

1. Heritage

This chapter of the LUDS considers the natural and cultural heritage values in the Huon Valley: its ancient Aboriginal heritage, the more recent post-colonisation heritage, and the relationship with natural heritage that the region is renowned for.

The structure of this chapter is as follows:

- Background information regarding the importance of heritage for the Huon Valley
- Description of the natural and cultural heritage in the Huon
- Summary of key points
- A strategic approach to valuing and protecting heritage
- Specific directions and implementation considerations.

1.1 Background

The Huon Valley benefits from a rich heritage, encompassing the many thousands of years of Aboriginal history in the area, natural history – including biodiversity and geodiversity of local, national and international significance – and more recent buildings and modified landscapes that add to the cultural heritage of the region.

Importantly, heritage goes beyond buildings or physical remains of a specific site and includes the importance of appreciating the whole landscape from a spiritual or non-physical perspective. Cultural landscapes are a way of seeing the interrelationship between people and the landscape over time. In addition to being an intrinsic part of people's sense of place, the different types of heritage make a significant contribution to the local and national economy, through their direct relationship with tourism.

A significant area of the Huon Valley is within the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area (TWWHA) which is listed in recognition of its outstanding universal values, including meeting seven of the 10 criteria for world listing:

- *bear a unique or at least exceptional testimony to a cultural tradition or to a civilisation which is living, or which has disappeared*
- *be an outstanding example of a traditional human settlement, land-use or sea-use which is representative of a culture (or cultures), or human interaction with the environment especially when it has become vulnerable under the impact of irreversible change*
- *be directly or tangibly associated with events or living traditions, with ideas, or with beliefs, with artistic and literary works of outstanding universal significance (in conjunction with other criteria)*

- *contain superlative natural phenomena or areas of exceptional natural beauty and aesthetic importance*
- *be outstanding examples representing major stages of the earth's history, including the record of life, significant ongoing geological processes in the development of landforms, or significant geomorphic or physiographic features*
- *be outstanding examples representing significant ongoing ecological and biological processes in the evolution and development of terrestrial, freshwater, coastal and marine ecosystems and communities of plants and animals*
- *contains the most important and significant natural habitats for in-situ conservation of biological diversity, including those containing threatened species of outstanding universal value from the point of view of science or conservation.*

Throughout the Huon Valley, areas that do not fall within the TWWHA also contain significant natural and cultural heritage values.

There are also examples of post-colonial cultural landscapes, which include the proliferation of timber sheds associated with apple-growing as a significant element of the rural economy of the region; the tree rows and other introduced trees around townships; (remnants of) wooden jetties of varying sizes along the Huon River associated with the important role the river played in transportation; and early bridges that impacted the development of towns and villages throughout the Huon.

Aboriginal heritage

The municipal area of the Huon Valley includes significant and precious cultural landscape for Tasmanian Aboriginal people who have had an ongoing connection to land, sea and sky for at least 40,000 years. The traditional owners of the land of the Huon Valley are the Mouheneenner, Nuenonne, Melukerdee and Lyluequonny peoples.

The waterways which crisscross the Huon Valley, its mountain ranges and the area's vast coastline are significant in terms of connection to country for Aboriginal people and also contain archaeology with Aboriginal heritage significance. While there are 73 recorded sites of Aboriginal cultural heritage, there would be a much larger number of unknown sites. Shell middens are a common occurrence along coastlines, reflecting occupation by Aboriginal people through time.

Land use and development has the potential to impact on both tangible and intangible Aboriginal cultural heritage. The identification and consideration of Aboriginal heritage should be encouraged early in planning processes, and assessment of Aboriginal heritage values should be carried out in collaboration with the Aboriginal community including the Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre and the South East Tasmanian Aboriginal Corporation.

Natural heritage

The Huon Valley is renowned for its pristine and unique landscapes, with the majority of the municipal land area being within the TWWHA and other reserved lands. The protection of this natural heritage is

paramount, as it can easily be lost through inappropriate land use and development. The natural heritage includes the biodiversity and geodiversity found across the municipal area, including karst systems, glaciated landforms, river valleys and alluvial flood plains, extensive areas of forest, and coastal assets along its vast coastline. Some of the major icons of the Huon Valley include Adamson's Peak, Sleeping Beauty, Snowy Range, Hartz Mountains, Huon River, Lune Sugarloaf, Mount La Perouse, the southern reaches of the D'Entrecasteaux Channel and South East Cape.

When asked to select the five attributes that make somewhere a good place to live, residents placed the highest value on 'access to the natural environment' (64%) in the 2021 Huon Valley "Living in the Huon Valley" survey. Natural environment was also ranked as the most positive experience of residents of the Huon. Given this, planning, understanding data and implementing mitigation measures will be required.

European and built heritage

Franklin and Cygnet were prosperous early in colonial times and are regarded as having a range of historically significant early buildings. European heritage can be found throughout and is based on the early land uses in the area, which included forestry, agriculture (especially apples), fishing and maritime industrial development.

The significance of Franklin's townscape and visual characteristics has been recognised and provided with specific protections through previous implementation of a Specific Area Plan aimed at guiding future development and avoiding impacts that would erode Franklin's character and significance. Previous strategies also identified its "arts and cultural" hub and included the strategic direction to "improve the streetscape of the town". Protecting the streetscape of Franklin involves encouraging well-planned and designed mixed-use development, limiting linear commercial development, and ensuring that future development enhances landscape values between the Huon River and the town skyline.

Cygnet is also renowned for its built heritage and has a range of historically significant, early buildings. This historical significance is a key element of its township character and would be at risk of erosion in the event of unchecked development as the town grows. It should be a priority that Cygnet's built heritage and town character be protected.

The built heritage adds character to the towns and villages of the region and should be recognised and protected as areas develop. The Australian Heritage Places Inventory lists 166 sites as recognised as state- or locally significant. The most prominently represented area is Franklin with 43 of these sites; 21 are in Huonville and Ranelagh, and the rest are dotted around the municipal area such as in Cygnet and other established areas.

Built heritage is not limited to individual buildings, but also involves streetscapes and townscapes. LUDS intends to preserve these values through specific protections for built form and local character of heritage significance. These protections may be implemented via heritage precincts, or specific area plans (SAPs) for areas with significant heritage and cultural values.

While it will need to be tailored for each town, the model of existing protections in place in Franklin can be used as a starting point for other towns and villages, including consideration of streetscape design guidelines.

1.2 Summary: issues and opportunities

There are many heritage assets that draw people to the Huon. Recognition of heritage values is key to ensuring they can be protected or managed where appropriate.

The heritage assets include those associated with local industries, including apple-growing, forestry and fishing. These industries were the impetus for development in the Huon's towns and villages, and what remains narrates that part of the history of the area and provides unique character to each township.

Huon Valley's population is projected to grow significantly over the next two decades and this will see the addition of infill residential development across its townships. This LUDS intends to preserve heritage sites, buildings, streetscapes and landscapes. Where applicable, SAPs and heritage precincts may be proposed for inclusion in the planning scheme. More targeted mapping efforts can help to identify, record and support protection of these assets.

1.3 Strategic setting

This section discusses the relevant positions of the *Southern Tasmanian Regional Land Use Strategy* (STRLUS) and Draft Tasmanian Planning Policies (Draft TPP). STRLUS dates from 2011 and is largely outdated. A process for a new STRLUS has been announced but has not yet commenced.

The Draft TPP identifies the following **objective** for Aboriginal cultural heritage:

Support the protection and Aboriginal custodianship of Aboriginal Cultural Heritage values including places, objects and practices.

This includes a set of relevant **strategies**:

- *Land use planning is to:*
 - *recognise, respect and accept that Tasmanian Aboriginal people are the custodians of their cultural heritage;*
 - *acknowledge that Aboriginal Cultural Heritage is living and enduring;*
 - *promote the protection of Aboriginal Cultural Heritage values; and*
 - *support Tasmanian Aboriginal people to identify, manage and, where appropriate, continue to use and culturally identify with, Aboriginal Cultural Heritage places.*
- *Encourage the understanding and consideration of Aboriginal Cultural Heritage and support the investigation of land for the presence of Aboriginal Cultural Heritage places and objects where that land is proposed to be designated for use and development that could potentially harm any Aboriginal Cultural Heritage values associated with that land.*

- *Avoid designating land for incompatible land use and development where investigations identify, or it is known that there are, or are highly likely to be, Aboriginal Cultural Heritage values unless it is demonstrated that the impact on Aboriginal Cultural Heritage values can be appropriately managed.*

The Draft TPP identify the following **objective** for historical cultural heritage:

To support the identification and conservation of significant local historic cultural heritage buildings, part of buildings, infrastructure (for example bridges), places/features, precincts and landscapes and promote sympathetic design solutions and responses that preserve or complement those cultural heritage values and facilitate appropriate adaptive reuse.

This includes a set of relevant **strategies**:

- *Identify land that has potential archaeological local cultural heritage value or has research potential and prior to designating it for incompatible use and development that would damage the archaeological values, establish the significance of those values and how they can be appropriately managed.*
- *Identify buildings, part of buildings, places/features, infrastructure, precincts and landscapes that contain significant local historic cultural heritage values, describe the significance of those values, and promote access to this information to ensure identified values are considered early in strategic and statutory planning processes.*
- *Provide for the protection, and encourage the restoration of identified buildings, part of buildings, infrastructure, places/features, precincts and landscapes that contain local historic cultural heritage significance.*
- *Encourage appropriate development and adaptive reuse of buildings, part of buildings, infrastructure, places/features, precincts and landscapes of local historic cultural heritage significance by promoting innovative and complementary design responses that conserves, restore and retain cultural heritage values.*
- *Support the retention of appropriate surrounding settings and site context that contributes to the significance of the local historic cultural heritage values of buildings, part of buildings, infrastructure, places/features, precincts and landscapes.*
- *Encourage the initiation and implementation of local heritage surveys to proactively identify and manage historic heritage places of local historic cultural heritage significance and to clearly articulate the heritage values of places and precincts listed as having local historic cultural heritage significance.*
- *Encourage the preparation and publishing of conservation policies for heritage precincts; development, in-fill, and pre-development assessment guidelines; and similar guidelines for places and precincts of local significance to foster understanding and awareness of the importance of cultural heritage, and provide greater clarity, consistency, and certainty in the management of these values.*

1.4 Strategic directions

Aboriginal heritage

Aboriginal cultural heritage is significant and should be protected. Recognise that Tasmanian Aboriginal people are the custodians of their cultural heritage, which is living and enduring. Support Tasmanian Aboriginal people to identify, protect and, where appropriate, continue to use Aboriginal cultural heritage places.

The understanding and consideration of Aboriginal cultural heritage can be facilitated through the consideration of Aboriginal cultural heritage values and consultation with the Aboriginal community where land is proposed to be designated for use and development.

Avoid designating land for incompatible land use and development where it is known that there are, or are highly likely to be, Aboriginal cultural heritage values unless the impacts can be appropriately mitigated.

Natural heritage

Natural heritage includes biological and geological values located on both private land and reserved land including land that is otherwise protected by state or federal bodies. However, a broader definition would include nature that has been inherited from previous generations and is maintained and bestowed to future generations.

The TWWHA contains outstanding universal values, which have innate values that should be protected. At the same time, the TWWHA is an important attracting feature for visitors to the Huon Valley, including the gateways provided by its towns. A coordinated response to management within the TWWHA is required between the relevant authorities, including the need to ensure natural values on adjacent land are protected to complement the important heritage values and avoid negative impacts.

The geological heritage values of the Huon Valley's geological assets need appropriate management to ensure the preservation of their value. The natural values of the area include a diverse range of native vegetation communities that require appropriate management to ensure protection of areas of significant value, including rare or threatened flora and fauna, including habitat. Cultural landscapes and natural heritage values also provide important tourism opportunities that can be facilitated through the development approval process.

The towns and villages of the Huon Valley benefit from the significant landscape values provided by the surrounding rural and natural areas; these landscape values are an important contributor to heritage, which should be maintained. The Valley landscapes are important in attracting residents and visitors and providing a sense of place. It is important that projected future growth in Huonville and other towns protects and maintains the rural setting that contributes to the character and identity of each town.

European and built heritage

Protection and enhancement of historic heritage landscapes, street and townscapes and individual buildings provide social benefits by being integral to people’s sense of place and pride. Appropriate management of historic heritage assets also brings various economic benefits associated with the attraction of visitors and residents to the municipal area. Identification and recognition of areas or sites containing heritage values are key to providing protection from inappropriate development.

Provide a framework for the establishment of statutory regulation over additional heritage areas or listed sites as they are identified through appropriate studies and facilitate use of heritage buildings where it will assist in long-term maintenance and protection.

TABLE 2: HERITAGE STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

| # | Strategic direction | Implementation consideration |
|----------------------------|---|---|
| Aboriginal heritage | | |
| 1.1 | Follow the Huon Valley Council’s Reconciliation Plan. | Connect the community through local Aboriginal cultural experiences. |
| | | Support Aboriginal cultural awareness and competency training. |
| | | Show respect through actions such as Acknowledgements of Country and flying the Aboriginal flag. |
| | | Consult with Aboriginal staff and community members about projects that impact them. |
| | | Create a dedicated Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander liaison role within Council. |
| | | Consider dual naming using local language. |
| | | Share local, culturally sensitive Aboriginal histories and cultures to all in an inclusive and accessible way (interpretation signage, displays, films, exhibitions). |
| | | Liaise with the Aboriginal community on all matters related to Aboriginal cultural heritage. |
| 1.2 | Provide an integrated approach, involving liaison between the Aboriginal community, Council and relevant government agencies to identify, respect and protect Aboriginal cultural heritage. | Liaise with the Aboriginal community and State Government. |
| 1.3 | | Prioritise the protection of Aboriginal Heritage in the planning process. |

| # | Strategic direction | Implementation consideration |
|-------------------------|---|--|
| | Use and development is to recognise the innate cultural values of Aboriginal Heritage. | Ensure that expansion of urban areas, rezonings and the like consider Aboriginal Heritage. |
| 1.4 | Encourage identification of Aboriginal cultural heritage through Aboriginal heritage assessment early in the process for proposals involving substantial subdivision of land, coastal development, significant disturbance of land outside towns and villages, or other similar activities. | Encourage early investigation of areas identified as having, or having a high potential for, Aboriginal cultural heritage values. Ensure strategic planning includes protections for significant identified values. |
| 1.5 | Adopt an integrated approach to management with State Government and the Aboriginal community to ensure that Aboriginal heritage values on Council-managed land are appropriately considered into the future. | Liaise with the Aboriginal community and State Government. |
| Natural heritage | | |
| 1.6 | The TWWHA contains outstanding universal values including the very high conservation values of its natural heritage, these values should be protected. | <p>Achieve through application of appropriate planning scheme provisions and through liaison with State Government.</p> <p>Provide for a coordinated approach to planning for land within and adjacent to the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area to protect identified values.</p> |
| 1.7 | Prioritise the protection of natural heritage. | <p>Achieve through application of appropriate planning scheme provisions, which define what natural values should be protected.</p> <p>Ensure development, including vegetation clearance for bushfire hazard management, considers natural values.</p> |
| 1.8 | Ensure development is appropriately controlled in relation to the landscape setting and scenic corridors, as well as protecting biodiversity and the wider ecosystem of the Huon Valley. | <p>Achieve through application of appropriate planning scheme provisions or through identification of additional areas that should be provided with protections through the Scenic Protection Code or the Heritage Code, or the development of Desired Future Character Statements and/or Specific Area Plan provisions to protect significant identified natural values.</p> <p>Develop an asset register of natural values for protection from development and include</p> |

| # | Strategic direction | Implementation consideration |
|------------------------------------|---|--|
| | | them in the Draft Huon Local Provisions Schedule for the Tasmanian Planning Scheme. |
| 1.9 | The entire Huon River Catchment should be protected from activities that pollute or negatively affect water quality. | <p>Through the application of appropriate planning controls.</p> <p>Management of onsite waste systems from areas not connected to reticulated sewer.</p> <p>Appropriate management of grazing of livestock close to the river to minimise inputs of contaminants.</p> |
| European and built heritage | | |
| 1.10 | Use and development is to recognise the innate cultural values as well as various economic benefits associated with managing the heritage assets of the Huon Valley in an appropriate manner. | Prioritise the protection of heritage. |
| 1.11 | Identify and recognise local heritage values across the Huon Valley through assessment of individual sites, areas and landscapes. | <p>Include identified heritage values not currently included in the draft Huon Local Provisions Schedule for the Tasmanian Planning Scheme.</p> <p>Implement a local heritage review of towns and villages to identify significant sites, streetscape, townscape or landscape values that require protection.</p> <p>Provide for application of the Heritage Code, or the development of Desired Future Character Statements and/or Specific Area Plan provisions to protect significant identified values. Existing provisions that apply to Franklin could be used as an exemplar for other areas.</p> |
| 1.12 | Protect the landscape values of the Huon Valley and prevent erosion and disturbance of hill faces, and restrict development on ridgelines, coastal bluffs, headlands and other prominent landforms where disturbance would result in a loss of scenic landscape values. | Achieve through application of appropriate planning scheme provisions. Clear definitions of visual amenity must be agreed upon to ensure that natural assets which do not provide value to the community, environment or planet, do not unreasonably constrain development. |

Source: SGS Economics & Planning