



APPLICANT GUIDELINES HERITAGE GRANTS PROGRAM

September 2026

Before applying to the Heritage Grants Program (Program) please read the guideline in full to make that you and your project meet the eligibility requirements. This document should be read in conjunction with the Program application forms, available via the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage's online grant management portal SmartyGrants:

<https://dplh.smartygrants.com.au/>

If you have any questions about the content of this guideline and would like to discuss your project, please contact us at:

HERITAGE GRANTS TEAM

HCWAincentives@dplh.wa.gov.au

08 6551 7954



FRONT COVER: Chamber of Commerce Building, Fremantle P980.

Acknowledgement of Country

The Heritage Council of Western Australia acknowledges the Aboriginal people as the traditional custodians of Western Australia. We pay our respects to the Ancestors and Elders, both past and present, and the ongoing connection between people, land, waters and community. We acknowledge those who continue to share knowledge, their traditions and culture to support our journey for reconciliation. In particular, we recognise land and cultural heritage as places that hold great significance for Aboriginal people.

Disclaimer

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ABOVE: Chamber of Commerce Building, Fremantle P980.

2025-26 SHG recipient for roofing works and roof plumbing. Image supplied by Fremantle Chamber of Commerce Inc.

ABOUT THE HERITAGE GRANTS PROGRAM

The Heritage Grants Program encourages investment in State Registered Heritage Places and supports key strategic objectives of the Heritage Council of Western Australia. There are two heritage grant streams administered by the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage:

- State Heritage Grants
- Community Heritage Grants

STATE HERITAGE GRANTS STREAM (SHG)

The SHG stream subsidises the cost of conservation works, including the costs associated with professional advice, for **State Registered** places.

This is for **private owners** of State Registered Heritage places to assist with physical conservation projects such as structural stabilisation, masonry repairs, roof repairs and mitigation of damp.

Under this stream, funding assistance can be provided for the preparation of scopes of conservation works and building condition assessments and can be applied for as a documentation-only project or in conjunction with physical building work.

Applications can also be made by **private owners** and **local governments** for the preparation of conservation management documentation, such as Conservation Management Plans, Conservation Management Strategies, Archaeological Management Plans and Cultural Landscape Management Plans.

For places that are on the Heritage Council's **assessment program**, funding assistance is available for the preparation of Conservation Management Plans. This group is not eligible for funding for physical conservation works or other documentation projects.

To check if your property is on the State Register or the assessment program, visit [Inherit](#) or contact the grants team.

Funding

There is no minimum grant.

Discretionary grants of up to **\$50,000** are offered for conservation works projects, on a dollar-for-dollar (50:50) basis (i.e. project costs are met 50:50 by the grantee and grantor, up to the agreed grant value).

An exception to the 50:50 rule is that the costs of commissioning a heritage professional will be met on an 80:20 basis (i.e. 80 per cent of costs can be included within the grant). This part of the grant lies within the \$50,000 maximum grant, or \$100,000 for Major Conservation Projects.

Discretionary grants up to **\$16,000** are offered for non-works projects (e.g. documentation). Documentation funding will be offered on an 80:20 basis (i.e. the grant can meet up to 80 per cent of the costs).

MAJOR CONSERVATION PROJECTS

Funding of up to **\$100,000**, on a dollar-for-dollar basis, may be granted for projects that address the Major Conservation Projects criteria (section 6.1.1). The award of higher funding is discretionary. No financial hardship considerations will be considered.

An application can include both a works and non-works component and therefore have a maximum value of \$66,000 or \$116,000 for a Major Conservation Project plus documentation.

No in-kind contributions will be considered under the SHG stream.

A reduced owner's contribution (less than 50 per cent) may be considered where evidence of financial hardship can be demonstrated. The following may be requested to support the application:

- Income statement, if receiving Centrelink entitlements.
- Declaration of assets (not including the family home).
- Evidence of severe financial hardship.

Applications are assessed on a case-by-case basis with the initial expectation of a 20 per cent owner contribution. Varied contributions may be offered depending on the level of financial hardship.

Financial hardship is only available to private individuals for their sole residence.

No financial hardship will be considered for not-for-profit organisations or commercial entities.

Projects that fail to adequately demonstrate hardship will be assessed and recommended with the standard funding ratio.



ABOVE: West Australian Rowing Club P2090

2025-26 SHG recipient for painting of the exterior of the building. **Image supplied by the West Australian Rowing Club Inc.**

THINGS TO CONSIDER:

- Is my property on the State Register of Heritage Places?
- Are there any existing conservation management planning documents for my property?
- Who will provide specialist heritage advice for the project?
- What will the outcomes of my project be?

COMMUNITY HERITAGE GRANTS STREAM (CHG)

The CHG stream provides assistance to **not-for-profit organisations**, businesses and **local governments** for education, community engagement and interpretation projects.

Education – providing training for the community, such as specialist conservation talks and heritage tours, on the importance, identification, and conservation of historic heritage places, can be assisted under this category.

Community engagement – providing funding assistance to events or activities that celebrate heritage places, such as heritage trade skills workshops and training, and projects that promote heritage conservation across a region or sector.

Interpretation – assisting the development or implementation of interpretation projects that can either be for the preparation of an interpretation plan or for the implementation of an established interpretation plan – support can be available for audio-visual interpretation experiences, interpretive signage, heritage tourism products and other creative projects that tell the story of a Heritage Place.

Funding

The minimum funding to any one project is \$1,000.

Funding is split into two tiers: standard projects and major projects.

Discretionary grants of up to **\$10,000** are offered for standard projects, on a dollar-for-dollar basis (i.e. project costs are met 50:50 by the grantee and grantor, up to the agreed grant value).

Discretionary grants of up to **\$30,000** are offered for major projects, on a dollar-for-dollar basis (i.e. project costs are met 50:50 by the grantee and grantor, up to the agreed grant value). Major projects are required to demonstrate one or more of the additional eligibility criteria:

- A. Community capacity building, including the use of new or existing partnerships.
- B. Promoting historic heritage education in a primary, secondary, tertiary, or vocational setting.
- C. Significantly contribute to reactivation of a heritage place.

Tasks undertaken free of charge by the applicant or other parties, or materials or services that were received at no financial cost to the applicant are considered in-kind contributions. All in-kind contributions must be outlined in the application form and must relate to eligible tasks under the CHG stream.

The grant recipient's proportion of project costs (matched funding) may be met in part or in whole with in-kind contributions, where these can be substantiated and are in line with generally accepted rates. In-kind contributions beyond the recipient's proportion of project costs will be recorded as part of overall project costs but will not qualify for reimbursement.

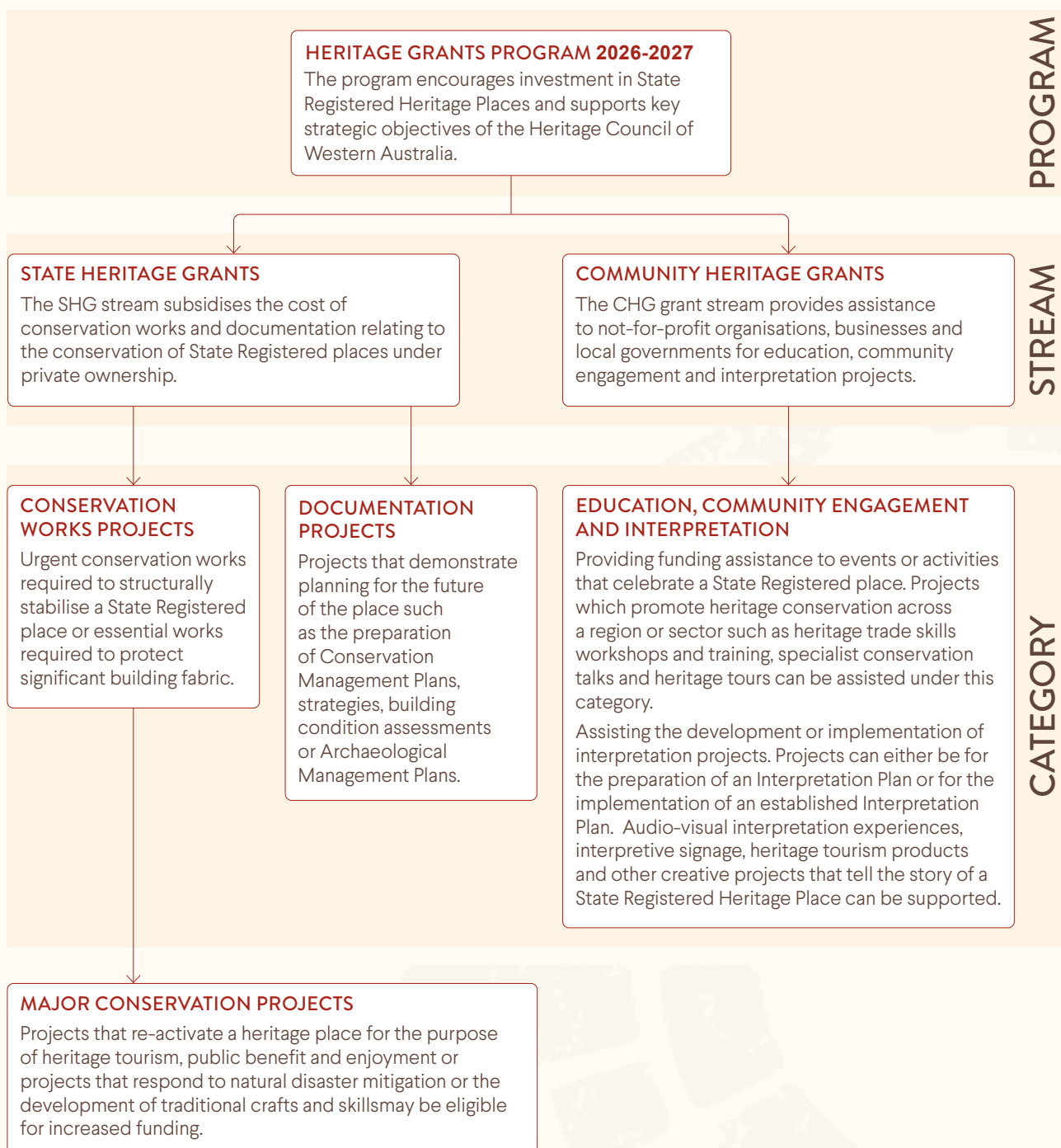
There is no consideration of financial hardship given under the CHG stream. Applicants are to be encouraged to seek funding partnerships and engage with volunteer and not-for-profit/ community groups.

Goods and Services Tax (GST)

For GST-registered recipients, GST is paid for all funded activities where GST has been paid to a supplier. For recipients not GST-registered, grants paid will be 'grossed up' by 10 per cent to meet the cost of demonstrated GST payments. Supplies that do not include GST will not attract a GST payment.

THINGS TO CONSIDER:

- How can the story of my heritage place be shared with the community?
- Have I discussed my idea with relevant stakeholders?
- Is there an existing interpretation plan for the place?



HERITAGE GRANTS PROGRAM PROCESS

Pre-application period	• Speak to a heritage professional or consultant about your project • Identify potential builders, trades or specialists as required for works • Understand the cost and timeframes for works • Understand what approvals and/or permits will be required for your project
Applications open Monday 7 September 2026 Application forms available through the SmartyGrants portal and guidelines are published on the Department's website.	• Seek multiple quotes for the project • Read through the program guidelines and application forms • Check your eligibility • Ensure relevant stakeholders are engaged and supportive • Speak to us about your project, either over the phone or in person • Compile the required information
Applications close 12 noon Monday 2 November 2026 Completed applications must be submitted on or before the closing date. Late or incomplete applications cannot be assessed.	• Ensure your application is complete and all attachments are included when you submit • Make sure you submit your application before the closing date and time
Applications are assessed All applications are reviewed against the eligibility criteria before being assessed by assessment panels.	• During the assessment phase, you may be contacted for additional information, ensure you supply this as soon as possible to ensure it can be considered in the assessment of your application
Recommendations are made The Department provides advice to the Heritage Council on the outcomes of the assessment process. Recommendations are then made to the Minister for Heritage who approves projects for the program.	• Please be patient while applications are assessed, keep an eye on your emails for the result of your application • Maintain contact with your trades and heritage professional and let the Heritage Grants Team know of any changes in your plans
Minister's announcement and grant offers January/February 2027 All applicants are contacted directly and notified of the application outcome. Grants will be offered by letter, applicants have 28 calendar days to respond to the offer, at which point the offer is automatically retracted.	• Read through your letter of offer and grant agreement carefully • Ensure you review, sign and return the grant agreement by the specified date • Make sure you submit any requested additional information required as a condition of offer

Grant agreement All successful applicants are required to enter into a grant agreement with the Heritage Council to accept the grant award. Projects cannot proceed until the grant agreement has been executed. Any work undertaken prior to the execution of a grant agreement is ineligible.	• Do not start your project until the grant agreement has been returned to you signed by both parties and until you have received all relevant required approvals. • If your project involves conservation work or the installation of interpretative elements, contact your local government to progress development approval or other approvals as required • Update your heritage professional and trades to plan for beginning of works
Project delivery The Department will monitor progress of the project. Applicants are required to meet reporting requirements outlined in grant agreements.	• Work with your heritage professional to ensure the project is consistent with good heritage practice and relevant approvals • Ensure you submit claims on time and that you use the required forms • Remember that invoices must be paid and evidence of payment provided with your claim • When requested, provide updates to the Department on your project • Monitor timings to make sure your project stays to schedule. If there are unavoidable project delays, contact the Heritage Grants Team as soon as possible to discuss an extension
Project completion The project must be completed by the final claim date specified in the grant agreement or as otherwise varied.	• Work with your heritage professional to record and report your project for the final claim • Explore ways to celebrate completion of your project and share your success.



ABOVE: Freemason's Hotel, Bridgetown P248

2025-26 SHG recipient for the restoration of verandah and fascia. Image supplied by Virginia Southwell.

APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible for the program, you need to meet criteria specific to the grant stream for which you are applying. Applicant eligibility requirements are outlined below under both streams. Please read the criteria carefully to ensure you are eligible before applying. If you are unsure if you meet the criteria please contact the Heritage Grants Team.

STATE HERITAGE GRANTS (SHG)

Eligible applicants

To be eligible for the SHG stream applicants must:

- a) be a **private owner*** of a State Registered place;
- b) hold comprehensive building insurance for the place; and
- c) have held the certificate of title for three or more years.

*All persons and corporate entities in ownership of a State Registered Place are eligible to apply, except for Commonwealth, State government agencies and local governments.

The following additional eligibility criteria also applies to some applicants:

- d) **Non-government entities** that are leasing a government-owned place may be eligible if they can provide evidence the maintenance of the place is their full responsibility.
- e) Owners that have held the Certificate of Title for three years or less must provide evidence that the cost of repairs substantially exceeds, in the opinion of the Outcome Assessment Panel, the benefit to the owner.

- f) Applications from owners of places that are on Heritage Council's assessment program may be eligible if they are for the preparation of a Conservation Management Plan (CMP).
- g) Local governments are eligible to apply only for funding for conservation documents (CMPs etc), which relate to either State registered or assessment program places.
- h) Owners that have held the Certificate of Title for three years or less may be eligible to apply if the place has been transferred from State ownership to the current owner as part of a Native Title Settlement, Native Title Agreement or ILUA.
- i) Applications for works required under a Heritage Agreement or other statutory order will only be considered where the applicant can provide sufficient evidence that the cost of repairs substantially exceeds, in the opinion of the Outcome Assessment Panel, the benefit to the owner.

Ineligible applicants

The following are not eligible to apply for funding in the SHG stream:

- Australian Government agencies
- State Government agencies
- Applicants with an active grant under a previous round applying for new works that relate to existing applications.



ABOVE: Chung Wah Association Hall P2027

2025-26 SHG recipient for development of a feasibility study. Image supplied by Chung Wah Association.

COMMUNITY HERITAGE GRANTS (CHG)

Eligible applicants

To be eligible for the CHG grant stream, applicants must be one of the following:

- a) Incorporated **not-for-profit organisation** registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC)
- b) **Businesses**, including individuals/ sole traders, with a valid ABN
- c) WA local government authorities.
- e) Hold appropriate business, professional indemnity, public liability insurance or comprehensive building insurance (as applicable to the project) for the duration of the project.
- f) Not have an active grant application for the same/similar project from a previous Community Heritage Program funding round.
- g) Disclose all sources of funding for the project in the project application.
- h) Provide evidence of place ownership or owner authorisation if your project involves any works to a place.

Applicants must also meet all the below criteria:

- d) Comply with the specific eligibility requirements for the funding stream under which they submit an application.

INELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

The following are not eligible for funding assistance under the program:

- State government entities or other affiliated bodies
- Applicants that have an active grant project under a previous round of the program.

THINGS TO CONSIDER:

- Do I meet all the criteria for the program stream I want to apply for?
- Do I hold current insurance relevant to my project?



ABOVE: St Mary's Anglican Church and Graveyard, Busselton P18162

2025-26 SHG recipient for the replacement of timbers and supports to Bell Tower.

Image supplied by The Bunbury Diocesan Trustees.

PROJECT ELIGIBILITY

In addition to applicant eligibility, projects must meet set criteria relevant to the program stream being applied for. You should ensure your project can satisfy the following criteria before applying. If you are unsure if your project meets the criteria, please contact the Heritage Grants Team for assistance.

STATE HERITAGE GRANTS (SHG)

Eligible projects:

SHG projects must meet one or more of the below criteria:

- a. Urgent conservation works that are proposed to stabilise the place.
- b. Essential conservation works that are required to protect significant building fabric.
- c. The project demonstrates planning for the future of the place.

Ineligible projects

- Projects that are not eligible for funding include:
- New additions (free standing or attached to existing structures), new construction or repairs to structures that are not of heritage significance.
- Demolition or removal of significant fabric without appropriate like-for-like reinstatement or without due cause.
- Purchase of land or buildings.
- Administrative costs of the applicant, including Development Application fees.
- Tasks that have commenced prior to the execution of a grant agreement (including completion of a grant application and associated advice).

- Educational or promotional activities.
- Heritage interpretation.
- General maintenance (not heritage specific, i.e. cleaning, pruning).
- Works that are the subject of an order imposed by local government under Section 3(25) of the *Local Government Act 1995*.
- Works claimable or claimed under an insurance policy.
- Reimbursement of insurance excess payments.
- Works required under an existing Heritage Agreement or other statutory order under the *Heritage Act 2018*.

COMMUNITY HERITAGE GRANTS (CHG)

CHG projects must celebrate and/or promote a State Registered Heritage Place (SRHP) or Local Heritage Survey places through either:

- promoting heritage conservation;
- interpretation focusing on standalone projects (single place projects), or multiple place projects such as heritage trails/local heritage walks; and
- interpretation that is across geographic regions or industry/professional sectors.



ABOVE: No 3 Pumping Station (Cunderdin Museum) P649

2025-26 CHG recipient for the development of an Interpretation Plan for Cunderdin Museum. Image supplied by Shire of Cunderdin.

Specific details of eligible and ineligible Community Heritage Grants projects are provided below.

Community engagement and interpretation

Eligible projects	Ineligible projects
All projects must meet the following criteria: • Celebrate and/or promote the cultural heritage significance of at least one State Registered Heritage Place or group of local heritage survey places. • All relevant stakeholders have been consulted, or consultation forms a part of the current application. • Not replicate an existing event, activity, service or product that is readily available to the same target audience • If the project involves interpretation, it must compile or follow an established interpretation plan, or other planning document as applicable to the project. • Be offered to the general public or to an identified broad special interest group. • Demonstrate a clear, measurable community benefit. • Identify key stakeholders and key messages to be delivered. • Promote general heritage conservation or heritage place research. • Demonstrate collaboration with other individuals or organisations in delivery of the event, activity, or project. • Consider historic cultural heritage elements in project design, delivery, and key messages. • Demonstrate value for money.	Projects and works ineligible for funding include the following: • Administrative costs of the applicant. • Tasks that have taken place or substantially commenced prior to the execution of a grant agreement. • General maintenance (not heritage specific, i.e. clearing of an existing trail, removal of graffiti, cleaning of plaques/monuments/memorials). • Development of a commercial brand. • Commercial product development or sales. • Purchase or long-term (ongoing outside term of grant agreement) lease of assets including equipment, land or buildings. • Funding of ongoing salaries, positions of employment. • Conservation works (unless works are undertaken as part of a project providing a hands-on conservation training course/event). • Projects that replicate an existing event, activity, service or product receiving assistance under the Program. • Activities or events held in a heritage place that do not otherwise promote heritage conservation or interpretation. • Any project not meeting the eligible criteria.

Projects must meet at least *one* of the following criteria:

- a) educate the community on the importance, identification, and conservation of historic heritage places
- or
- b) provide advice, training or support to custodians of local and State heritage places and promote best practice in line with applicable the Council policies and the Burra Charter
- or
- c) provide interpretation of at least one State Registered/assessment program or group of local heritage survey places from an historic cultural heritage perspective.

THINGS TO CONSIDER:

- Does my project meet all the required criteria for the program stream I want to apply for?
- Will I be able to demonstrate my project meets the criteria?
- Are any elements of my project listed as Ineligible projects under the stream I want to apply for



ABOVE: Inlet Park and Chapman's Mill, Reinscourt P421

2025-26 SHG recipient for the reinstatement of dome shingle roof and limestone restoration.

Image supplied by Alexander Van De Kamer.

ASSESSING APPLICATIONS

All eligible applications received under both grant streams are assessed against the following to ensure they are consistent with the objectives of the program.

The application demonstrates:

- best practice heritage outcomes, with priority given to longer-term, high-quality heritage projects and outcomes;
- consistency with Burra Charter principles;
- consistency with current Heritage Council policies and guidelines;
- sound understanding of the cultural heritage significance of the place, including relevance and applicability to the Statement of Significance;
- capacity and commitment to deliver project in a timely manner using suitable qualified Heritage professionals and consultants;
- value for money; and
- compliance with previous grant agreements where applicable.

STATE HERITAGE GRANTS (SHG)

Applications under the SHG stream will also be assessed against the below outcomes:

- Constitutes urgent or essential works to conserve, preserve or stabilise significant fabric or values, with priority given to urgent works to address 'at risk' elements
- Demonstrates use or application of traditional trade skills
- Demonstrates cause, effect and solution
- Demonstrates future management of the place.

Major Conservation Projects

In addition to the above, applications to the Major Conservation Projects category are required to demonstrate strong outcomes in one or more of the below areas:

- A. The project re-activates a heritage place or contributes significantly to its future reactivation for the purposes of heritage tourism, public benefit and enjoyment.
- B. The project demonstrates a proactive response to natural disaster mitigation.
- C. The project supports the continuation, development and sharing of traditional crafts and skills that will support future heritage conservation works.

If an application is made to the Major Conservation Projects category but is not deemed to meet the required criteria, it may be awarded funding under the State Heritage Grants stream, however, it will not be eligible for the higher funding cap offered by the Major Conservation Projects category.

COMMUNITY HERITAGE GRANTS (CHG)

Applications under the CHG stream will also be assessed against the following.

The application demonstrates:

- a clear and measurable community benefit;
- capacity and commitment to deliver project in a timely manner using suitable qualified Heritage professionals and consultants;
- a wide community reach;
- active community engagement;
- a new service, product or event;
- engagement with local community, volunteers and trades during project delivery; and
- the facilitation of heritage education, tourism, public benefit and enjoyment.

HERITAGE PROFESSIONALS

The role of the heritage professional is important where there are project decisions that have the potential to impact on cultural heritage values. Most projects can be overseen by heritage architects or structural engineers. Subject specific skills can be overseen by trades such as stonemasons or paint specialist.

It is recognised that there is no formal qualification or designation for a heritage architect.

To focus use of heritage professionals on those projects with a demonstrated need, a heritage professional is not required for the following:

- Minor projects which do not involve removing or altering significant fabric (including painting in the existing colour scheme)
- Cleaning that is low pressure, non-abrasive and non-chemical
- Repair of missing or deteriorated fittings or building materials with like-for-like materials including roof replacement
- Fitting of protective screens to windows
- Other small-scale projects where materials and processes have been clearly addressed through a development application.

In cases of like-for-like repair where an approval is not required, departmental officers will review project documentation to ensure that correct materials have been specified. The responsible contractor will then sign off the works at the end of the project and provide evidence of completion.

Where a responsible contractor is not nominated, departmental officers will review works through evidence provided, with site visits where practical, at the commencement and completion of the project.

Where engagement of a heritage professional is considered necessary, funding is offered at an 80:20 ratio.

For standard Community Heritage Stream projects, which do not impact the significant fabric of a heritage place, a heritage professional is not required to oversee the project.

The Heritage Council's InContact database may help when selecting heritage professionals and contractors. Businesses listed in InContact are not endorsed by the Council or the Department and applicants must make their own assessment when selecting a business or individual to carry out work. Contractors and trades that are not listed on InContact may also be suitable where relevant and applicable experience can be demonstrated and endorsed by reference. The InContact database can be found here:

<http://incontact.stateheritage.wa.gov.au/>

Applicants are advised to ensure contractors are licensed to undertake the work, carry valid insurance and the work is covered by a standard building contract. Consultants should only be appointed when applicants are satisfied that they can provide the required services.

GRANT AGREEMENTS

All successful applicants are required to enter into a grant agreement with the Heritage Council in order to accept the grant award. The grant agreement sets out the terms and conditions applicable to the grant and defines the roles and responsibilities of grantor and grantee.

Both parties must sign the grant agreement before any funding can be released. Any work undertaken prior to the execution of the agreement by both parties are not claimable.

THINGS TO CONSIDER:

- Will my project involve any physical work?
- Have I seen relevant examples of work undertaken by the heritage professional and/or contractor?
- Do I have evidence that the heritage professional and/or contractor has the capability to undertake my project?
- Do I have references from previous clients of the heritage professional and/or contractor that support their capabilities?

DEVELOPMENT APPROVALS AND PERMITS

Projects undertaken in the program are not exempt from statutory approvals or permits usually required of the project being undertaken.

For physical works projects, development approvals and building permits may apply. An approved grant agreement does not preclude the requirements for development approval. More information on the Heritage Council's development approval process can be found on the Department's [website](#).

If you are unsure if your project requires development approval, contact your local government to discuss the works.

THINGS TO CONSIDER:

- Will my project require development approval?
- Will my project require a building permit?
- Have I spoken with my local government to discuss relevant approvals or permits required?
- Have I considered the timeframes for obtaining the approvals I need into the delivery time for my project?

PROJECT TIMING

All projects and events must be completed within 12 months from the execution of the grant agreement. Applicants should carefully consider their ability to complete projects within this timeframe prior to applying for the program.

Projects are required to generally follow the below timeline, with the exception of events projects. Project timelines must be agreed to prior to the execution of the grant agreement. Variations may be considered during the project delivery where both the applicant and the grantor agree to a revised timeframe.

Stage 1

Evidence of development approval (if applicable) is submitted to the Department	Three months after letter of award
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Stage 2

The applicant is required to submit a progress report or draft conservation management document	Six months after letter of award
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Stage 3

The applicant is required to submit a final progress report and evidence of project completion	12 months after letter of award
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THINGS TO CONSIDER:

- What could potentially impact the timing of my project?
- What are the risks associated with project delivery?
- Will I be able to complete my project within a year of signing a Grant Agreement?

APPLYING FOR A GRANT

To apply to the program, you must complete the published application form in full and submit all required attachments. Applications must be received by the Department on or before the advertised closing date and time.

If you have any queries about the program or require assistance preparing your application, please contact the Heritage Grants Program team via 08 6551 7954 or HCWAincentives@dplh.wa.gov.au.

Applications should be submitted via the online grants management portal [SmartyGrants](#).

CONTACT:

Heritage Grants Program

HCWAincentives@dplh.wa.gov.au

08 6551 7954



ABOVE: Katrine Precinct, Northam P16758

2025-26 SHG recipient for development of a Conservation Management Plan. Image supplied by The Perth Diocesan Trustees.