

Fact Sheet

Development and Planning Services

Period Housing Areas conversion to Heritage Conservation Areas

Date issued: 15/8/2019

Period Housing Areas have now been converted to Heritage Conservation Areas (HCA). This Fact Sheet provides general advice on the changes. For information on developing in a HCA, see the accompanying Fact Sheet 'Developing in a Heritage Conservation Area'.

I didn't know my property was in a Period Housing Area, what does that mean?

Period Housing Areas have been in place since 2005 and protected the local character of the area by including development controls in LEP 2005 and then LEP 2015 (our Local Environmental Plans). The main protections were to:

- limit the demolition of historic or older dwellings, and
- maintain streetscape values and local character when development occurs.

Why was the conversion necessary?

The Period Housing protections were no longer recognised by the State government, who instructed Council to convert Period Housing Areas to heritage conservation areas to maintain existing protections. The Period Housing provisions within Blue Mountains LEP 2015 were repealed as of 19 July 2019.

The old system of protections needed to be replaced by a new system that has similar intentions or objectives – to protect streetscape and neighbourhood character from demolition and inappropriate development.

What is a heritage conservation area?

A heritage conservation area or HCA is a particular precinct, streetscape, suburb or group of buildings which has particular heritage values which distinguish it from other places, in which the various elements create a sense of place which is worth keeping.

Some Blue Mountains residential village areas have a unique historic character that is valued by the community and worth preserving.

Do I need to do anything?

You don't need to do anything at this stage, as this is a policy change only. We will not be checking the status of any building work / development consents or looking into how you are currently managing your property.

Will my rates go up?

The calculation of rates is a separate process to and unaffected by these proposed changes.

Will I need to reconstruct historic elements that were in place previously?

This policy change does not include any requirement to reconstruct any former historic features.

Is the zoning changing?

The zoning is not proposed to change.

If you are currently in the R2 Low Density Residential zone, for example, as many Period Housing properties were, the permissibility (allowed uses) is retained as is. Permissible uses in the R2 zone include dual occupancy, Seniors Housing and secondary dwellings, subject to a detailed assessment and consent being granted.

Further Information:

Please do not hesitate to contact Council for clarification and guidance. We are here to help. Our Customer Service Advisor will be able to gain further information from one of Council's heritage specialists, should this be required.

Customer Service Advisor - Development Planning: (02) 4780 5499

Hours: 8:30am to 5:00pm Monday to Friday

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A second Fact Sheet, 'Developing in a Heritage Conservation Area', complements this Fact Sheet and provides guidance on carrying out development in a Heritage Conservation Area.



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I'm thinking about selling my property; will the property value be affected?

Property values are subject to a complex range of factors, including market trends and timing, and property specifics such as size, condition and location.

Properties within heritage conservation areas can attract higher resale values because of the protections provided for neighbourhood character.

It is important to be aware that the change is from a Period Housing Area to a heritage conservation area, not the individual heritage listing of properties. There are stricter rules and regulations for heritage items than conservation areas.

My property is not an older cottage and was built in the 1960s; why is it included and what does that mean for me?

Some buildings that are not historic buildings were included in the Period Housing Areas and are part of the new heritage conservation areas. This is because they exist as non-characteristic elements within a wider streetscape that has heritage value, and they may have been built before the areas had protections.

These types of buildings may be a visual anomaly in the historic streetscape due to having different materials or being built in a later time frame. Alternatively, they may be newer and imitate historic details but be of a larger scale with integrated garages. These types of 'uncharacteristic' buildings are distinct from the typical weatherboard or brick cottages that pre-date the 1940s. They generally have limited or no heritage significance. Development potential for these types of properties may be greater due to the fact that some potential changes to these buildings may not impact upon the heritage significance of the building and the area. For example, the façade could be improved through sympathetic additions.

Council's Development Control Plan has a guide to understanding the different contributions of various buildings in a heritage conservation area, in Part D1.4. The standard industry practice, which is used in many Councils, describes three different types of contributions a building or property can make to a heritage conservation area. Typically, these can be identified as:

- **CONTRIBUTORY:** the building/property makes a positive and significant individual contribution to the streetscape and character of the conservation area.
- **NEUTRAL:** the building/property neither contributes nor detracts from the significance of the conservation area, and may be a highly altered original building, or a non-detracting sympathetic infill building.
- **UNCHARACTERISTIC:** the building/property does not make a characteristic contribution, and may have inappropriate scale, bulk, design or materials.

Refer to Council's DCP at <https://www.bmcc.nsw.gov.au/development/planning-rules/development-controls-for-land-zoned-under-LEP-2015/DCP-2015>

A study was carried out in 2018 that considered the contributions of individual properties in more detail, and was provided in the public exhibition to the LEP Amendment as a supporting study. At this stage, the contributions maps in the 2018 study are provided for information only and are not binding. This study would need to be reviewed before any further proposals to specify individual property contributions are put out on exhibition for public comment.

