



HERITAGE

Cultural heritage is defined in the Burra Charter¹ as sites of 'aesthetic, historic, scientific or social value for past, present or future generations' (*Australia ICOMOS, 1999, Article 1.2*). Heritage places are tangible expressions of Australian identity and experience, which 'enrich peoples lives, often providing a deep and inspirational sense of connection to community and landscape, to the past and to lived experiences' (Australian ICOMOS, 1999, 1).

Important cultural heritage places are linked to people's sense of place. Sense of place involves people's emotions towards and sense of connection to place. A community's sense of place is often expressed through their sentiment, pride, warmth, care and concern for place. Accordingly, heritage sites and structures within the municipal area need to be seen as an asset and managed in a manner that is inclusive of the community.

It is important that a broad approach is taken in heritage management, as heritage extends beyond site-specific buildings or relics and includes an appreciation of entire landscapes as being significant from a spiritual or non-material perspective. As stated by Australia ICOMOS (1992, 2), heritage significance can be 'embodied in the place itself, its fabric, setting, use, associations, meanings, records, related places and related objects'.

As well as being inherent in people's sense of place, cultural heritage places also make a major contribution to the local and State economy through the direct relationship with the tourism industry. There are many heritage assets that attract people to the Huon. Such assets are related to local industries including the apple industry, forestry and fishing activities.

As well as being linked directly to tourism, appropriate management of heritage assets can also attract investment in the Huon Valley, leading to the creation of additional jobs in the area. Increases in investment and growth in the tourism industry also contributes to economic diversification.

Natural heritage assets within the Huon Valley and its defining landscapes are also important attractors to the area. The municipal area incorporates a large amount of the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area, as well as other National Parks.

Aboriginal Heritage

The Huon Valley is rich in Aboriginal cultural heritage values. The area lies within the land occupied by the language group known as the Nuenonne people. Band territories that occupied the southeast area included the Mouheneenner, Nuenonne, Mellukerde and Lyluequonny people.²

At present, there are some 73 recorded sites within the municipal area and there are most likely a plethora of unknown sites. The known areas are comprised of Quarry sites, Isolated Artefacts, Artefact Scatters, Occupation Shelters and Midden sites.

Considering the sensitivity of Aboriginal heritage sites and their significance, it is necessary that a precautionary approach be taken to new developments that may involve important sites. Such an approach is provided for within the *Aboriginal Relics Act 1975*, which is in place to protect Aboriginal heritage in Tasmania. The Act states that it is an offence to destroy, damage, deface, conceal or otherwise interfere with a relic. In addition if a relic is discovered, the Director of the Department of Tourism Parks Heritage and Arts, must be informed so it can be appropriately dealt with.

¹ *The Burra Charter outlines the basic principles and procedures to be followed for the conservation of heritage places in Australia (Walker, 1998).*

² *Ryan, L., 1996: The Aboriginal Tasmanians. Allen and Unwin, St Leonards, NSW, p.26.*

It is important to acknowledge that Aboriginal cultural heritage value is not restricted to individual relics, but also encompasses collections of significant sites and in some cases entire landscapes. Aboriginal heritage significance is most likely to be found in coastal areas and for this reason, proposed developments need to be addressed with due sensitivity.

ABORIGINAL HERITAGE	
Strategic Directions	Guiding Principles
<p><i>Ensure that sites and artefacts of Aboriginal Heritage Significance are managed appropriately into the future through an integrated approach to management.</i></p>	<p><i>Council, relevant state agencies and the Aboriginal community work together to identify areas of sensitivity.</i></p> <p><i>Incorporate provisions into the planning scheme to allow Council to request Aboriginal heritage surveys for any proposals involving substantial subdivision of land, coastal development, or significant disturbance of land outside settlement boundaries, or as considered generally appropriate.</i></p> <p><i>Adopt an integrated approach to management with State Government and the Aboriginal community to ensure that important sites and artefacts are managed appropriately into the future.</i></p>

European Cultural Heritage

The historic cultural heritage of the Huon Valley is largely based on the forest, agricultural and maritime industries, which provided much of the economic and social life of the district over the last one hundred and seventy years. Places of heritage value associated with these industries and the settlements they spawned are numerous and include both built heritage as well as landscapes, patterns of subdivision and historic transport routes.

The Huon River figured prominently in the Huon's early development and sites of heritage value related to the use of the River include jetties, bridges, wharves, slipways, machinery, tramway formations and the like. Many of the landscapes in the Huon reflect the historical land uses in the area, being a product of forestry, farming and land clearing practices since the first European settlement.

The settlements of Franklin and Cygnet prospered as a result of their location on the Huon River and are recognised as having particularly good collections of early buildings that are of historical and architectural interest. Franklin in particular is recognised as having important heritage values. The Franklin Heritage Study has advocated the creation of a Heritage Precinct and provided details of buildings worthy of protection.

In this respect it is recognised that the current Planning Scheme listings may not be comprehensive and a Heritage Review for the municipal area is considered to be a matter which Council should address in the near future.

Built Heritage

It is recognised that the built heritage within the Huon Valley is diverse and reflects the particular processes that have shaped the development of the townships over time. In this sense, heritage value is more than the significance of single structures; it also involves collections of buildings in their landscape or streetscape settings. It is important then, that heritage is also considered in terms of significant precincts and cultural landscapes within the municipal area.



Figure 5: Main Road, Franklin

The built heritage and public spaces of the towns, in particular, provide much of the ‘character’ or ‘sense of place’ that is extremely valuable for both local residents and visitors. It represents what the town once was and that the community has valued its heritage since. The buildings are physical expressions of cultural and community values.

There are many buildings that are recognised as being of significance from a State and local heritage perspective within the municipal area. The Australian Heritage Places Inventory lists 166 sites and artefacts in the municipal area. Of these, there are 124 buildings or artefacts and these are located in the following areas:

- ▶ Lower Longley to Lucaston and Glen Huon – 17
- ▶ Huonville and Ranelagh – 21
- ▶ Franklin – 43
- ▶ Port Huon and Geeveston – 14
- ▶ Police Point and Dover – 7
- ▶ Southport and Lune River – 7
- ▶ Cygnet, Pelverata and Garden Island Creek – 15

These numbers indicate, in particular, the important heritage significance of Franklin. Another important feature is the many houses that are included on the list. These timber dwellings have a stately appearance and are often linked to former significant orcharding enterprises.

The Tasmanian Heritage Council identified 50 sites that await assessment for registration on the Tasmanian Heritage Register. The structures to be assessed include 13 at Catameran, 11 at Southwest National Park, as well as several at Southport, Recherche Bay, Cockle Creek, Leprena, Huonville, Glen Huon, Dover, Cygnet, Esperance and Deep Bay. Of the 50 places, only 4 are houses, the others being a mixture of different places such as gardens, cemeteries, apple sheds, schools, Southport probation station and hotel sites. This high number of nominated sites, as well as the variety of sites to be considered for registration reflects the increasing recognition of the heritage assets of the municipal area. Those places listed in the current Planning Schemes, as well as those registered and awaiting assessment by the Tasmanian Heritage Council can be seen in **Appendix A** of this document.

Through discussions with officers of the Tasmania Heritage Council it is noted that the heritage list for the municipal area could be divided into sites of local and state significance. The state listings would then be the jurisdiction of the Heritage Council and the local listings the jurisdiction of Council. The Heritage Council acknowledge that the Council's may need some heritage resource assistance from the Heritage Council to carry out the local responsibilities. These arrangements are conceptual only at this stage and not of particular consequence to the preparation of the new planning scheme.

The main requirement of the planning scheme will be the inclusion of a list of heritage places and provisions to protect the significance of these places. Properties could then be added and removed from the list by way of a planning scheme amendment if jurisdictional circumstances change in the future or as additional heritage research is undertaken.

EUROPEAN AND BUILT HERITAGE	
Strategic Directions	Guiding Principles
<p><i>Recognises the various economic benefits associated with managing the cultural heritage assets of the Huon Valley in an appropriate manner.</i></p> <p><i>The social benefits of appropriate cultural heritage management are also recognised. Being integral to people's sense of place and pride, the community should be involved in the management processes.</i></p> <p><i>Sites of heritage significance need to be protected against inappropriate development – this also includes sites of geo-conservation significance, historic value and those with unique environmental features.</i></p> <p><i>Provide a framework for the establishment of statutory regulation over additional heritage areas of listed sites as they are identified through appropriate studies.</i></p>	<p><i>Allow appropriate reuse of heritage buildings.</i></p> <p><i>Ensure that the siting, scale, form and appearance of development of heritage listed properties and within heritage areas does not detract from those characteristics of the place that contribute to its cultural significance.</i></p> <p><i>Ensure that important built fabric is protected through the redevelopment of any heritage listed properties.</i></p> <p><i>Provide for the protection of historic streetscapes.</i></p>

Landscape and Natural Values

The Huon Valley is recognised for its unique landscapes and these are central to the tourism economy of the municipal area. Landscapes are also often central to a community's sense of place. Significant cultural and historical sites or landscapes can easily be lost through insensitive use or development. It is therefore necessary that the landscape values³ of the Huon Valley be identified and managed appropriately, while recognising that many landscapes within the municipal area remain working landscapes and are constantly evolving.

The existing rich cultural and natural heritage is intrinsically connected to the natural resources of the region. This is evident by the 57 sites (not buildings) of natural, historical and Aboriginal significance listed on the Register of the National Estate.

From a visual perspective, the Huon Valley is recognised for its unique landscapes – productive agricultural land, extensive areas of remnant vegetation and lush forests, together with the many natural coastal features, buildings and settlements. Although many of the most familiar landscapes are the product of clearing, forestry and farming practices since the 1850's, they are appealing because of their aesthetic values. The visual elements that are most valuable are:

³ *The municipal area contains both Cultural Landscapes and Natural Landscapes. Cultural landscapes differ in that they are those areas where natural elements have been modified by human activity resulting in evidence layered in the landscape, which provide character and human associated with place.*

- ▶ The densely forested hill-tops, gullies and mountains that form a backdrop to the settled areas;
- ▶ The frequent views of the local waterways, their vegetated backdrops and the fishing and pleasure craft on the water.
- ▶ Coastal settlements and individual houses that nestle into farming landscapes;
- ▶ Intimate scale consisting of small towns, a convoluted coastline, scattered small holdings and winding roads; and
- ▶ The neat orchards with windrows of protecting trees together with green rolling pasture spotted with grazing animals that constitute frequent countryside scenes.

An assessment of scenic values has been completed by Barwick & Associates (1997) for a substantial part of the municipal area. This report assessed some of the settled areas as having a very high scenic value – including areas in the vicinity of Mountain River, Franklin, Castle Forbes Bay, Geeveston, Police Point and Dover.

In addition to the high quality landscapes throughout much of the Huon, significant visual icons are visible in certain areas. These include:

- ▶ Adamsons Peak;
- ▶ Sleeping Beauty;
- ▶ Snowy Range;
- ▶ Hartz Mountains;
- ▶ Huon River and Estuary;
- ▶ Lune Sugarloaf;
- ▶ Port Esperance;
- ▶ Mount La Perouse and Pindars Peak; and
- ▶ D'Entrecasteaux Channel and Bruny Island.

The municipal area has some natural land resources that are very significant at a State, national and world level. These include some highly significant geological features such as extensive karst systems (e.g. Hastings, Ida Bay, Mt Weld etc) and geoheritage sites at Langdons Point near Cygnet, Southport Lagoon and Egg Island. The Tasmanian Geoconservation Database includes 60 registered sites within the municipal area, which need to be protected. The municipal area also contains two of the four national heritage listed sites in Tasmania: The World Heritage Area (discussed below) and Recherche Bay.

The southern and western parts of the municipal area are a combination of State Forests and land reserved under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1970*. These landscapes provide an imposing backdrop, with views available at various vantage points along the Huon Highway. Views to Hartz Mountains and Adamsons Peak in the southern portion of the municipal area are particularly notable.

The landscapes of the municipal area are also easily viewed from the Huon Highway and Channel Highway as well as a number of small rural back roads. The Esperance Coast Road and Cygnet Coast Road as well as the Glen Huon Road also provide exceptional views of coastal and rural scenery.

Little development control has been specifically exercised in the past to maintain the scenic value of the important landscapes. The increased importance of tourism has however helped

to give greater recognition to this issue and the need to ensure the visual values of the area are protected as part of an overall tourism strategy.

Protecting and appropriately managing the landscapes in the municipal area is important because the beauty of the landscapes is a main attraction for visitors to the area and maintaining these landscapes can therefore be linked to economic gain. Furthermore, communities have strong ties to distinctive local landscapes, which contributes to their sense of place. In addition, protecting our important landscapes based on their aesthetic value also helps to protect a range of other environmental values.

Ultimately, this strategy identifies that the Huon Valley's natural heritage assets need to be managed in an integrated manner to ensure preservation of their values.

CULTURAL LANDSCAPE AND NATURAL HERITAGE	
Strategic Directions	Guiding Principles
<p><i>The Huon Valley landscapes are important in attracting residents and visitors and providing for a sense of place. Landscape values will therefore be protected as far as practicable.</i></p> <p><i>Cultural landscape and natural heritage values provide important tourism opportunities that can be facilitated through the development approval process. The primary objective is to protect the inherent value of the landscape.</i></p> <p><i>The Huon Valley's geological assets need appropriate management to ensure the preservation of their value.</i></p>	<p><i>Ensure development is appropriately controlled in relation to the landscape setting, scenic corridors and visual amenity.</i></p> <p><i>Development (including vegetation clearance) should not occur where it is visually intrusive and out of place within the surrounding landscape.</i></p> <p><i>Development on hill faces, ridgelines, coastal bluffs, headlands and other prominent landforms should protect the visual qualities of such areas and to prevent erosion or excessive disturbance.</i></p> <p><i>Protect geological sites of significance from inappropriate development.</i></p>

The Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area and Adjacent Areas

The Tasmanian World Heritage Area comprises 45% of the Huon Valley municipal area. The Hartz Mountains are the closest World Heritage assets to any capital city in Australia.

The World Heritage Area has a range of natural attractions including extensively glaciated landscapes, largely undisturbed habitats of plants and animals that are endemic, rare or endangered and sites of Aboriginal Ice Age cave art. A range of recreational activities are supported within the wilderness area, which allows both locals and visitors to enjoy and experience the rare example of natural heritage.

The World Heritage Area is managed under the World Heritage Area Management Plan 1999 (WHAMP). The Plan outlines the values of the World Heritage Area and includes management techniques to be employed. Use and development proposals for the World Heritage Area must also be assessed under the Council planning scheme. DPIWE also require a Reserves Activity Assessment to ensure the values of the World Heritage Area are not jeopardised by new use or development. Furthermore, the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 identifies works impacting on World Heritage Property, which must be referred to the Commonwealth Environment Minister. The Environment Minister then determines the assessment/approval process.

The importance of adjacent land in the management of the World Heritage Area is acknowledged in the WHAMP and is a relevant consideration for the Council. The guidance is not part of the legal management plan, but it provides general policy advice for management of adjacent

areas to minimise impacts on the World Heritage Area. The advice is included in the WHAMP because there are numerous facets of management of the World Heritage Area that need to be considered in their regional context.

An example of such a management issue is maintaining wilderness quality by ensuring that natural view fields from major vantage points are maintained. Additionally, the WHAMP acknowledges that the attractions of the World Heritage Area have the potential to create demand for development on adjacent land and that regional planning can play an important role in guiding the nature and extent of development in the entrances to the World Heritage Area. It is recommended that liaison between local and relevant State government agencies take place to ensure that any plans, policies or operations in adjacent areas are sympathetic to the values and presentation of the World Heritage Area.

WORLD HERITAGE AREA CONSIDERATIONS	
Strategic Directions	Guiding Principles
<p><i>The World Heritage Area is an important attracting feature and a coordinated response to management within the World Heritage Area is required between the relevant authorities.</i></p> <p><i>The natural values on adjacent land needs to be maintained so as to complement the important heritage values and avoid any diverse impact on the World Heritage Area.</i></p>	<p><i>Ensure a coordinated approach to planning for land within and adjacent to the World Heritage Area to protect natural and cultural values.</i></p>