

Frequently Asked Questions



Local heritage place code amendments

Adding or removing a listed local heritage place requires an amendment to the Planning and Design Code. These frequently asked questions provide information about preparing a local heritage place code amendment. The [local heritage place code amendments fact sheet](#) provides more information.

Q – Who can designate or remove a local heritage place?

A – Councils may initiate code amendments to list or remove properties in their area. Landowners can also propose a code amendment to list or remove their own property as a local heritage place.

Many councils are currently conducting heritage surveys to review, create or expand heritage listings.

Landowners are encouraged to contact their council for guidance if they are intending on proposing a local heritage place code amendment relating to their property.

Q – Who should prepare a local heritage place code amendment?

A – A code amendment must be prepared by a practitioner with the qualifications or skills specified in the [State Planning Commission Practice Direction 2 – Preparation and Amendment of Designated Instruments](#).

These include holding a [recognised planning qualification](#) and 5 years' experience in relevant planning or urban design roles.

To list a property, it must meet the heritage criteria under section 67 of the [Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016](#). Supporting documentation needs to be prepared by a heritage architect, historian or similarly qualified professional.

Q – What criteria must be met for a place to be designated as a local heritage place?

A – To be designated as a local heritage place, at least one of the following criteria must be met:

- it displays historical, economic or social themes that are of importance to the local area
- it represents customs or ways of life that are characteristic of the local area
- it has played an important part in the lives of local residents
- it displays aesthetic merit, design characteristics or construction techniques of significance to the local area
- it is associated with a notable local personality or event
- it is a notable landmark in the area
- in the case of a tree, it is of special historical or social significance or importance within the local area.

See section 67 of the [Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016](#) for more details.

Q – Is there preliminary consultation required before lodging a proposal to initiate a code amendment?

A – Preliminary consultation is not required, but it can help councils identify additional eligible local heritage places, review details or uncover any major impediments in progressing a code amendment.

Q – Are there fees for lodging a local heritage code amendment?

A – Typically, there are no fees for lodging a local heritage code amendment because these amendments provide community benefits.

For more details, refer to the [Chief Executive Policy: Service Standards and Code Amendment Fees 2025](#).

Q – Is a local heritage place code amendment eligible for the streamlined process?

A – No. Local heritage place code amendments are not eligible for the [streamlined process](#).

The process between lodging a proposal to initiate a code amendment and the Minister’s decision whether to approve initiation can only be streamlined for code amendments that meet specific criteria. The streamlined process does not apply to heritage places or historic/character policy.

To ensure local heritage place code amendments are processed as quickly as possible, the [Local heritage place code amendments fact sheet](#) has been developed to help property owners and councils understand what is required.

Q – Can a local heritage place code amendment be confidential?

A – All code amendments are published on the PlanSA [Code Amendment Register](#) after initiation.

It is possible to request certain details of a code amendment to be redacted from the website when it is initiated, which can remain confidential until public engagement on the proposed code amendment begins.

If confidentiality is requested, the details that may be redacted at initiation are:

- Overview
- Designated Entity
- Contact details
- Initiation documents.

All other details will be published on the register, including:

- Code amendment ID and title
- Amendment type
- Initiation date
- Local Government Authority.

Q – Are there rights of appeal?

A – Yes, after a place is designated as a local heritage place, the owner may appeal to the Court against the listing. This is outlined in section 202 of the [Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016](#).

A decision not to designate a place as a local heritage place cannot be appealed.

Q – What do I need to do if I find an error with an existing local heritage place listing?

A – Errors in an existing local heritage place listing, such as an incorrect Certificate of Title reference, can be reported via the [PlanSA website](#).

The Department for Housing and Urban Development can make minor or operational amendments to update the Planning and Design Code in accordance with section 76 of the [Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016](#).

This does not include changes to, or removal of, elements from the extent of a listing. Significant changes such as these would require a code amendment to be submitted under section 73 of the Act.

Q – Are there any upcoming changes that impact local heritage policy?

A – The expert panel [Planning System Implementation Review](#) (April 2023) recommended transitioning local heritage into the [Heritage Places Act 1993](#) to enable cohesive management by heritage experts across South Australia.

[Heritage South Australia](#), in the Department for Environment and Water, is investigating this initiative.

Q – Where can I find examples of a local heritage code amendment?

A – Examples of local heritage code amendments, including thematic surveys and datasheet documentation, are available on the Plan SA [Code Amendment Register](#).