

Broken Hill National listing, how was this achieved?

Snapshot Paper

Elizabeth Vines OAM

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BROKEN HILL NATIONAL LISTING, HOW WAS THIS ACHIEVED?

Introduction

Broken Hill is a remarkable city with a mining history of world significance – despite minimal rainfall and extreme summer temperatures it has survived as a unique settlement with a strong community spirit and civic pride. From 1886 it burgeoned as a mining centre attracting skilled men and labour from all over the world. By 1907, when it was proclaimed a city, 9,000 men were employed on the mines. With mining as its focus the population of the city has peaked twice – in 1915 with 35,000 and in 1952 at just under 33,000 people. However since that time the population has been steadily declining as the mines have closed – but people are now choosing to live in this community, so the decline has not been dramatic. An increased tourism future, enhanced by National Heritage Listing recognition is felt to be the most reliable and long term future for the town.

TIMELINE OF KEY DATES

1987 – Broken Hill starts its Heritage Program, with appointment of Heritage Advisor and establishment of heritage initiative program.

Mid 2005 - BH City Council Nominates the whole of the city of Broken Hill for National Heritage Listing , December 2006 – shortlisted for further assessment

July 2008 the Australian Heritage Council agreed to proceed with the assessment of the heritage values of the City.

July 2009 Consultation program undertaken and completed with community consultation report submitted to government. Strong support for National Heritage Listing. September 2009 - Australian Heritage Council confirmed that the city does have national values – with management arrangements to be outlined in a management plan.

2009 – 2010 Draft Management Plan for mining sectors of the city – ie the Line of Lode areas - completed by Godden Mackay Logan – commissioned by Federal Government. Report has not been made public. General agreement that the LEP and associated DCPs should be the management document for the city as a whole.

2010 – 2013 LEP (1996) updated - including updated heritage provisions, always proposed to be the management tool for the management of the city should it be listed.

April 2010 – Australia ICOMOS conference held - strategic move to raise profile!!

May 2013 – Council requested an update from Minister Burke – constant letters sent .

July 2013 Response from Amanda Rishworth, Parliamentary Secretary – requiring NSW govt support!!. (as not on the State Heritage Register – nor did we want that).

August 2013 Broken Hill LEP gazetted,

October 2013 - Submission to Sussan Ley Member for Farrer,

November 2013 letter from Australia ICOMOS seeking support for listing

December 2013 – Correspondence to Hon Robyn Parker, etc and more letters!!!!

2014 – constant letters written to Minister Hunt, meeting at Parliament house with the Minister (by Mayor, Simon Molesworth and Council CEO), constant phone calls to Ministers office and the Department staff handling application, Simon Molesworth contributed to constant contact with the Minister (personal friends)

January 15, 2015 – National Listing announced at Broken Hill - with only 5 days notice!!

HOW IS LISTING SUPPORTED AND MANAGED ??

The Broken Hill LEP (2013) is the management document - there is no separate conservation plan document. The heritage advisors role is critical to implementation of the LEP.

Council has an adopted a 3 year heritage strategy (2014 – 2017) based on the requirements of the New South Wales Heritage Office, which has 9 areas of accountability.

1. Community Consultation - and appreciation of heritage in Broken Hill - ncluding the National Trust, (Broken Hill Branch), Broken Hill Historical Society, the Working Group of the Aboriginal Land Council, owners of heritage items and other interest groups

2. Identify, List and Legally Protect Heritage Items in the LGA

Implement the provisions of the revised LEP including preparing Conservation Management strategies or Heritage Impact Assessments.

Heritage Items reviewed as part of the LEP process. Additional items and areas have been included in this previously revised LEP (2013)

Complete the revised Heritage and Mining Development Control Plans

Respond as required to any need to assist council with Court appearances

3.0 Have a Heritage Adviser to Assist the Council, Community and Owners of Heritage Items who: provides designs for new verandahs including preparation of sketches and drawings in Argent St, Oxide Street and others, and actively promote and identify conservation projects (eg Sulphide St Railway Station

4.0 Manage local heritage in a positive manner

5.0 Continue the Local Heritage Incentives Fund to provide small grants to encourage local heritage projects, Prepare Conservation Management Plans or Strategies whose primary purpose is the maintenance of properties.

6.0 Run a Main Street Program – note - this is not being undertaken as was previously undertaken and no longer considered applicable

7.0 Present Educational and Promotional Programs

8.0 Broken Hill City Council to Lead by Example by Properly Managing Places Owned or Operated by Council

9.0 Promote sustainable development as a tool for heritage conservation

WAS IT WORTH IT, AND WHAT HAS BEEN ACHIEVED SINCE LISTING ?

Listing was always an ongoing goal for council and the community, and there was a sense of jubilation once achieved. Generally the heritage strategy actions are being implemented, and are certainly supported by the listing.

However, in 2014 there were huge budget cuts in council and 5 department heads were replaced with one position. There has consequently been a loss of key corporate memory and expertise in the heritage staff in council.

By time of National Listing – key long- serving council staff/personnel no longer in council due to the above budget cuts

Post listing – Council was able to secure special funding for a key repairs to Headrame No 4 with special federal government funding for this and the liaison with mining company has been complex but cooperative. Certainly the Federal Minister now knows about Broken Hill!!

However, no federal funding was achieved (as part of the special Protected National Historic Sites Programme funding program) on any other site as the applications were “outside the guidelines”.

The City of Broken Hill was deemed to be the “site owner” in relation to the formal listing, thereby making individual property owners ineligible.

Council/ Tourism sector is now actively pursuing social media platforms and other marketing initiatives for Broken Hill.