



Former Wollongong School of Arts Building, Wollongong

Wollongong City Council Heritage Repainting and Colour Scheme Guidelines

Conserving and enhancing our City's rich Heritage

February 2023

These guidelines are intended to assist heritage owners who are wishing to repaint or change their building's colour scheme to ensure it is consistent with the character of the area and is in keeping with the significance of the building, place or site

It is important to remember each place is unique and there is no one size fits all approach to colour schemes.

Council's Heritage Staff are available to provide advice for your individual project.

Please email council@wollongong.nsw.gov.au or call (02) 4227 7133



Render being removed from original convict bricks at Keeravale, West Wollongong
Image: David McReady (Facebook)

Applying the Guidelines

Is my building heritage listed or located in a Heritage Conservation Area?

A local heritage item is a building, structure, object, landscape or location, which has local significance. Heritage items are listed on schedule 5 of the Wollongong Local Environmental Plan 2009.

A Heritage Conservation Area is a broader area or landscape recognised and valued for its special historical and aesthetic character and is also listed in the Local Environmental Plan.

Wollongong City Council has over 490 local heritage sites and 9 Conservation Areas. The key Conservation Areas that may affect you are:

- Austinmer Heritage Conservation Area
- Old Bulli Heritage Conservation Area
- Bulli Commercial Centre
- Brownsville Heritage Conservation Area
- Illawarra Escarpment Heritage Conservation Area
- Kembla Heights Mining Village
- Market Street Heritage Conservation Area

Further details and maps of all Heritage Conservation Areas can be found in Chapter E11: Heritage Conservation of the Wollongong Development Control Plan.

If you're not sure whether your property is a heritage item or falls within a Heritage Conservation Area, please contact Council.

You need approval to paint or repaint the exterior of a heritage listed building

To paint the exterior of a heritage-listed building or change the appearance of a building within a Heritage Conservation Area you need a current development consent or a written heritage exemption from Wollongong City Council's Heritage Staff.

A heritage exemption is a type of approval that can be obtained for a range of minor works which will have little to no impact on the significance of the heritage item or Heritage Conservation Area under Clause 5.10(3) of the Wollongong Local Environmental Plan.

If the building is State Heritage listed additional approvals may be required under the NSW Heritage Act 1977 from the State Government Agency that manages heritage, Heritage NSW.

The repainting of interiors (in most cases and excluding State Heritage items), can be undertaken without Council approval.

Development Control Standards and Controls

Chapter E11: Heritage Conservation of the Wollongong Development Control Plan 2009 sets out practical and procedural guidance in relation to local heritage sites including colour schemes and repainting.

Principles for heritage colour schemes

- Colour schemes should be sympathetic to the character of the area and not dominate the streetscape
- Colours should consider documentary and physical evidence such as historic photographs or paint scrapings and be in keeping with the traditional palette for the particular architectural style
- Architectural details such as architraves, windows, finials and verandahs should be accentuated, usually in a darker colour or tone
- Careful removal of paint and render on brick and stonework should be considered with advice from a suitably qualified professional (additional approvals may be required)
- Modern roof finishes can be considered for colour change in accordance with an approved colour scheme

- ✓ Consider the colours of adjacent buildings and the street
- ✓ Use tonal colours to highlight features and significant details of the building
- ✓ Investigate original and traditional colour schemes for your building
- ✓ Speak to a professional about removing unsympathetic paint and render



House on Princes Highway, Bulli



The Imperial Hotel, Clifton (Image: Visit NSW)



'Lanelly' Cottage in Smith Street, Wollongong



Row of Terraces in Campbell Street, Wollongong

What to avoid

- Bright, primary and unsympathetic corporate colours and where existing these colours should be changed
- Unless there is evidence to show that colour schemes historically matched, buildings adjacent to each other should not replicate the same colour scheme
- Existing brick, stone, tiled and previously unpainted surfaces should not be rendered or painted
- Abrasive paint and render removal methods such as sandblasting can cause damage to brick and stone and should be avoided
- Unpainted galvanised roof finishes should not be painted and should be replaced 'like for like' where necessary
- Be aware that 'on trend' colour palettes that would not have been relevant to architectural period of your home may not be appropriate

- ✗ Bold, primary or corporate colours are not appropriate
- ✗ Do not paint brickwork, original tiles or stone
- ✗ Do not replicate the colour schemes of adjacent buildings
- ✗ Abrasive paint removal methods can cause damage to your building

Next steps

Tips for choosing a colour scheme

Often a simple range of colours which use tonal differences to highlight architectural features are the most effective colour schemes.

If you would like to investigate a traditional colour scheme for your building there are publications with information on traditional Colour schemes, including *Colour Schemes Australian Houses and More Colour Schemes for Old Australian Houses* which is available to borrow from the Wollongong City Library Collection.

If you wish to pursue a more contemporary scheme, you should consider how that scheme relates to your building or the broader Heritage Conservation Area. You may want to consider obtaining advice from a heritage consultant or architect.

Some paint companies provide paint charts outlining heritage colour schemes which may be a good place to start and include colours that relate to various architectural periods. However it is noted that these do not provide an exhaustive or exclusive choice.

Get your colour scheme approved

Ensure you contact Council with your preferred colour scheme to obtain written approval before you start painting. It is helpful if you provide samples or pictures of the paint colours and their names or codes.

Some adjustments to the proposed scheme may be necessary on the advice of Council's Heritage Staff.

If you are repainting with the same colour scheme, you do not need approval however it's a good idea to let Council's Heritage Staff know about any planned works.

Lead safety

Buildings constructed before 1970 often contain old coats of lead paint which can be hazardous. You can read more about lead and how to protect your health on the Environment and Protection Authority (EPA) website - see useful links.

Can Council help?

Local Heritage Grants

Repainting helps to protect your building's fabric from the elements and is an important part of ongoing conservation.

If your property is in need of repainting you may be eligible to apply for a heritage grant through the Wollongong Local Heritage Grant Fund.

The Grant Program runs each financial year. As a heritage owner you will be notified by letter when applications open each year and how to apply.

Useful links & documents

Schedule 5 of the Wollongong Local Environmental Plan 2009:

<https://legislation.nsw.gov.au/view/html/inforce/current/epi-2010-0076#sch.5>

Chapter E11: Heritage Conservation of the Wollongong Development Control Plan:

<https://www.wollongong.nsw.gov.au/development/planning-and-development-policies/development-control-plans>

Port Kembla Town Centre Facade Program Design Guidelines (2017):

<https://pk2505.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/port-kembla-facade-design-guide.pdf>

Wollongong Local Heritage Grants:

<https://wollongong.nsw.gov.au/book-and-apply/apply-for-a-grant/heritage-grants>

Environmental Protection Authority Lead Safety Brochure:

<https://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/your-environment/household-building-and-renovation/lead-safety>

Wollongong City Library Catalogue:

<https://wollongong.spydus.com/waste/problem-waste>

More Information

Read more about Wollongong City Council's Heritage work at:

<https://www.wollongong.nsw.gov.au/about/history-heritage/councils-heritage-work>

You can also contact Council's Heritage Staff on (02) 4227 7111 or via email at council@wollongong.nsw.gov.au