

Media Release

26 February 2024



Protecting Our Heritage – Have Your Say

Community Consultation Extended Until 15 March 2024

Barunga West Council is pleased to announce an extension to the community consultation period regarding the proposed new planning rules aimed at protecting our local heritage. This extension is a direct response to community feedback and underscores the Council's commitment to ensuring that every voice is heard in this process.

Extended Community Consultation Period

Initially set to close on 1 March 2024, the community consultation period has now been extended to 15 March 2024. This extension provides additional time for residents to review the proposed changes, engage with Council, and submit their feedback.

Community Engagement to Date

A Community Information Session, held on 14 February 2024 at the Port Broughton Bowling Clubrooms, saw more than 50 people gather to learn more about the proposed planning changes. The proposed Local Heritage Places (Barunga West) Code Amendment aims to list 46 sites for local heritage protection.

About the Proposed Planning Rules

The proposed planning rules represent a step by Barunga West Council to plug a policy gap and utilise South Australia's new Code Amendment process to protect local heritage. With no heritage sites currently listed at either a local or state level within the Council's jurisdiction, these changes mark a significant effort to preserve the area's cultural and historical significance for future generations.

Support for Property Owners

The proposed rules require owners of Local Heritage Places to seek Council approval for changes to the external appearance of their buildings. However, it's important to note that owners are not expected to maintain their properties beyond normal expectations, nor does the public gain rights of access to these properties. Council is dedicated to supporting owners of heritage-listed properties through pre-development advice and assistance in accessing government grants for maintenance and upkeep.

Consideration for Adjoining Landowners

Adjoining landowners are encouraged to consider the heritage value of nearby properties when planning developments. Council will provide guidance to ensure developments are sympathetic to the heritage context, promoting the preservation of local heritage sites and enhancing the region's unique character. Importantly, adjoining landowners are **not** required to mirror the heritage properties.

Access to Information and Feedback

A comprehensive two-page information sheet is available on the Council's website to guide the community through the consultation period. Hard copies are also available at the Main Council Office in Port Broughton for those who prefer or require them.

The full wording of the Code Amendment and the proposed properties for listing as Local Heritage Places can be reviewed on the Council's website. Council welcomes all submissions and feedback, which will be thoroughly reviewed before making recommendations to the State Planning Commission for a final determination by Minister for Planning, Nick Champion.

Council's Commitment

Barunga West Council appreciates the community's involvement and is dedicated to making informed decisions that reflect the collective values and aspirations of our residents. This extended consultation period is a testament to our commitment to preserving our local heritage, maintaining the region's unique character, and ensuring a transparent and inclusive decision-making process.

For more information please contact:

- Shanti Ditter via email: CodeAmendments@planningaspects.com
- Barunga West Council on: (08) 8635 2107
- Via mail at: P.O. Box 3, Port Broughton SA 5522.