Frequently Asked Questions for South Gippsland Heritage Study Review

**What is the Heritage Study Review?**

Council is undertaking a review of buildings and sites within South Gippsland that were previously identified as having significant heritage value. These places were listed as part of South Gippsland Heritage Study in 2004 but an update is now required to review and audit Council’s current information. The project will involve updating information and assessing changes that have occurred to heritage places in the last 15 years.

**Why is this review happening?**

The current study is over 15 years old and it is anticipated that many changes have taken place including the loss of heritage places due to damage, alteration or demolition. Heritage places are important to the region because they contribute to its character and provide a link to its past.

**What does the assessment involve?**

Council’s Heritage Officer will assess the heritage features of properties identified in the 2004 Heritage Study. This involves taking notes about the condition of a heritage place and photos of the any buildings and vegetation that contributes to the place’s significance. These photos help to understand the condition of the property, both now and in the future. This assessment will consider if demolition or alterations to any buildings has occurred. Finally, the Officer will use this information to map the accurate location of the property and where the heritage features are in the overall site.

Please note that an officer will not come onto your land unless we have sought prior landowner consent.

**Why is my property listed in the 2004 South Gippsland Heritage Study?**

Properties involved in this review and assessment were initially identified in the 2004 South Gippsland Heritage Study as being significant to the South Gippsland region for a variety of reasons, for example because a site is a rare example of a particular time period. The explanation for each identified property is provided in

It is noted that the information in these citations may not be accurate, which is why this review is necessary.

### What does it mean if my property is listed?

If your property has been listed in the 2004 Heritage Study, this means that it was identified as having heritage significance by the heritage consultant when the study was prepared. ‘Local 1’ means that the property has been assessed as having importance for the whole South Gippsland region. Other heritage sites may have been assessed as having more town-specific importance. Being part of this study only means that your property has been identified as having heritage importance. Any further actions regarding your property will be made in consultation with residents and landowners.

### Can I still make changes to my house?

Yes, you can. Having your property identified as part of the 2004 Heritage Study does not impact the changes you can make to your house. Ideally, we would prefer that any changes you make to your home be made with the heritage significance of the property in mind.

### Does this mean Council are going to put controls on properties?

This project does not involve placing heritage controls on properties. It is focused on reviewing the 2004 Heritage Study and its recommendations. While the 2004 Heritage Study recommended applying heritage controls on some properties, any implementation of the review's recommendations will be considered as a separate project that involves landowner and occupant consultation.

### Can I suggest a property that I think is heritage?

Yes, however suggestions can only be made for properties you own, or public buildings. We ask that prior to calling us with any suggestions that you double check whether the property is already identified in the 2004 Heritage Study. As such your suggestion is not guaranteed to be assessed or included in this review. It will, however, be noted for future work.
**So, what now?**

We are hoping to assess as many sites in the Heritage Study as possible and map the areas of heritage significance for each property. This will help update Council’s records and inform any future heritage work by Council.

**Why should we care about heritage?**

Heritage can be one of the reasons why some people want to live in an area. Safeguarding this heritage is also safeguarding the core values and character of South Gippsland for the future.