

Riverina-Murray Heritage

Fact Sheet #7

April 2016

Planning for the Riverina-Murray

The NSW Government has released the draft Riverina-Murray Regional Plan (draft Plan) to guide sustainable growth in the region over the next 20 years.

It outlines a vision to grow and diversify the economy over the next 20 years by creating more jobs; strengthening the region's cities, centres, towns and villages; and sustainably managing its agricultural, mining and natural resources.

You can have a say on the draft Plan which is now on exhibition.

What does the draft Plan say about heritage?

The draft Plan recognises the region's rich and diverse Aboriginal and European cultural heritage and the way it enriches the life of the community and the character of the region.

There are over 81 heritage items listed on the NSW State Heritage Register in the region and more than 1,653 local heritage items listed in council's local environmental plans.

There is significant Aboriginal cultural heritage in the region. Rivers, in particular, have great spiritual and cultural importance to Aboriginal communities because they provide a direct link with their traditional culture.

What does the draft Plan propose for Aboriginal heritage?

The draft Plan highlights that the planning system needs to strengthen the way that it deals with Aboriginal cultural heritage.

The draft Plan proposed that the NSW Government will continue to work with councils and Aboriginal communities to develop and implement local and regional heritage studies, including Regional Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Studies. These studies will be important inputs to the development of local land use plans.

The NSW Government is also aiming to introduce new stand-alone legislation for Aboriginal cultural heritage. The legislative reform includes removing Aboriginal cultural heritage provisions from the current *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*, creating new stand-alone legislation for Aboriginal cultural heritage, and recognising Aboriginal people's right to protect and determine the management of their heritage.

What does the draft Plan propose for European heritage conservation in the region?

The draft Plan identifies opportunities to capitalise on the region's heritage assets to increase community resilience.

Riverina-Murray Heritage

○ Fact Sheet #7

April 2016

Conserving and/or adapting heritage items not only provides a focus for community activity but it can extend the life and usefulness of these places within the community, for example as tourist attractions or community facilities.

The draft Plan proposes that the NSW Government work with councils to find ways to encourage heritage conservation, to review and promote the conservation incentives that are available in local areas and to increase community awareness about heritage conservation and protection.

How will the final Plan be implemented?

A Coordination and Monitoring Committee will be established to oversee the implementation of the final Riverina-Murray Regional Plan, comprising State agencies and councils.

Further information

To find out more about what is in the draft Plan and to make a comment visit:
www.planning.nsw.gov.au/riverinamurray