

3. HERITAGE REVIEW STRATEGY

(Manager: Stuart Draffin)
(General Manager: Jon Brock)

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is for Council to consider the Heritage Review Strategy which outlines how Council should review Stonnington's heritage assets over the next five years.

BACKGROUND

Council's previous Heritage Strategy was developed after amalgamation in 1996. It involved a seven stage programme to assess places for heritage protection, and this culminated in the approval of Amendments C5 and C6 to the Stonnington Planning Scheme in 2004.

However, the Panels that considered the amendments found deficiencies in the strategic process. In particular they were critical of:

- The inadequate basis for comparative analysis, and
- The lack of a Thematic Environmental History (TEH)

Council therefore commissioned the preparation of a TEH in 2005. The authors of the TEH (Context) made the following recommendations for the assessment of places not yet protected in the Heritage Overlay:

1. Create an electronic database.
2. Review the existing citations for Heritage Overlay places
3. Identify existing places for review
4. Identify further places for assessment
5. Undertake a comprehensive comparative analysis
6. Progressively assess places for inclusion in the Heritage Overlay
7. List under-represented themes from the TEH and undertake further research
8. Undertake a study of places of environmental significance

There was particular concern about the recommendations to complete items 1-5 above before commencing item 6. This was because there were major workload implications, the work could take years to complete, and protection of further places might be placed at risk. As a result, an independent heritage consultant was engaged to review the above recommendations and to provide a practical way forward. The independent consultant confirmed the need for a comprehensive review and proposed a coordinated program which could enable a concurrent review of places and the assessment of new places.

PROPOSED HERITAGE REVIEW STRATEGY

Overview

- # The Heritage Review Strategy will bring together a number of elements in a coordinated Action Plan which will stretch over five years. The Action Plan is best illustrated by the attached chart which shows the main elements in the overall strategy, what tasks are involved, and when they will need to be scheduled (see Attachment 1). Key points from this plan are as follows:
- Initial work has already commenced eg workshop, HERMES funding etc
 - There will be long term work in terms of a staged assessment programme and related amendments
 - There will be a particularly heavy workload over the next twelve months
 - The allocation of officer responsibilities to support this work will be essential
 - There will need to be an overall strategy to cover other heritage issues - such as management of assets and community education - so that heritage is considered "in the round"
- # In addition, a further diagram has been prepared which explains the context for the Heritage Review Strategy and how other strategies, studies and information are related to the Strategy Attachment 2.

First Steps

In order to initiate the review programme, the following first steps are proposed:

- Council endorses the Heritage Review Action Plan
- Council nominates a Councillor(s) for the Reference Group and Chair for Steering Committee
- Officers participate in DSE Advisory Committee process
- Officers incorporate Advisory Group recommendations into Review Strategy
- Officers carry out preliminary audit of existing citations/archival information
- Officers compile list of further places for assessment
- Officers set up Reference Group
- Officers convene meeting of Reference Group to select *Localities* and to nominate first one
- Steering Committee prepares detailed work programme to review all existing places and future places in Locality 1 and authorise commencement of work.
- Steering Committee refines and resolves methodology including criteria, template etc

Reporting and Governance

Reporting and management for the review programme would be at three levels. Firstly, the Steering Committee will guide and oversee the project. It will comprise a Councillor, General Manager Planning & Development, Manager Planning Services, Senior Strategic Planner and Heritage Adviser. Secondly, the Reference Group will be advisory and will provide feedback on progress. It will comprise a Councillor(s), archives officers, members of historical societies (2) and other members of community (2) and will have an independent Chair. It will help identify priorities, select the

Localities, and agree the programme to roll-out the review. Finally, there would be reports to Forum at least annually and more often as required.

Community Consultation

Community consultation on heritage issues can be a sensitive issue as there have been instances where this has provoked early demolition of heritage properties in order to pre-empt protection. It is therefore recommended that consultation take place when assessments have been undertaken which are sufficiently robust to meet the requirements for interim protection. Confidentiality would be necessary prior to this point in order to avoid the pre-emptive demolition referred to above.

State and Federal Reports

At the state level, Heritage Victoria has recently launched the Victorian Heritage Strategy which among other matters, will provide the basis for Council to develop its own holistic strategy. More recently, the DSE has set up the Advisory Committee referred to in Section 3 above which will review the Heritage Overlay and other heritage-related provisions in the Planning Scheme.

At the federal level, the Productivity Commission report *Conservation of Historic Heritage Places (July 2006)* makes fundamental and radical recommendations for the management of heritage assessments and places. Council made submissions both on its own behalf and as part of the MAV submission and will be kept informed of progress and any implications for Stonnington.

EXISTING POLICIES

The support for this review derives from Clauses 21 and 22 of the Stonnington Planning Scheme. Clause 21 identifies "Protection of Heritage" as one of twelve focus areas, whilst Clause 22 includes the Heritage Policy with objectives and strategies which are dependent upon up to date and robust heritage information and assessments. In addition, the 2003 MSS Review recommended revising and extending many aspects of the heritage controls, and finally, the recently published Thematic Environmental History now needs to be included as a "Reference Document" in the Planning Scheme.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Budgetary implications (namely funding) for the proposed Heritage Review Strategy will need to be considered by Council as part of the 2007/08 budgetary process.

CONCLUSION

In June 2006, Council commissioned an independent heritage consultant to provide advice on a best way forward for heritage protection following production of the Thematic Environmental History. A copy of the consultant's Heritage Strategy Review was circulated at Forum on 11 December 2006.

Council officers have now prepared a Heritage Review Strategy based on the consultants advice. The Strategy provides a way forward with a coordinated programme for the concurrent (1) review of existing places and (2) the assessment of new places. The process will be underpinned by a much stronger and sounder strategic base than currently exists with up to date and best practice data management, methodology and comparative analysis.

The roll-out of the Heritage Review Strategy is expected to take at least five years and will require additional resourcing from Council. Regular reports will be prepared for Forum and Council's consideration.

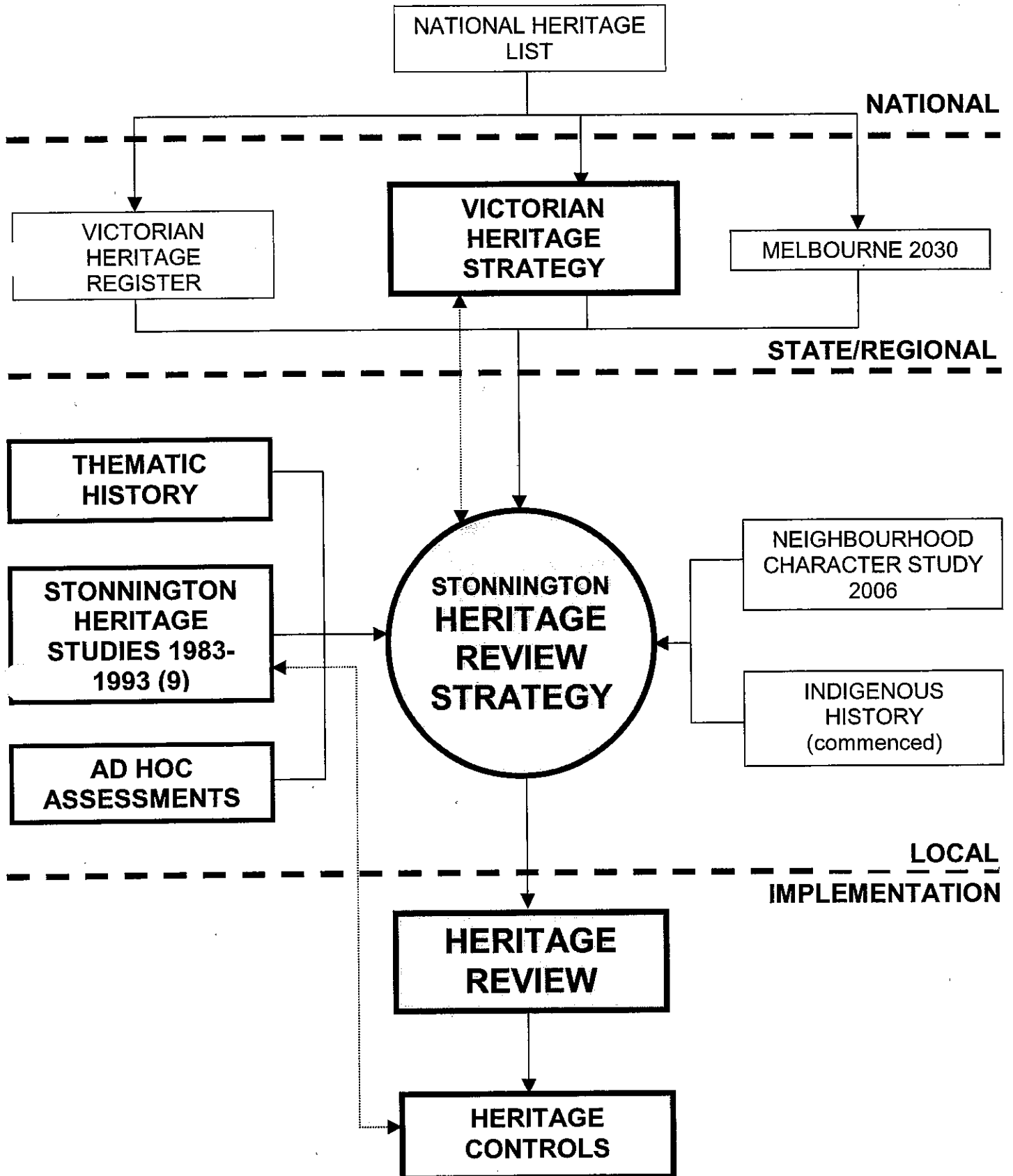
➔ **RECOMMENDATION**

That Council:

- 9. Adopt the Heritage Review Strategy Action Plan as described in Attachment 1; and***
- 10. Nominate a Councillor(s) to chair and be a member of the Steering Committee and to be members of the Reference Group.***



STONNINGTON HERITAGE STRATEGY
POLICY & INFORMATION FRAMEWORK



**COUNCIL MINUTES
18 December 2006**

3. HERITAGE REVIEW STRATEGY.

MOTION: **MOVED CR STEFANOPOULOS SECONDED CR DAVIES**

That Council:

- 1. *Adopt the Heritage Review Strategy Action Plan as described in Attachment 1; and***
- 2. *Nominate a Councillor(s) to chair and be a member of the Steering Committee and to be members of the Reference Group.***

Carried

4. AMENDMENT C61 – STUDENT HOUSING POLICY

MOTION: **MOVED CR SEHR SECONDED CR GAHAN**

That Council:

- 1. *Request the Minister for Planning to appoint an Independent Panel pursuant to Section 23 of the Planning and Environment Act 1987 to hear all submissions and consider the proposed Amendment C61 to the Stonnington Planning Scheme.***
- 2. *In its submission to the Panel hearing, Council adopts a position generally in support of Amendment C61 but in accordance with the Officer's response to the submissions as contained in this report.***
- 3. *Advise the submitters to proposed Amendment C61 of Council's decision.***
- 4. *Refers all submissions and late submissions to the Panel appointed to consider proposed Amendment C61.***

Carried

Cr Sehr left the chamber at 10.25pm, prior to discussion of Item 5 - Plain English Municipal Strategic Statement Review - Amendment C65 to the Stonnington Planning Scheme.

5. PLAIN ENGLISH MUNICIPAL STRATEGIC STATEMENT REVIEW - AMENDMENT C65 TO THE STONNINGTON PLANNING SCHEME

The white paper was replaced by an updated Council Officer recommendation.

MOTION: **MOVED CR DAVIES SECONDED CR GAHAN**

That:

- 1 *Pursuant to Section 29 (1) of the Planning and Environment Act 1987, Council resolves to adopt Amendment C65 to the Stonnington Planning Scheme (as per Attachment 2).***
- 2 *Council Officers submit adopted Amendment C65 to the Minister for Planning for approval pursuant to Section 31 (2) of the Planning and Environment Act 1987.***

Carried

