

Guidelines for State Government Heritage - Explanatory text

Sections

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- Structure/ relationship of documents

Background

The new *Heritage Act 2018* and *Heritage Regulations* came into effect on 1 July 2019.

Part 9 of the Act relates specifically to State Government Heritage, legislating the expectation for State Government to manage and conserve its heritage assets.

In order to achieve this goal, the Act directs the Heritage Council to:

Provide Guidelines about State government heritage, in relation to:

- 1. The preparation, review and periodic updating of inventories of places they own, occupy or control.*
- 2. The management of their heritage assets and about the integration of heritage management into asset management generally.*

This work is being carried out by DPLH on behalf of the Heritage Council.

The contents of Guidelines has been largely based on existing government heritage guidelines from WA, other Australian States, and internationally.

Aims

The aims of the Guidelines are to provide State Agencies a **practical guide** to the management and conservation of their heritage assets.

With this in mind, the documents have been written to balance:

- The need for clear guidance, that is easy to follow and easy to implement;
- The responsibility of government to care for the heritage assets under its management;
- Best practice heritage management and conservation practices;
- The efficient and economic use of government resources (with an emphasis on forward planning to save time, money and lower risk);
- The need for State Agencies to be provided additional support.

Flexibility of draft documents

The Guidelines as they have been provided should be considered a **draft document**, and **flexible**.

It is hoped that consultation with State Agencies - those who manage heritage assets and that will be the users of the Guidelines – will reveal the **suitability** of the document to their ‘real world’ needs, and provide feedback to **how they can be improved**.

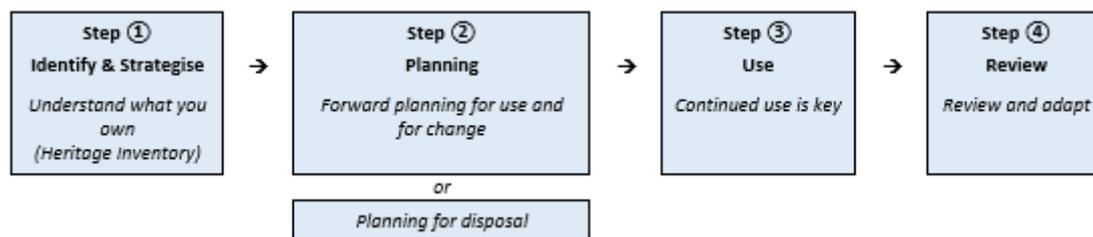
Consultation is also seeking to gather feedback and suggestions from State Agencies about how the management and conservation of State Government heritage assets can be improved overall, if it is not just a matter of providing better guidance documentation.

State Agencies may require additional practical support from DPLH Heritage Services to introduce and implement the actions recommended in the Guidelines, or to establish ongoing heritage management practices in relation to individual heritage assets. Or Agencies may require general education and training about heritage to staff.

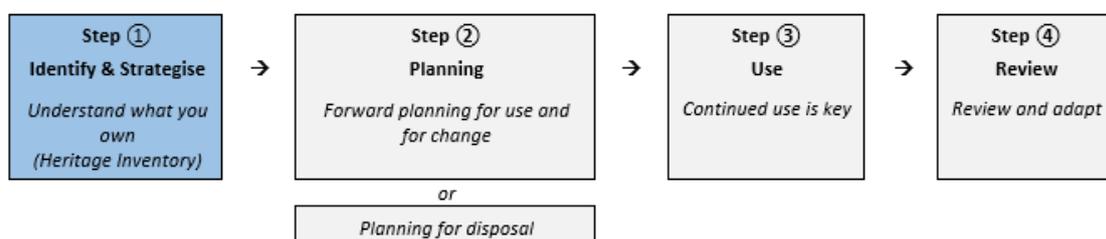
Question: What is the best possible management and conservation outcome for State Government heritage assets, and how can this be achieved?

Structure/ relationship of documents

The Management and Conservation Guidelines sets out the four step **overarching** process.



The Heritage Inventory Guidelines is step one in that process.

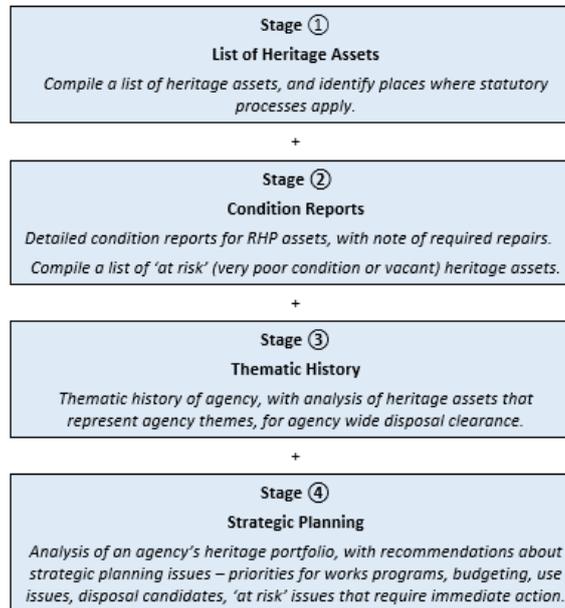


Ideally, the four step overarching management process would be followed in sequential order, for the most efficient and economic use of government resources, and for it to have the biggest impact on an Agency’s heritage portfolio overall.

However, for one reason or another it may be not possible or not necessary to follow the process in order. For example, urgent action may be required, or the four step process may have been carried out in full before.

Each of the four steps in the overarching process will have its own guidance document which sets out the various steps involved - like the Heritage Inventory Guidelines being provided also, and the Disposal Guidelines that are currently being developed.

The [Heritage Inventory Guidelines](#) sets out a staged process for preparation.



Once finalised, the Guidelines will be published on the DPLH website. It is likely that they will be available as PDF documents, as well as incorporated into webpages.