assessment of a development proposal on a local heritage place. Information relating to the management of the Local Heritage Register will also be provided within a Local Heritage Policy to be contained within the new planning scheme.

Where do I obtain further information about the Local Heritage Register?

To obtain further information:

- Visit the Mount Isa City Council's website at:
<http://www.mountisa.qld.gov.au/local-heritage-study>
- Visit Mount Isa City Council administrative offices at 23 West Street, Mount Isa QLD to view a copy of the Local Heritage Register; or
- Contact Council's Land Use Officer on ph: (07) 4747 3200.

