



Item: 6.4 **Ref:** WO/2019/01347
Title: Draft Walcha Strategic Heritage Action Plan (2019 – 2029)
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Previous Items: Not Applicable
Attachment: No. 1 – Walcha Strategic Heritage Action Plan (2019-2029) – WI/19/
 All film attachments will be available for viewing at the Meeting.
 No.2 – Film 1 – The Making of the Heritage Action Plan
 No.3 – Film 2 – Knowing
 No.4 – Film 3 – Supporting
 No.5 – Film 4 – Sharing
 No.6 – Letter – Friends of the Old Stone Church – WI/19/6814
 No.7 – Email - NSW Environment & Heritage, Heritage Division –
 WO/19/1133
 No.8 – Letter – NSW Environment & Heritage, Planning Division –
 WI/19/7462

Community Strategic Plan References:

Strategy – 5.3.4 *Preserve, support and promote the history of Walcha.*
Strategy – 5.4.1 *Increase effective partnerships with and develop the capacity of, Aboriginal communities.*
Strategy – 5.6.2 *Strengthen organisations and groups providing cultural, recreational and sporting activities.*
Strategy – 6.1.2 *Promote sustainable development and protection of our natural resources through the planning system.*

Introduction:

This report is submitted to enable Council to endorse the Walcha Strategic Heritage Action Plan (2019-2029) (the Plan) which has been on public exhibition for a period of 28 days. There were no public submissions received.

Report:

In October 2018, Walcha Council was notified by the NSW Government – Office of Environment & Heritage that Council was successful in obtaining a grant to fund the development of the Walcha Strategic Heritage Plan (the Plan). The key deliverables of the project were:

1. Strategic Heritage Plan that identifies actions over ten years; and
2. Short Films about the process to develop the Plan and promotion of Walcha

Perception Planning Pty Ltd were subsequently awarded the project, which included filmmaking input from Channel Zero and heritage input from Octagon Planning. On 11 February 2019, a workshop at Walcha Council brought together key stakeholders from the following community groups and organisations:

1. Amaroo Local Aboriginal Land Council;
2. Walcha and District Historical Society;
3. NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service; and
4. Walcha Central School.

Submitted to Council: 26 June 2019

..... General Manager Mayor



Council considered the draft Plan at its Ordinary Meeting on 24 April 2019 and was prepared to send the draft Plan out to public exhibition for a period of 28 days. The exhibition period was held from Wednesday 8 May 2019 to Tuesday 4 June 2019. There were no public submissions received, during the exhibition period but the Friends of the Old Stone Church sent a congratulatory letter (Attachment 6 – received 5 June 2019) and NSW Environment and Heritage made comment. (Attachment 7 – received 14 June 2019).

A workshop was held with the Councillors on Wednesday 5 June 2019, where the contents of the draft Plan and films were considered and discussed.

The two key deliverables of this project could be best summarised as follows:

1. Walcha Heritage Action Plan (the Plan)

The Plan provides a point of reference for the identification of past achievements and future challenges. It identifies that Walcha has positioned itself to be known for its art culture, national parks and as a destination for touring motorbikes. At the same time, it has several opportunities, such as the mainstream celebration of indigenous culture and the maintenance of heritage buildings, such as the Pioneer Museum.

The Plan lists these achievements and opportunities, while also identifying several actions, which directly seek to address those challenges over the next 10 years. It does this by listing over 30 actions under the categories of Knowing, Protection, Supporting and Communicating/Promoting.

2. Short Films

Four short films will be developed in relation to the Plan.

The content for first film was taken from the key stakeholder on 11 February 2019 and therefore sought to capture the excitement of that day and the key stakeholders’ aspirations for the future draft Plan.

The remaining three films involve speaking to individual stakeholders about the Plan’s actions within the categories of Knowing, Supporting and Sharing. These films will be presented to Council following the exhibition period and subsequently placed on the website to promote the Plan, being ‘Sharing Our (Walcha’s) Heritage’.

The Walcha Strategic Heritage Action Plan (2019-2029) is a good solid overarching document for Council and the relevant stakeholder groups to use. It recognises the strength of using Walcha’s natural, built, and story heritage as an asset in the promotion of the Walcha and its surrounding community. The Plan sets out clear and achievable actions for the Council and other stakeholder groups, though most will only be achievable if resourced by the use of grant funding and will be an invaluable tool to source that funding.

The key actions within the Strategy will be static and they will be reviewed regularly at a Stakeholder meeting to be held every six months. It will also encourage the line of communication between the stakeholder groups and Council, enabling a better result when funding opportunities arise from projects.

Submitted to Council: 26 June 2019

..... General Manager Mayor



NSW Office of Environment & Heritage Comment

Comments have been received from the NSW Office of Environment & Heritage, Heritage Division and Planning Division.

The Heritage Division in an email 17 May 2019 (Attachment 7), have stated that “we would be happy with the version endorsed by Council and has gone out for public consultation. We are aware that you consulted with key community groups during the development of the plan.”

The Planning Division in an email dated 18 June 2019 (Attachment 8), have made comment in regard to Aboriginal cultural heritage, and have made some suggested inclusions. The preparation of the Plan is not a legislated process, Council was not required to consult with State Agencies, neither is it required to take into account the comments from the Planning Division. These comments while relevant are not legislative.

Legal Issues:

The production of the Plan and short films does not fit neatly within a legislated process. However, actions within the Plan are subject to a legislated process. For example, future amendments to the *Walcha Local Environmental Plan 2012* will need to be in accordance to the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*.

While the grant to fund this project is the subject an agreement between Walcha Council and the NSW Government. This agreement provides a scope and associated timeframes for the grant funding. The NSW Government is aware of the progress to date and will be provided with a final copy of the Draft Plan and films.

Financial Implications:

The grant fund is \$100,000 to produce the Plan and to produce the short films

Sustainability Implications:

The Plan and associated films seek to of increase the level of knowledge, protection, support and communication of Walcha’s heritage. The preservation of heritage has significant environmental (i.e. building lifecycle extension), economic (i.e. tourism) and social (i.e. sense of identify) implications. The Plan capitalises on these benefits.

Policy Implications:

The local, regional and state context is provided in the Plan.

RECOMMENDATION: That Council:

- 1. ADOPT the Draft Walcha Strategic Heritage Action Plan (2019-2029), and**
- 2. Send an expression of appreciation to NSW Office of Environment & Heritage for the grant funding and acknowledgement of the quality of the future strategic direction the Walcha Strategic Heritage Action Plan (2019-2029), present stakeholders within the Walcha Local Government Area.**

Submitted to Council: 26 June 2019

..... General Manager Mayor

WALCHA—
SHARING
OUR
HERITAGE

STRATEGIC HERITAGE ACTION PLAN (2019-2029)



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The people of Walcha are committed to the conservation and celebration of the region's rich heritage.

This Strategic Heritage Action Plan (2019-2029) (the Plan) provides a point of reference for the identification of past achievements and current challenges.

The Plan identifies that Walcha has positioned itself to be known for its art culture, national parks, indigenous heritage, agriculture and as a destination for tourists. At the same time, it has a number of opportunities, such as mainstream celebration of indigenous culture and the maintenance of heritage buildings, stories and artefacts.

While listing these achievements and challenges, the Plan identifies a number of actions, which directly seek to address those challenges and community aspirations over the next 10 years. It does this by listing over 30 actions into the following categories:

- (a) Knowing (Identification, assessment, documentation, information and stories of heritage places);
- (b) Protecting (Statutory protection, policy development and management);
- (c) Supporting (Assistance, advice and incentives to conserve places); and
- (d) Communicating and promoting (Measures to raise awareness and access).

These actions are assigned resourcing, progress indicators, completion dates and key stakeholders. From these actions, it can be seen that Walcha Council are seeking to build on existing infrastructure, such as the extension of the Apsley River Walkway, which has developed from discussion that has taken place at a workshop and subsequent meetings with key stakeholders.

The Plan is supported by Literature Review and an overview of the Statutory Framework that have been completed by a registered heritage consultant. This supporting information seeks to demonstrate that the actions have been informed from existing knowledge and fit within a State and Local Context.

The implementation of this Plan will be overlooked by a Panel that will meet on a bi-annual basis to ensure its effective implementation. These meetings will also provide the opportunity for further ideas to mature and

relationships between key stakeholders to further develop. This Strategic Heritage Action Plan provides a roadmap to share Walcha's heritage now and into the future.

Acknowledgement:

The development of this Plan would have not been possible without grant funding received from the NSW Government, which enabled Perception Planning Pty Ltd on behalf of Walcha Council to coordinate the development of this Plan.

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1. PURPOSE

Walcha Council is committed to the conservation and celebration of the region's rich heritage.

The purpose of the Strategic Heritage Action Plan (the Plan) is to guide Council's heritage work program, particularly in relation to the identification, protection, management and promotion of Walcha's heritage. Further to this, it represents a commitment from the community to strengthen existing stakeholder relationships and to support community-based projects that benefit the community.

The Plan takes the lead from a number of heritage guidelines to identify a number of heritage planning actions. They are provided in these categories:

- (a) Knowing (Identification, assessment, documentation, information and stories of heritage places);
- (b) Protecting (Statutory protection, policy development and management);
- (c) Supporting (Assistance, advice and incentives to conserve places); and
- (d) Communicating and promoting (Measures to raise awareness and access).

The Plan's actions are provided as (TABLE 1). These actions build on existing knowledge to promote indigenous, non-indigenous and landscape heritage.

The Plan is supported by a Literature Review (APPENDIX A) and an overview of the Legislative Context (APPENDIX B) that have been completed by a registered heritage consultant.

2. BACKGROUND

The Plan promotes indigenous heritage, non-indigenous heritage and landscapes within the Walcha Local Government Area. A succinct discussion of local context is provided under the headings below.

2.1 INDIGENOUS HERITAGE

The Anaiwan and Dunghutti people have lived in the region for about 6000 years. In the colder months, they returned to the east, where animals were plentiful. Throughout the table lands they had places for ceremonies and the trade of goods.

Today, the Amaroo Local Aboriginal Land Council works with its members and the wider Aboriginal community to assist in matters relating to the areas of housing, legal, employment and other day-to-day matters involving Aboriginal people.

A number of activities and programs are run by the Amaroo Local Land Council, such as the 'Kids on Country' Camp, which aims to get their kids connected to country, their culture and their language. By organising language classes, playgrounds and eye clinics, the Amaroo Local Land Council continue to promote, conserve and assist their local community.

2.2 NON-INDIGENOUS HERITAGE

Walcha was the first area to be discovered in the New England Region. It is on the route taken by the explorer John Oxley in 1818, where he named the Apsley River after the Secretary of State for the colonies, Lord Apsley.

Walcha's first settler, Hamilton Collins Sempill, arrived in 1832 from Belltrees in the Hunter Valley District. Sempill based his headquarters near the campsite used by John Oxley, which he named Walcha ("Wolka").

Further settlers moved into the district over the years 1834 to 1858 during which David William Jamieson formed the nucleus of the Walcha township by erecting various industrial structures, such as a flour mill.

By 1900, the town had almost a thousand people with another 1600 people in the surrounding district. In Walcha, there were four hotels, four blacksmiths, two flour mills and a tannery as well as over thirty shops.

The Municipality of Walcha was proclaimed on 12 March 1880; the adjacent Shire of Apsley was proclaimed on 7 March 1906. On 1 June 1955, the Shire of Walcha was

constituted by the amalgamation of the Municipality of Walcha and the Shire of Apsley. From 1 July 1993, the Walcha Shire Council became known as the "Walcha Council" due to the new Local Government Act 1993.

The temperate climate combined with the soil type, rainfall, altitude and pastures, provides an ideal foundation for the highly regarded grazing industries. The Walcha District is well known for its ability to establish and grow strong, healthy pastures and produce high quality cattle and sheep.

Today, the Walcha and District Historical Society records and preserves artefacts of historical interest relating to the town and district. They maintain a comprehensive Historical Centre room behind the Walcha Library and the Pioneer Cottage and Museum Complex.

2.3 LANDSCAPES

Walcha is home to the Macleay Gorges and boasts some 205,000 hectares of dedicated national parks, wilderness and state forest. Parts of Werrikimbe National Park and Oxley Wild Rivers are world heritage listed. Walcha is also well known for trout fishing with some 1,500km of trout streams which are home to Rainbow and Brown trout.

Walcha's rich basalt soil supports some of the world's best fine wool, prime lamb and beef production, and forestry. Walcha has abundant environmental assets, such as Oxley Wild Rivers and Werrikimbe National Parks and contains World Heritage-listed rainforest. Iconic visitor experiences, such as trout streams and spectacular waterfalls continue to draw domestic and international tourists, contribute to attractive lifestyles and grow the local economy.

Today, the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service manages the significant landscapes contained within the Oxley Wild Rivers National Park. Highlights in the park include the East Kunderang Homestead, the Green Gully Track (a multi-day walk), 20 spectacular lookouts (five located at Apsley Falls) and associated walking tracks, numerous campgrounds and the historic remains related to the grazing industry of early settlement.

Natural elements of the environment, including what some may typically think of as 'natural resources', have cultural meanings and values. There are many distinctive ways of viewing nature as well as different customary ways of enjoying being in outdoor environments. There has been much modification of our natural environment, thus the recognition of the value in conserving our remaining natural heritage estate is vital.





3. STRATEGY CONTEXT

3.1 STATE CONTEXT

In New South Wales, the responsibility for managing and regulating heritage is split between the State and Local Governments.

The items of State Heritage Significance in Walcha, which are the responsibility of the NSW Heritage Council are:

- (a) St Andrews Rectory (former)
- (b) Walcha Road Railway Station and Yard Group
- (c) Ohio Homestead
- (d) St Andrew's Anglican Church (former)
- (e) Woolbrook rail bridge over McDonald River

Walcha Council has the responsibility for items of local heritage significance, through Walcha Local Environmental Plan 2012 (the LEP) and they are:

- (a) Courthouse
- (b) Cottage and surgery
- (c) Commercial Hotel
- (d) Walcha General Cemetery
- (e) Gallery – Parmenter/Fenwicke House
- (f) House – 63W Fitzroy Street
- (g) Memorial and Ex-Services Club (formerly CBC Bank)
- (h) Church – St Paul's Presbyterian and Fletcher Memorial Hall
- (i) Oorandumbie
- (j) House – 2N Middle Street
- (k) School building – Walcha Central (former)
- (l) Europambela
- (m) Emu Creek
- (n) Walcha Catholic Cemetery
- (o) House – 17N South Street
- (p) Blair's Cottage
- (q) Betts Farm – Irish Town, Homeleigh
- (r) Torsmond (formerly the Old Manse)
- (s) Langford

There are three legislative instruments that regulate cultural heritage in New South Wales, being:

- 1) Heritage Act 1977;
- 2) Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979; and

- 3) The National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974.

While the above describes a statutory framework for the protection of heritage, the State Government also provides financial assistance. The production of this Plan is the result of a 'Heritage Near Me' Grant from the NSW Government.

3.2 REGIONAL CONTEXT

The NSW Government, 2018, 'New England North West Regional Plan 2036 (the Regional Plan) is a 20-year blueprint for the future of the Region.

The Regional Plan states that the NSW Government's vision for the Regional is a 'Nationally valued landscapes and strong successful communities from the Great Dividing Range to the rich black soil plains.' The Regional Plan contains a number of actions, whose implementation is a shared responsibility of regional stakeholders, including Councils, State Government Agencies, service providers and the development industry.

The development of this Plan can be linked to one of the priorities for Walcha listed under this Regional Plan, being 'to expand nature-based adventure and cultural tourism places and enhance the visitor experience'. Having consideration to the Regional Plan, Walcha Council considers this Plan to be sympathetic to and is part of Walcha Council's contribution in striving to meet the Regional Plan Directions, particularly 17, 23 and 24.

3.3 LOCAL CONTEXT

The Local Government Act 1993 establishes the legal framework in which Local Government operates. Clause 8 of this Act specifically requires that Council take heritage matters into consideration when assessing a proposed activity, such as determining a development application.

The Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 sets the framework for land-use planning and the subsequent structure and consent of Environmental Planning Instruments, such as the LEP. The LEP provides the statutory framework and requires heritage items, heritage conservation areas and archaeological sites to be listed and afforded a certain level of protection. All items of State and Local Significance that have been previously listed are contained under the Walcha LEP (Schedule 5- Environmental Heritage). These items were informed by the Walcha Heritage Study, which was completed in

2008 by Susan Blake. Walcha's Development Control Plan (DCP) also provides a statutory framework, but currently only relates to advertising structures. The DCP is used by Council to provide guidance to the design of development.

The Local Government Act 1993 sets the framework for each local council to develop a community strategic plan. These plans represent the vision, aspirations, goals, priorities and challenges of the relevant communities. The following goals and actions within the Community Strategic Plan Walcha - 2027 support this Plan:

- 1) Goal - CSP 5.3 - Walcha's cultural identity will be enhanced.
- 2) Action - 5.3.4 - Preserve, support and promote the history of Walcha.
- 3) Goal - CSP 5.4 - Walcha's Aboriginal communities will be supported and strengthened
- 4) Action 5.4.1 - Increase effective partnerships with, and develop the capacity of Aboriginal communities.
- 5) Goal - CSP 5.6 - People of all ages and abilities will be encouraged to participate in cultural, recreational and sporting activities.
- 6) Action - 5.6.2 - Strengthen organisations and groups providing cultural, recreational and sporting activities.
- 7) Goal - CSP 6.1 - Walcha's district and diverse natural and built environment will be protected and enhanced.
- 8) Action - 6.1.2 - Promote sustainable development and protection of our natural resources through the planning system.

4. ACHIEVEMENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

On 11 February 2019, stakeholders from the Walcha Community gathered at Walcha Council to discuss the production of this Plan. Discussion at this workshop led to the identification of key achievements and opportunities, which are discussed below.

4.1 ACHIEVEMENTS

The key achievements were identified as follows:

- (a) Walcha's Pioneer Cottage and Museum
- (b) Walcha History Centre within the Walcha Library
- (c) Grants obtained by the Walcha and District Historical Society
- (d) Walcha Website– 'Where Wild Rivers Run'
- (e) Walcha's Open Air Gallery of Sculptures and Artworks
- (f) An increasing number of Events, such as:
 - Walcha Rodeo
 - Walcha Campdraft
 - Walcha Garden Festival
 - Walcha Airshow
 - Walcha Farmers' Markets
 - Walcha Cup
 - Walcha Races
 - Walcha Agricultural Show
 - Bobby Jack's Festival – Walcha
 - Walcha Mountain Festival
 - NSW Rural Women's Gathering – Walcha
 - The Freak Show Festival of Motorcycles
 - Quota Markets – Walcha
- (g) Visitor Information Centre – Main Street Presence
- (h) Free Facilities for Recreational Vehicles (RV)
- (i) The Establishment of the Amaroo Local Aboriginal Land Council
- (j) World Heritage Listed - Werrikimbe and Oxley Wild Rivers National Parks
- (k) Scenic Drives
- (l) Hema – New England High Country – NSW Motorcycle Touring Map
- (m) The Green Gully Track – Oxley Wild Rivers National Park
- (n) Indigenous Reflection Place
- (o) John Oxley Cairn (Aboriginal Art)
- (p) War Memorials, including parks, churches, halls and stand-

alone structures

4.2 OPPORTUNITIES

The key challenges were identified as follows:

- (a) Maintenance of Pioneer Cottage and Museum (e.g. drainage works)
- (b) Cataloguing contents of Pioneer Cottage and Museum
- (c) Converting documents in Walcha History Centre to an Electronic Format
- (d) Provision of a central source of documentation for Local Indigenous Heritage
- (e) Promotional materials for Local Indigenous Heritage (e.g. brochure)
- (f) Display space for Local Indigenous Heritage and Art
- (g) Hard infrastructure for the increasing number of events (e.g. water supply)
- (h) Increasing visitors using services in the town centre and that stay in the town
- (i) More undercover facilities and mechanics for motorbikes
- (j) Interpretative Signage (Physical or Electronic) for Art and Heritage
- (k) Celebration of 'Irish Town' – Obtaining access to this private property
- (l) Interpretative Signage (Physical or Electronic) for John Oxley Routes
- (m) Celebration of 'Cells River' in terms of historical forestry operations
- (n) Identification of Heritage Curtilage for items of significance
- (o) Implementation of sound trail
- (p) Ensuring effective communications and partnerships between stakeholders within the community
- (q) Provision of 'carrots' to encourage heritage items and places to be listed with legislative protection
- (r) Investigate methods to reduce the legislative 'red tape' for future maintenance and development
- (s) Funding projects within this Plan

5. ACTIONS

The background, achievements and opportunities have been discussed. The focus is now on identifying actions to build on the existing achievements, while actively seeking to address those opportunities. This is achieved by breaking-up the actions into the following categories:

- (a) Knowing (Identification, assessment, documentation, information and stories of heritage places);
- (b) Protecting (Statutory protection, policy development and management);
- (c) Supporting (Assistance, advice and incentives to conserve places); and
- (d) Communicating and promoting (Measures to raise awareness and access).

For each action, the background, resourcing, a completion date, a progress indicator and key stakeholder is identified in the following table (TABLE 1).

Please note that the completion date for items that are dependant on grant funding are subject to change.

TABLE 1 – HERITAGE ACTION PLAN

No	Actions	Background	Resourcing	Timeframe	Progress	Stakeholder
Knowing (identification, assessment and documentation of heritage places)						
1.1	Undertake an indigenous heritage study.	A heritage study for non-indigenous heritage was completed by Susan Blake in 2008. This informed the heritage listings within the LEP. However, no written indigenous heritage has been identified. The provision of this written heritage could lead to heritage listings in the LEP and/or the development of tourism information to assist in the promotion, understanding and celebration of indigenous heritage.	Grant Funding.	5 years.	Walcha Council Annual Report.	Amaroo Local Aboriginal Land Council. Walcha Council.
1.2	Grade properties as 'significant', 'contributory', or 'non-contributory' along Derby Street and the Oxley Highway. Use this information to develop a clear and concise Development Control Plan that provides guidance for development works to those properties that are 'significant' or 'contributory'. Existing resource materials are available through a history of significant buildings that has been completed by Bob Walsh.	Developing a map that identifies existing properties as 'significant', 'contributory', or 'non-contributory', which will provide a quick reference tool to understand the role that each building plays within the streetscape. A building that is 'significant' will be heritage listed, while a building that is 'contributory' may be adjoining a building that is 'significant' and therefore should not detract from that adjoining heritage building through the appropriate use of materials and colours. 'Non-contributory' buildings play no role in heritage and therefore do not need to provide consideration.	Grant Funding. Walcha Council.	1 year.	Walcha Council Annual Report. Adoption of a Heritage Development Control Plan.	Walcha Council.
1.3	Develop and/or update the Walcha Council Public Land Register to identify buildings or land that are of heritage significance.	Identifying if Council Public Land is of heritage significance provides an opportunity to not only identify the asset life of individual buildings, but to identify possible grant opportunities to assist with their maintenance. If they are of heritage significance, then Conservation Management Plans can be developed to ensure that minor works are consistent with the identified heritage significance of that building.	Walcha Council.	2 years.	Walcha Council Annual Report.	Walcha and District Historical Society.
1.4	Converting documents within the Walcha History Centre to an Electronic Format. Consideration needs to be provided to the existing process and software used for cataloguing items in the Museum, being 'Picture Perfect'.	An extensive collection of historical documents is located within the Walcha History Centre. However, the details of these documents are difficult to access because they are not in an electronic format. Placing these documents into an electronic format means that they can be easily shared, thus increasing their accessibility and sharing Walcha's history.	Grant Funding.	5 years.	Walcha Council Annual Report.	Walcha and District Historical Society.
1.5	Work with local businesses to stock and sell the Hema New England High Country NSW Motorcycle Touring Map.	The Hema New England High Country Motorcycle Touring Map was developed to identify and provide guidance to one of Australia's great motorcycle destinations for both on and off road riding. Stocking copies of this Map will assist in building on the motorcycle brand.	Walcha Council.	1 year.	Walcha Council Annual Report.	Walcha Council.

No	Actions	Background	Resourcing	Timeframe	Progress	Stakeholder
1.6	Update the 'Walcha Tourism Website - Where Wild Rivers Run' to include information about: - Reference to Motorcycle Touring Map; - Reference to Mountain Bike Trails; - Reference to Heritage Walking Trail; and - Reference to Events and Activities, such as the 'Autumn Colours'.	The Walcha Tourism Website - 'Where Wild Rivers Run' provides an excellent point of reference for tourists visiting the Walcha District. The workshops that informed the development of this Plan and the eventual actions have identified certain matters that would be suitable additions to the website.	Walcha Council.	1 year.	Walcha Council Annual Report.	Walcha Council.
1.7	Review the existing European Heritage documentation to capture or remove relevant heritage listed items.	A heritage study for non-indigenous heritage was completed by Susan Blake in 2008. This informed the heritage listings within the LEP. This work should now be reviewed to consider if there are any items that have merit for inclusion.	Walcha Council.	3 years.	Walcha Council Annual Report.	Walcha Council.
Protecting (Statutory protection, policy development and appropriate management)						
2.1	Develop a Minor Works Application Form to facilitate minor works on Heritage Listed Items.	The Walcha Local Environmental Plan 2012 (Clause 5.10(3)) identifies when heritage consent is not required for heritage items. However, this is subject to notifying the consent authority of the works. The development of a 'Minor Works Form' makes this process seamless and transparent for the applicant.	Walcha Council.	1 year.	Walcha Council Annual Report.	Walcha Council.
2.2	Include a concession for Development Application Fees on Heritage Items in the listed Walcha Council Fees & Charges.	The Walcha Council Fees & Charges Schedule includes a range of fees for the lodgement of Development Applications. It contains no fee for 'Minor Works', but does charge fees for Development Applications on heritage items, if the works are not defined as 'exempt development'. Removing all fees for Development Applications on Heritage Items reduces barriers for proper maintenance and prevents 'demolition by neglect'.	Walcha Council.	2 years.	Walcha Council Annual Report.	Walcha Council.
2.3	Amend the Walcha Local Environmental Plan 2012 to allow events on public reserves and public roads without development consent. This could be based on the Port Stephens Local Environmental Plan 2013 (Clause 7.17).	The Port Stephens Local Environmental Plan 2013 (Clause 7.17 - Events permitted without development consent) allows for events to take place on public land without the consent being provided by Walcha Council. Inserting this clause removes another barrier for events to take place on public land, where Council, as the landowner already has an interest in ensuring that the event takes place in a safe manner.	Walcha Council.	2 years.	Walcha Council Annual Report.	Walcha Council.
2.4	Update the Walcha Local Environmental Plan 2012 (Schedule 5 - Environmental Heritage) to be based on the heritage curtilage of existing items identified to be of heritage significance.	The existing items listed and mapped within the LEP relate to the whole lot. While, the item of heritage significance may only relate to the Council heritage curtilage of a building. Identifying the whole lot presents unnecessary red tape when a property owner may be seeking development consent for works that have no relation to the item of heritage. The accurate identification of an item using Global Positioning System (GPS) coordinates removes this barrier, while ensuring protection. This will allow for the greater utilisation of the State Environmental Planning Policy (Exempt and Complying Development Codes) 2008 as a regulatory pathway for approvals.	Walcha Council	Ongoing.	Walcha Council Annual Report.	Walcha Council.

No	Actions	Background	Resourcing	Timeframe	Progress	Stakeholder
Supporting (Assistance, advice and incentives to help conserve heritage places)						
3.1	Apply for Heritage Grants and Funding from the NSW Office of Environment & Heritage for this Plan's Actions.	<p>The NSW Office of Environment & Heritage and the Heritage Council of NSW work together to connect communities to heritage at a local and state level. One way that they do this is through the Heritage Grants Program, which provides grants to heritage owners and custodians, local government and the community to deliver on a broad range of heritage outcomes.</p> <p>The grants for the 2019-21 funding round recently closed in February. This means that projects can be identified for the 2022-24 round and assistance with the process provided to maximise possible opportunities.</p>	Walcha Council.	2 years.	Walcha Council Annual Report.	Walcha Council.
3.2	Provide heritage advice to assist property owners in gaining heritage funding for conservation works.	The Heritage Consultant who is referred Development Applications can also be utilised to provide free advice to assist property owners and/or custodians with applying for heritage grants or undertaking minor works on items of heritage significance. This specialised advice can be financially unobtainable without the financial supported provided by a grant.	Grant Funding.	2 years.	Walcha Council Annual Report.	Walcha Council.
3.3	Develop a Council Heritage Committee who meets on a bi-annual basis to overlook the implementation of the Plan.	A Group has gathered to develop the Plan. It is suggested that a part of that group continue to meet on a bi-annual basis to overlook the implementation of the Plan. The meeting only needs to take place for 60 minutes, but will ensure oversight is provided to the Plan. The outcomes of this Implementation Committee are to be publicly reported in the Walcha Council Annual Report.	Walcha Council.	2 years.	Walcha Council Annual Report.	Walcha Council.
3.4	Review cultural open space, main street, streetscape, gardens and evolve public spaces.	Walcha is recognised as having a well-maintained main street and public art throughout the town, which creates interest for locals and visitors alike. This action seeks to foster ideas that further build on these already great spaces.	Grant Funding.	1 year.	Walcha Council Annual Report.	Walcha Council.
3.5	Survey touring motorbikes to understand what infrastructure (e.g. undercover parking, mechanics, events, etc.) would encourage them to visit .	Walcha is located on Thunderbolts Way and the Oxley Highway, which are two major routes that attract motorbikes. Increasing overnight stays within Walcha would result in a higher visitor spend in the local shops, restaurants, bars and holiday accommodation. Incentives, such as undercover parking would make Walcha more attractive to touring motorbikes.	Walcha Council.	10 years.	Walcha Council Annual Report.	Walcha Council.
3.6	<p>Update the 'Walcha Tourism Website – Where Wild Rivers Run' to include information about:</p> <p>(a) Reference to Motorcycle Touring Map;</p> <p>(b) Reference to Mountain Bike Trials; and</p> <p>(c) Reference to Heritage Walking Trial.</p>	The Walcha Tourism Website – 'Where Wild Rivers Run' provides an excellent point of reference for tourists visiting the Walcha District. The workshops that informed the development of this Plan and the eventual actions have identified certain matters that would be suitable additions to this website.	Walcha Tourism Officer.	1 year.	Walcha Council Annual Report.	Walcha Council.

No	Actions	Background	Resourcing	Timeframe	Progress	Stakeholder
3.7	Provide support to the Amaroo Local Aboriginal Land Council for the annual 'Kids on Country' Event.	The Amaroo Local Aboriginal Land Council has organised 'Kids on Country' for the past two years. Providing support to this event through grants or promotion would raise further awareness of Indigenous Heritage.	Walcha Council. Amaroo Local Aboriginal Land Council.	5 years.	Walcha Council Annual Report.	Amaroo Local Aboriginal Land Council.
3.8	Assist in the provision of a space in the town centre that can be used for the display of local aboriginal art work.	Providing assistance to the development of a space in the town centre for the display of artwork would also assist in educating locals and visitors about indigenous heritage.	Walcha Council. Amaroo Local Aboriginal Land Council.	5 years.	Walcha Council Annual Report.	Amaroo Local Aboriginal Land Council.
3.9	Prepare 'shovel ready' heritage projects to take advantage of grant funding opportunities.	Council can assist community groups and stakeholders to develop priority projects and have project outcomes identified and the projected costed and ready for grant funding. Projects can be identified through the Walcha Community Strategic Plan, Strategic Heritage Action Plan and community consultation in advance of grant funding announcements. This means that when grant opportunities arise, they can be applied for in a timely manner.	Walcha Council.	1 year.	Walcha Council Annual Report.	Walcha Council. Walcha Community.
Communicating and Promoting (Measures to raise awareness and appreciation of the heritage of an area)						
4.1	Develop a heritage page on the Walcha Council Website, which includes the following information: - Link to the Strategic Heritage Plan; - Link to Heritage Videos; - Link to recent heritage studies/reports; - Minor Works Application Form; - Link to Heritage Grants; - Link to General Information; and - Link to Indigenous Information.	The Walcha Tourism Website - 'Where Wild Rivers Run' and the Walcha & District Historical Society provide excellent points of reference for locals and visitors. However, these two websites play a different role to that of Council. It is suggested that a heritage page on the Council website detail the listed information to assist applicants and the community with heritage matters.	Walcha Council.	2 years.	Walcha Council Annual Report.	Walcha Council.
4.2	Production of four short films that promote the heritage of Walcha.	A component of the Plan involves the development of four short films that promote heritage within Walcha. The films aim to get people excited about the heritage, whereas, this written document provides more of a roadmap to promote heritage.	Walcha Council.	1 year.	Walcha Council Annual Report.	Walcha Council.
4.3	Investigate a footbridge at the eastern end of the southern walkway.	The investigation of this footbridge would further improve pedestrian movements throughout the town centre and in turn allow locals and visitors alike to enjoy the heritage of Walcha.	Walcha Council.	5 years.	Walcha Council Annual Report.	Walcha Council.

No	Actions	Background	Resourcing	Timeframe	Progress	Stakeholder
4.4	Explore funding opportunities for the development of a 'sound trail' of heritage items and/or art works in the town centre.	Interpretive signage that provides a written explanation, but also provides a link to a digital format (i.e. QR Code) allows for visitors to understand and enjoy items of significance. A 'sound trail' proves an alternative means to enjoy these art works and heritage items.	Grant Funding	2 years.	Walcha Council Annual Report.	Walcha Council. Quota.
4.5	Support and celebrate the history of sporting clubs.	Sport is a significant part of the cultural identity in Walcha and as a result it has its own heritage and contribution to the community.	Sports Clubs.	2 years.	Walcha Council Annual Report.	Walcha Council.
4.6	Develop a 'Interpretative Walk' at Nivison Lookout.	Nivison Walk is a topographical highpoint for the town. An existing walkway along the Apsley River ends at the Walcha Bowling & Recreation Club, which is also at the base of Nivison Walk. Extending this walkway up to Nivison Walk would provide an excellent start/end distinction for this walkway. Signage would assist in the interpretation of this space.	Walcha Council.	10 years.	Walcha Council Annual Report.	Amaroo Local Aboriginal Land Council.
4.7	Investigate the feasibility of linking the existing walkway from the Apsley River to the Langford Homestead entrance along the existing road corridor.	Similar to the previous action, the existing walkway along the Apsley River ends at the Walcha Bowling & Recreation Club. Extending this walkway along the Apsley River to Langford Estate would result in another point of interest being located along this walkway.	Walcha Council.	10 years.	Walcha Council Annual Report.	Walcha Council.
4.8	Provide solar lights along the existing walkway along Apsley River.	The existing walkway along the Apsley River has a number of trees that provide shade and that will continue to provide further shade into the future. The installation of some solar lights in the short to medium term would encourage the utilisation of existing pathways during the darker periods of the day.	Walcha Council.	10 years.	Walcha Council Annual Report.	Walcha Council.
4.9	Acknowledge and discuss ideas for the promotion and maintenance of Memorial Park.	Memorial Park is a fantastic asset for the town, which is an intrinsic part of Walcha's history. This action identifies the need to assist with the ongoing promotion and maintenance of Memorial Park.	Walcha Council.	1 year.	Walcha Council Annual Report.	
4.10	Preparation of fact sheets to assist owners or developers of heritage significant items.	Prepare fact sheets highlighting the positives and how restoration, repairs and development would not be hindered by heritage, but rather value added. They should be available on Council's website and in Council Offices and for inclusion on social media sites.	Walcha Council.	1 year	Walcha Council Annual Report.	Walcha Council. Amaroo Local Aboriginal Land Council. Walcha and District Historical Society.
4.11	Acknowledge and discuss ideas for the promotion and maintenance of cemeteries (indigenous and non-indigenous).	The existing cemeteries, both indigenous and non-indigenous form an intrinsic part of Walcha's history. This action identifies the need to assist with the ongoing promotion and maintenance of these cemeteries. This includes systems and processes to assist with cemetery record keeping and grants to increase visitation and exposure.	Walcha Council.	1 year.	Walcha Council Annual Report.	Walcha Council.

6. CONCLUSION

The Plan presents the commitment from the people of Walcha to the conservation and celebration of the region's rich indigenous and non-indigenous heritage. It provides a point of reference for the identification of past achievements, challenges and future actions.

It has provided a roadmap to improve the celebration of Walcha's heritage now and into the future through the identification of over 30 actions. These actions have been demonstrated to align with the wider State and Regional Context with the goal being to encourage cultural tourism and the preservation of past places, building, cultural and landscape assets. From this, it can be clearly seen that heritage is an asset and that this Plan provides a roadmap to seek grant funding for the best utilisation of this asset.

The implementation of these actions will be overlooked by an Implementation Panel that will meet on a bi-annual basis to ensure implementation.

7. REFERENCES

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Appendix A: Literature Review

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Introduction

The Dunghutti (Dangaddi, Thunggutti, Djangadi) people and Anēwan (Anaiwan, Anaywan) people are the traditional custodians of the Walcha region.¹

The explorer John Oxley passed through the Walcha area in 1818 and named the Apsley River after the Secretary of State for the colonies.

European settlement of the Walcha area began in 1832 as squatters from the Hunter Valley and Port Macquarie sought new pastures for their sheep. Hamilton Collins Sempill was the first squatter in the district, who made his base near Oxley's camp beside a waterhole. His camp became known as Wolka or Walcha.

Indigenous Heritage

There are limited written resources relating to Walcha's Indigenous heritage, particularly prior to European settlement. For accounts of relations between early European settlers and the local Indigenous community see Jamieson (1987), Moore (1991) and Atkinson et al (2006).²

Blomfield (1988) includes a section on massacres and attacks on the Indigenous population in New England, particularly around the falls and gorges in Walcha district.³

Dunghutti People

The Dunghutti people have lived in the areas around the Macleay and Apsley Rivers for 6,000 years. Traditionally they would spend summer around the Great Dividing Range and Walcha, and in the colder months would move back towards the coast where food sources were plentiful.

Dunghutti culture tells the story of the Rainbow Serpent, which created the gorge at Apsley Falls in the Dreamtime. Once underground, it re-emerged at the mill hole near Walcha.⁴

Anēwan People

The Anēwan people are the traditional owners of land around present-day Armidale and the New England tablelands. The language is also known as *Nganyaywana*.⁵ Based on our research so far it appears that there is no conclusive evidence that the Anēwan people had a significant connection with the lands that now fall within Walcha Council boundaries.

Oral history suggests that contact between coastal and tableland groups was limited.⁶ Further research into Indigenous groups around Walcha is necessary.

¹ Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies, *AIATSIS map of Indigenous Australia*, 1996. <https://aiatsis.gov.au/explore/articles/aiatsis-map-indigenous-australia>. 18 February 2019.

² Donald Jamieson, *Tales at Old Inglebah*, Tamworth, 1987; Alison Moore, *Three of a Kind: A History of Niangala, Weabonga and Ingleba*, Parramatta, 1991; Alan Atkinson, et al., *High Lean Country: Land, People and Memory in New England*, Sydney, 2006.

³ See section 4 of Geoffrey Blomfield, *Baal Belbora: The End of the Dancing - The Massacre of a Peaceful People*, Chippendale, 1988.

⁴ Amaro LALC, *The Rainbow Serpent Story told by Aunt Sue Green at the Mill Hole*, 24 January 2019, accessed 18 February 2019, <<https://www.facebook.com/233871593845395/posts/the-rainbow-serpent-story-told-by-aunt-sue-green-at-the-mill-hole-kids-on-country/383554815543738/>>. Radcliffe-Brown, A.R. "The Rainbow-Serpent Myth in South-East Australia", *Oceania Vol. 1 No. 3* (Oct-Dec 1930), pp. 342-347.

⁵ AIATSIS, *AIATSIS map of Indigenous Australia*

⁶ Hudson, S, et al., *An Archaeological Survey of Southern New England Landcare Area including Armidale, Bundarra, Guyra, Uralla, Walcha & Inverell Regions of the New England Tablelands*, Armidale: Southern New England Landcare, 2003.

Inglebah

Inglebah is a traditional camping area nestled between hills and the banks of the MacDonald River.⁷ Prior to European settlement, the area was valued for its permanent water supply and abundance of fish and other animals. After being declared an Aboriginal Reserve in 1893, its location close to farming properties made it a useful stopping point for Indigenous people seeking seasonal farm work. Fifty or more families lived at Inglebah at any one time until the 1940s, when most moved away. The last family left in the 1950s. The land is now under the custodianship of the Amaroo Local Aboriginal Land Council.

Cohen and Somerville (1990) published a detailed history of the Inglebah settlement and its five matriarchs – Granny Widders, Granny Wright, Granny Morris, Granny Maria and Granny Mackenzie.⁸

Non-Indigenous Heritage

General New England History

The history of postcolonial New England is generally well documented.⁹

Atkinson et al's 2006 collection of essays, *High Lean Country*, provides a high-quality thematic overview of the broader region and conflicts inherent in colonisation. The collection covers thematic and academic interpretations of New England and is organised into four broad themes: physical environment, first peoples, newcomers, and representations.

Gilbert (1980) reproduces a range of photographs documenting New England's history.¹⁰

General Walcha History

Susan Blake's 2008 Heritage Study sets the standard for heritage research in Walcha.¹¹ This thematic study is primarily focused on the post-colonial era and has formed the basis for many of the heritage listings on the database of the NSW Office of Environment & Heritage website. The study covers various themes (such as pastoralism, law and order, and entertainment), specific places and properties (both public and private) and events (such as the aerial spreading of superphosphate).

People

Nat Buchanan

Nat Buchanan (1826-1901) was a pioneer, pastoralist and explorer. Born in Ireland and buried at Walcha, his pioneering endeavours led the way for European settlement in Queensland, the Northern Territory, Western Australia and Victoria.¹² His descendant Bobbie Buchanan has published a comprehensive history of his life and travels.¹³

⁷ NSW Office of Environment & Heritage, *Inglebah*. 13 May 2015, accessed 15 February 2019, <<https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/heritageapp/ViewHeritageItemDetails.aspx?ID=5062938>>.

⁸ Patsy Cohen and Margaret Somerville, *Ingleba and the Five Black Matriarchs*, Sydney: Allen & Unwin, 1990.

⁹ Joan Starr and Mike Nicholas, *Pioneering New England*, Sydney, 1978; Robin Berwick Walker, *Old New England: a history of the Northern Tablelands of New South Wales, 1818-1900*, Sydney, 1966; Krista Morgensen and Ted Colville, *New England Tablelands NSW [See Australia Book No. 24]*, Blackburn, Vic, October 1986; John Sprott Ryan, *Tales from New England*, Armidale, 2008.

¹⁰ Lionel Gilbert, *New England from Old Photographs*, Sydney, 1980.

¹¹ Susan Blake, *Walcha Council Community Based Heritage Study*, Walcha, 2008.

¹² Sally O'Neill, *Buchanan, Nathaniel (Nat)*, *Australian Dictionary of Biography Volume 3*, 1969, accessed 18 February 2019. <<http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/buchanan-nathaniel-nat-3101>>.

¹³ Bobbie Buchanan, *In the Tracks of Old Bluey*, Rockhampton, QLD, 1997.

Captain Thunderbolt

Frederick Wordsworth Ward (1835-1870), alias Captain Thunderbolt, was a bushranger renowned for escaping from Cockatoo Island.¹⁴ Ward's territory stretched from the Hunter Region in NSW as far north as Queensland and westwards towards Tamworth and Bourke. He was killed at Kentucky Creek near Uralla. From the research we have undertaken so far, it appears that Thunderbolt's connections with Walcha are limited: he was employed at Aberbaldie Station near Walcha at the age of eleven and later robbed Walcha Mail in October 1869.¹⁵

John Oxley

John Joseph William Molesworth Oxley (1784-1828) was Surveyor General of New South Wales.¹⁶ He travelled through the Walcha district in September 1818. The recently-published *John Oxley: A New Perspective* uses Oxley's diaries plus photographs and paintings to retrace Oxley's steps.¹⁷

Family History

Genealogy is a fast-growing hobby and this is demonstrated by the vast number of Walcha family histories that have been (largely self-) published over the years. The production values and editorial quality of these studies are variable, but the methodology is generally sound. The Walcha & District Historical Society has a large collection of these publications covering, amongst others, the Bath,¹⁸ Crawford,¹⁹ Cross,²⁰ Davidson,²¹ Denne,²² Gibson,²³ Grieve,²⁴ Hardaker,²⁵ Kitcher,²⁶ Laurie,²⁷ Lockyer and Schrader families.²⁸ There are also some general family histories relating to early settlers.²⁹

Local historian Jillian Oppenheimer has produced several excellent histories of the Nivison family.³⁰

¹⁴ Victor Crittenden, *Ward, Frederick (Fred) (1835-1870)*, *Australian Dictionary of Biography Volume 6*, 1976, accessed 18 February 2019, <<http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/ward-frederick-fred-4801>>.

¹⁵ David Brouwer, *Captain Thunderbolt: Horsebreaker to Bushranger*, Tocal, 2002.

¹⁶ E.W. Dunlop, *Oxley, John Joseph (1784-1828)*, Melbourne, 1967, accessed 18 February 2019. <<http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/oxley-john-joseph-2530>>.

¹⁷ Rob Tickle, *John Oxley: A New Perspective*, Beechwood NSW, 2018.

¹⁸ Alfred James, *The Bath Family of Walcha*, Wahroonga, 1991.

¹⁹ Margaret R Crawford Vella, *The Crawfords of Moona Plains, Walcha*, Berry NSW, 2017.

²⁰ Leo Cross and Mavis Eagles, *The Antecedents of Thomas Cross and Martha Eaton and His-Tree*, no date.

²¹ Davidsons of New England Association, *The Davidsons of New England*, Armidale, 1983.

²² Janet Denne, *The Denne Family of Australia*, Killara NSW, 2004.

²³ E.H. McSwan, *John and Agnes Gibson: New England Pioneers*, Yamba, 1998.

²⁴ Allen Grieve, *The Ancestors and Descendants of William Grieve and Jane Flett of Rousay, Orkney Islands, Scotland and 'Brickwall' via Walcha, NSW*, 2018.

²⁵ Julie Hardaker Moss, *Rawden to Walcha: A History of the Hardakers and Associated Families*, Armidale, 1988.

²⁶ Peter J. Kitcher, *From Glen Morrison to Now: A Family History of the Descendants of Thomas William and Elizabeth Kitcher*, 1997.

²⁷ Doug Laurie and Susan Crombie, *A New England Town: A Lifetime in the Walcha Community*, no date.

²⁸ Diane Galligan, *Lockyer Links*, Ferny Hills, 2013. Caroline Gaden, *From Baron to Battler: the Story of Dr Christian Schrader and His Family including the 1873 Diary of Ludwig Schrader*, Armidale, 1996. Caroline Gaden, *The Schrader Letters: Family Letters Written Between Members of Dr Christian Schrader's Family 1871 to 1896*, no date.

²⁹ Patricia Conner, *Some Early Settlers and Connections*. Quirindi, 1991. David Vidler, *Close to the Edge: Stories of the New England Gorges*. Armidale, 2007.

³⁰ Jillian Oppenheimer, *Nivison Stories*, Walcha, 1999; *The Gordon Girls of Strathbogie and Gragin, NSW, and Their Macdonald Kith and Kin*, Walcha, 2003. Jillian Oppenheimer and Bruce Mitchell, *Abraham's Tribe: The Descendants of Abraham and Mary Nivison*, Walcha, 1989; *An Australian Clan: The Nivisons of New England*, Kenthurst, 1989.

Places

Walcha

Some claim that the name Walcha comes from a local Indigenous word for “sun”,³¹ “deep waterhole or “water”, while others theorise that the name has Dutch origins.³² One of the early pastoral properties in Walcha was Bergen-op-Zoom, which stands on the Walcheren River in the Netherlands. The Walcheren Expedition was fought during the British wars with Napoleon in 1809.

Churches in Walcha

Walcha has four churches: one Roman Catholic, two Anglican, and one Presbyterian. All the churches have self-published histories,³³ and the Presbyterian church was also the subject of a book by Bruce Mitchell and Jillian Oppenheimer.³⁴ The old Anglican and Presbyterian churches are listed heritage items; the Office of Environment and Heritage database listings contain a wealth of information.³⁵ The old Anglican church has important stained glass windows that are in need of urgent conservation works.³⁶

Schools in Walcha

Schools in the district include Walcha Central School (established 1859), Woolbrook School (established 1880 and originally called Railway Crossing and later Maluerindi), Yarrowitch Public School (established 1887) and Walcha Preschool (established 1972). Like the local churches, most schools in the district have published history booklets, generally for their centenary celebrations.³⁷

Walcha District Hospital

Walcha District Hospital was established in 1892 and the hospital's first doctor was Dr Boodle. Like many other Walcha institutions, the hospital published a centenary book. The hospital's 1992 publication is particularly high quality, incorporating a general history of Walcha and a detailed history of the hospital itself.³⁸

Sports in Walcha

Members of the local sporting community have published comprehensive books on the town's cricket, rugby, and horse racing histories.³⁹

³¹ A. E. Martin, *1,000 Place Names in New South Wales: The Romance of Nomenclature*, Sydney, 1943.

³² Walcha Council, *Walcha: Where Wild Rivers Run [Tourist Brochure]*, Walcha, 2016.

³³ St Patrick's Church Walcha, *Centenary Celebration 1881-1981*, Walcha, 1981; Anglican Diocese of Armidale, *On Tablelands, Slopes and Plains "I Will Build My Church"*, Armidale, 2014; Rev J.R. Thorburn, *St Paul's Presbyterian Church Walcha: Centenary History 1852-1952*, Walcha, 1952.

³⁴ Bruce Mitchell and Jillian Oppenheimer, *A History of the Presbyterian Church in Walcha*, Walcha, 1988.

³⁵ NSW Office of Environment & Heritage, *Church - St Paul's Presbyterian*, 3 May 2008, accessed 18 February 2019, <<https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/heritageapp/ViewHeritageItemDetails.aspx?ID=2580211>>.

³⁶ Marc Grunseit, “Condition Report on the Stained Glass Windows: Old St Andrew's Anglican Church Walcha”, 2018.

³⁷ Verna Stewart, *The Move Across the River: Walcha Central School Re-Union 1993*, Walcha, 1993. Ruth Watson, *Woolbrook Tales Tall & True: 171 Years of Events in Woolbrook Village and District*, Walcha, 2007. Elma Kearney and Bernard Tibbs, *A Kids'-Eye View of the World at Yarrowitch 1887-1927*, Yarrowitch, 1987. Yarrowitch Public School, *Centenary Booklet 1887-1987*, Walcha, 1987. Walcha Preschool, *Walcha Preschool Inc.: 25th Anniversary*, Walcha, 1997.

³⁸ Walcha District Hospital, *Where They Grow Old Gracefully: Walcha District Hospital Centenary 1892-1992*, Walcha, 1992.

³⁹ Dac Croker, *We Play it Hard Around Here: 150 Years of Walcha Cricket*, Walcha, 2012; Graham Croker, *Memories from Scrum and Ruck: A History of the Walcha Rugby Union Football Club 1894-1994*, Walcha, 1994; Walcha Rugby Club, *50 Years*, Walcha, 1982; Bob Walsh, *Racing at Walcha: The First 160 Years*, Walcha, 2015.

Walcha Council

The Municipality of Walcha was proclaimed on 12 March 1889 and the adjacent Shire of Apsley was proclaimed on 7 March 1906. The two amalgamated on 1 June 1955 to become the Shire of Walcha. The Council published a history of its operations for the centenary in 1989.⁴⁰ The name was changed to Walcha Council on 1 July 1993.

Nowendoc

A detailed history of the village of Nowendoc following white settlement including notable families, community organisations and gold mining was written by Jean Holstein and Suzanne Lyon in 1984.⁴¹

Rural Settlement

Emu Creek

Emu Creek was taken up as a squatting run in the 1830s by the partnership of Gilbert Eliot and Arthur Hodgson.⁴² The original homestead was made of timber; the present homestead was designed in 1908 by the Sydney architects Kent and Budden.

Europambela

The Europambela run was first taken up by Powell and Allman in 1836 and was later sold to Christopher Dawson Fenwicke in 1860.⁴³ The Europambela homestead is one of the oldest timber houses in the district. The property also includes the Fenwicke Family Cemetery

Langford

John Oxley camped close to what is now Langford Homestead in 1818, and Hamilton Collins Sempill set up his squatting run on the site in 1832.⁴⁴ The property has been owned by several significant Walcha families including the Dangar, Jamieson, Fletcher, Gill and Nicholls families. The homestead itself was designed by NW Scobie of Maitland and built between 1900 and 1904.

Ohio

Ohio was built in three stages from 1836 to 1839; it is Walcha's oldest house.⁴⁵ The property was first taken up by John Herring Boughton around 1836. In 1842, he sold it to Abraham Nivison; the Nivison family became inextricably linked with Ohio. Ohio was sold to the Church of England in 1950. When the Church put it back on the market in 1970, it was purchased by Ohio Homestead Pty Ltd, made up of descendants of the Nivisons including local historian Jillian Oppenheimer, who lived at the property until recently. Oppenheimer has written extensively on Ohio and the Nivison family.⁴⁶

⁴⁰ Walcha Shire Council, *100 Years of Local Government*, Walcha, 1989.

⁴¹ Jean Holstein and Suzanne Lyon, *Nowendoc: A Glimpse into History*, 1984.

⁴² NSW Office of Environment & Heritage, *Property - Emu Creek*, 12 July 2007, accessed 18 February 2019. <<https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/heritageapp/ViewHeritageItemDetails.aspx?ID=2580102>>.

⁴³ NSW Office of Environment & Heritage, *Property - Europambela Group*, 9 July 2007, accessed 18 February 2019. <<https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/heritageapp/ViewHeritageItemDetails.aspx?ID=2580100>>.

⁴⁴ NSW Office of Environment & Heritage, *Property - Langford Complex*, 12 July 2007, accessed 18 February 2019.

<<https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/heritageapp/ViewHeritageItemDetails.aspx?ID=2580128>>.

⁴⁵ NSW Office of Environment & Heritage, *Ohio Homestead*, 10 April 2001, accessed 18 February 2019. <<https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/heritageapp/ViewHeritageItemDetails.aspx?ID=5045339>>.

⁴⁶ Jillian Oppenheimer, "Ohio" in Krista Morgensen and Ted Colville, *New England Tablelands NSW [See Australia Book No. 24]*, Blackburn, Vic, October 1986; *Nivison Stories*, Walcha, 1999; *The Gordon Girls of Strathbogie and Gragin, NSW, and Their Macdonald Kith and Kin*, Walcha, 2003. Jillian Oppenheimer and Bruce Mitchell, *Abraham's Tribe: The Descendants of Abraham and Mary Nivison*, Walcha, 1989; *An Australian Clan: The Nivisons of New England*, Kenthurst, 1989.

Oorandumbie

Also known as Oorundumby, a depasturing licence was granted for this property in 1837 and it was an outstation of the Walcha run.⁴⁷ The current homestead was built in the 1860s by John Fletcher; his son William built the Langford mansion.

Yarrowitch

Following WWII the government implemented a policy to settle returned servicemen on the land (as they had done after WWI). Blocks were allocated by ballot. Fifty-six ex-servicepeople (including one woman) were settled on blocks in Walcha Shire. One of these properties, Yarrowitch Station (19,556 acres) was purchased from the Vickery family and divided into 17 blocks. There was a total of 722 applications. Twelve blocks were for grazing and five for dairy farming. The ballot was held on 10 March 1948. Family names of successful dairy applicants were: Keaton, Lyons, Harris, Hoare, Cameron. Family names of successful grazing applicants were: Donlan, Hutchinson, Sendall, Brearley, Pittman, Brooke, Shaw, Mitchell-Hill, Meldrum, Brown, Hodgson and Schalk.⁴⁸

Walcha Road

Walcha Road railway station, at the intersection of the Oxley Highway and the railway line, opened on 2 August 1882. The village had a school from 1883 to 1965 and a Post Office from 1882 to 1976.⁴⁹

Events

Gold Rushes

Jillian Oppenheimer's 1970 thesis provides a good general overview of gold mining in the district.⁵⁰ Galbraith (1998) has important information on the gold mines at Tia, while Kitcher (1997) includes a brief history of Glen Morrison and the Golden Star Mine, and Holstein and Lyon cover mining at Nowendoc.⁵¹

World War I

The impact of World War I on the people of Walcha is documented in a book published by the Walcha & District Historical Society in 2014; this comprehensive history includes biographical information of those who served, who enlisted but were unable to serve, and Soldier Settlers after the war.⁵²

Aerial Superphosphate Spreading

Walsh (2017) presents a detailed history of aviation in the district including in 1950 the first aerial spreading of superphosphate in Australia.⁵³

⁴⁷ NSW Office of Environment & Heritage, *Property - Oorandumbie*, 3 June 2009, accessed 18 February 2019. <<https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/heritageapp/ViewHeritageItemDetails.aspx?ID=2580101>>.

⁴⁸ John Hutchinson, *Yarrowitch Soldier Settlement Anecdotes*, Walcha, June 1996.

⁴⁹ State Rail Authority of New South Wales, *How & Why of Station Names: Meanings and Origins*. Sydney 1982.

⁵⁰ Jillian Oppenheimer, *A History of Land Use in the Walcha District [Thesis]*, Armidale, 1970.

⁵¹ Sheila Galbraith, *Practitioner, Pioneer, Pastoralist*, Leichhardt, 1998. Peter J Kitcher, *From Glen Morrison to Now: A Family History of the Descendants of Thomas William and Elizabeth Kitcher*, 1997. Jean Holstein and Suzanne Lyon, *Nowendoc: A Glimpse into History*, 1984.

⁵² Calvin et al., *Walcha in the Great War 1914-1919*, Walcha, 2014.

⁵³ Bob Walsh, *Aviation at Walcha 1919-2016*, Walcha, 2017.

Walcha District Historical Society

The Walcha District Historical Society Inc (WDHS), founded in 1962, is a volunteer-run organisation with a dedicated and skilled membership who look after its collection of buildings, artefacts and archival materials. There are two WDHS sites: Pioneer Cottage Museum at 111N Derby Street and the History Centre in the Walcha Library at 42N Derby Street.

Pioneer Cottage Museum

The Pioneer Cottage Museum complex is a collection of buildings, many of which were originally located elsewhere and moved to the site by WDHS.⁵⁴ The current collection includes:

- Pioneer Cottage, built on the site in 1862 by Walcha's first policeman, Constable James Buckland
- Museum Building, an 1862 slab hut originally at 117E Fitzroy Street
- Aboriginal Carved Tree (Dendroglyph)
- Caretakers Cottage
- Wool Industry Hall, formerly the Glen Morrison School of Arts
- Machinery Barn
- Automatic Telephone Exchange
- Blacksmith's Shop
- Aircraft Hangar, housing the Tiger Moth aircraft used in the first aerial spreading of superphosphate in Australia
- Machinery Shed
- Selector's Hut, originally from local grazing property Tiara

Each of the buildings contains collections of artefacts grouped around the locally significant themes of home, commerce, military, medicine, the wool industry, communications, smithing and farming.

History Centre

The History Centre houses a wide range of archival materials. The current collection includes:

- Books covering local history, family history,
- Royal Australian Historical Society journals
- The John Fauna Campbell collection
- Filing cabinets organised by biographical information, photographs, Walcha District, New England and miscellaneous
- Biographical index cards
- Maps
- Physical archives including ledgers and council records
- Digital archives including genealogical records

WDHS is currently working on creating a comprehensive database of its collections using Past Perfect collections management software.

⁵⁴ Walcha & District Historical Society Inc., Walcha Pioneer Cottage & Museum Complex. Walcha, no date. Walcha District Historical Society, *Pioneer Cottage Story - Notes on Early Walcha*. Walcha, 1963.

Natural Heritage

Gondwana Rainforests of Australia

Formerly known as the Central Eastern Rainforest Reserves (Australia), the Gondwana Rainforests were first inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1986 and extended in 1994. The Gondwana Rainforests collectively cover fifty separate reserves totalling 366,500 hectares from Newcastle to Brisbane. Part of the Hastings-Macleay group falls within the Walcha LGA, both within the Oxley Wild Rivers National Park and the Werrikimbe National Park. Much information on the Gondwana Rainforests is primarily published by Commonwealth and state governments.⁵⁵

Oxley Wild Rivers National Park

Oxley Wild Rivers National Park (OWRNP) covers 145,223 hectares and forms part of the Gondwana Rainforests of Australia World Heritage Site. Notable places within Oxley Wild Rivers National Park include Apsley Falls, Tia Falls, Budds Mare, Wollomombi Falls, Dangars Gorge and Falls, Youdales Hut, East Kunderang Homestead,⁵⁶ Bicentennial National Trail, and Gara Gorge. Andrew Messner has written several historical reports on various sites within Oxley Wild Rivers.⁵⁷

Vidler (2007) published personal recollections and interviews of people who lived and worked in and around Gorge Country, primarily east of Armidale but with some information on the Walcha district. Margaret R Crawford Vella (2017) recounts the transition of the Gorge Country from pastoral to National Park.

Carrai National Park

Carrai National Park is located on a granite plateau and contains vast tracts of eucalypt groves and subtropical rainforest.⁵⁸ There are a number of sacred Indigenous sites within the National Park including the Carrai Waterholes.⁵⁹

Werrikimbe National Park

Werrikimbe National Park is part of the Gondwana Rainforests World Heritage Area.⁶⁰ Mooraback Pastoral Station in Werrikimbe was one of the earliest settlements in the Falls Country east of Walcha.⁶¹

⁵⁵ NSW Office of Environment & Heritage, *Gondwana Rainforests of Australia*, 20 June 2006, accessed 9 March 2019,

<<https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/heritageapp/ViewHeritageltemDetails.aspx?ID=5014148>>.

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⁵⁶ Bob Harden, *European Settlement & Pastoralism at Kunderang: Upper Macleay River, 1840-1960*, Armidale, 2015.

⁵⁷ Andrew Messner, "Bark Hut, Oxley Wild Rivers National Park: Historical Report", 2008; "Cedar Creek Precinct, Oxley Wild Rivers National Park", 2012; *Oxley Wild Rivers National Park: Historical Heritage Assessment (Macleay and Apsley Rivers)*, Armidale, 2011; "Staces (Lone Pine) Hut, Oxley Wild Rivers National Park: Historical Report", 2006.

⁵⁸ NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service, *Carrai National Park*, 2019, accessed 9 March 2019.

<<https://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/visit-a-park/parks/carrai-national-park/>>.

⁵⁹ NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service, *Carrai National Park and Carrai State Conservation Area: Plan of Management*, Sydney, 2008.

⁶⁰ NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service, *Werrikimbe National Park*, 2019, accessed 9 March 2019.

<<https://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/visit-a-park/parks/werrikimbe-national-park/>>.

⁶¹ Bruce Mitchell, *Mooraback Pastoral Station in Werrikimbe National Park: A History*, 2004; Peter Hitchcock, "Werrikimbe National Park", 2012.

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Appendix B: Legislative Context

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Introduction

Broadly, there are two components to heritage conservation in New South Wales: lists of heritage places and rules regarding their treatment. Heritage listings are used to signify that an item has significance to the community. There are four levels of heritage listing:

- **World Heritage** Listed on the UNESCO World Heritage List and divided into cultural sites, natural sites and mixed sites, and governed by the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999
- **National significance** Listed on the National Heritage List and Commonwealth Heritage List and governed by the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999
- **State significance** Listed on the State Heritage Register and governed by the NSW Heritage Act 1977 and National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974
- **Local significance** Listed in the Local Environmental Plan and governed by the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979

Heritage listings, at all levels, are a formal way of protecting sites and items that have physical and emotional connections to Australia's history. The statutory heritage framework covers the history of Australia from custodianship by Indigenous peoples through the establishment of a penal colony and the establishment of towns, villages and cities across the nation.

Statutory Framework

Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999

The *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) is a piece of Commonwealth legislation that provides for a nationwide approach to the protection of the environment, including heritage and biodiversity. The EPBC Act protects items and areas of national environmental significance, leaving the states and territories to focus on state and local matters.

The objectives of the EPBC Act are:

Provide for the protection of the environment, especially matters of national environmental significance

Conserve Australian biodiversity

Provide a streamlined national environmental assessment and approvals process

Enhance the protection and management of important natural and cultural places

Control the international movement of plants and animals (wildlife), wildlife specimens and products made or derived from wildlife

Promote ecologically sustainable development through the conservation and ecologically sustainable use of natural resources

Recognise the role of Indigenous people in the conservation and ecologically sustainable use of Australia's biodiversity

Promote the use of Indigenous peoples' knowledge of biodiversity with the involvement of, and in cooperation with, the owners of the knowledge

The EPBC Act is designed to consider actions that have, or are likely to have, a significant impact on a matter of National Environmental Significance. These require approval from the Commonwealth Government Minister for the Environment (The Minister). The Minister will decide whether assessment and approval are required under the EPBC Act.

The nine matters of National Environmental Significance protected under the EPBC Act are:

1. World heritage properties
2. National heritage places
3. Wetlands of international importance (listed under the Ramsar Convention)
4. Listed threatened species and ecological communities
5. Migratory species protected under international agreements
6. Commonwealth marine areas
7. The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park
8. Nuclear actions (including uranium mines)
9. A water resource, in relation to coal seam gas development and large coal mining development

In Walcha, the only matter of NES is the Gondwana Rainforests of Australia, parts of which are within the Oxley Wild Rivers and Werrikimbe National Parks. This an area of World Heritage as it:

represents outstanding examples of major stages of the Earth's evolutionary history, ongoing geological and biological processes, and exceptional biological diversity. A wide range of plant and animal lineages and communities with ancient origins in Gondwana, many of which are restricted largely or entirely to the Gondwana Rainforests, survive in this collection of reserves. The Gondwana Rainforests also provides the principal habitat for many threatened species of plants and animals. (UNESCO, Gondwana Rainforests)

The protections afforded by the EPBC Act are adequate for this area within Walcha Local Government Area (LGA). The impacts of development on a local scale are unlikely to negatively affect the heritage qualities of the Gondwana Rainforests.

NSW Heritage Act 1977

The primary legislation governing the conservation and protection of heritage items at state level is the *Heritage Act 1977*, which incorporates the State Heritage Register (SHR). This Act specifies that the state and local heritage significance is determined according to the "historical, scientific, cultural, social, archaeological, architectural, natural or aesthetic value of the item". Under the Act, it is specified that heritage protection is managed by the Minister, the Heritage Council and the Heritage Division of the Office of Environment & Heritage (OEH).

The Act also allows for financial assistance, tax relief and maintenance orders for owners of items of environmental heritage. It also allows for Interim Heritage Orders to be issued where the Minister is concerned that a potential heritage item might be under imminent threat.

One of the key components of the NSW Heritage Act is Section 170. Section 170 was changed during significant amendments in 2010. This Amending Regulation stipulates that Government agencies and organisations must take a proactive role in identifying heritage assets under their care, control and protection, and reporting those items to the Heritage Council. The Heritage Council assesses these items and, if appropriate, lists them on the (SHR).

The SHR is critical for identifying items of local and state heritage value under the care, control or ownership of state agencies, and therefore ensuring that sound management approaches are implemented to safeguard those items. Accordingly, state agencies have an obligation to properly and effectively manage and maintain their asset portfolios as custodians for the community.

The SHR includes items of state significance identified under Local Environment Plans.

National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974

The *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* aims to conserve the State's natural and cultural heritage; foster public appreciation, understanding and enjoyment of their State's natural and cultural heritage; and manage any lands reserved for the purposes of conserving and fostering public appreciation and enjoyment of the State's natural and/or cultural heritage.

The Act is the main legislative means of protecting items of Aboriginal heritage within New South Wales. It seeks to conserve (and foster public appreciation, understanding and enjoyment of):

places, objects and features of significance to Aboriginal people;

places of social value to the people of New South Wales; and

places of historic, architectural or scientific significance.

Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979

The *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EPA Act) is the main statutory instrument for the consideration of development applications within New South Wales. The Act gives power to Local Environmental Plans and Development Control Plans. Clause 4.15 sets out what consent authorities (e.g. councils) must consider when assessing development applications.

Local Environmental Plan

Under the *Heritage Act 1977* and *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*, local councils are responsible for heritage conservation within their Local Government Area (LGA). The intention of this was to give greater responsibility and ownership to the local community via their council. However, there is no explicit requirement for a council to consider heritage when determining a development application. Rather, they must consider the provisions of any Local Environmental Plan or Development Control Plan.

Most Local Environmental Plans, including Walcha's, include Clause 5.10 which deals with heritage conservation and states:

(1) Objectives

The objectives of this clause are as follows:

- (a) to conserve the environmental heritage of Walcha,*
- (b) to conserve the heritage significance of heritage items and heritage conservation areas, including associated fabric, settings and views,*
- (c) to conserve archaeological sites,*
- (d) to conserve Aboriginal objects and Aboriginal places of heritage significance.*

The objectives section details what the overall approach is of Council for managing heritage places and spaces with a particular focus on the conservation of land. These are the key objectives for Council to consider when assessing the impacts of a development on heritage items and heritage areas.

(2) Requirement for consent

Development consent is required for any of the following:

(a) demolishing or moving any of the following or altering the exterior of any of the following (including, in the case of a building, making changes to its detail, fabric, finish or appearance):

- (i) a heritage item,*
- (ii) an Aboriginal object,*
- (iii) a building, work, relic or tree within a heritage conservation area,*

(b) altering a heritage item that is a building by making structural changes to its interior or by making changes to anything inside the item that is specified in Schedule 5 in relation to the item,

(c) disturbing or excavating an archaeological site while knowing, or having reasonable cause to suspect, that the disturbance or excavation will or is likely to result in a relic being discovered, exposed, moved, damaged or destroyed,

(d) disturbing or excavating an Aboriginal place of heritage significance,

(e) erecting a building on land:

- (i) on which a heritage item is located or that is within a heritage conservation area, or*
- (ii) on which an Aboriginal object is located or that is within an Aboriginal place of heritage significance,*

(f) subdividing land:

- (i) on which a heritage item is located or that is within a heritage conservation area, or*
- (ii) on which an Aboriginal object is located or that is within an Aboriginal place of heritage significance.*

These controls do provide for some guidance on how heritage items and places can be developed, and what needs to be considered. However, they are quite general, and only outline where consent is required, not particulars of how assessment is undertaken. This

creates uncertainty for landowners, and clearer directions within council policies or development control plans can provide greater support for property owners or business operators.

Subclause 5.10(3) outlines criteria for works that do not require council consent – generally, maintenance works rather than actual development. Subclause 5.10(4) stipulates that the consent authority must consider the impacts of the proposed development on the heritage significance of the item when considering any development application relating to a heritage item or heritage conservation area.¹

Subclause 5.10(5) allows for Council to request a heritage management document (such as a Statement of Heritage Impact) for any development that may impact upon the significance of a heritage item. This can include recommendations for Conditions of Consent, controls over final outcomes and the requirement for documentation of any works that are to be removed or altered.

Subclause 5.10(6) clause allows Council to require a Conservation Management Plan (CMP) to be prepared, either prior to determination or as a condition of consent. A CMP is a document that outlines what works are required to ensure that the heritage item maintains an appropriate condition, and that the works proposed are considered in a holistic manner.

Subclause 5.10(7) sets out requirements for development on archaeological sites. Subclause 5.10(8) provides for specific requirements for consultation with the Aboriginal community when assessing the impacts of any development on an item of Aboriginal heritage, including items which may not be listed, but are likely to be found in the area.

Subclause 5.10(9) details consultation requirements where applications include the demolition of state heritage items.

Subclause 5.10(10) allows a consent authority to significantly vary development controls, including permissible uses, if the proposed development creates for a better outcome in terms of heritage conservation than would otherwise be allowed. For example, a non-permissible use (such as tourist accommodation) may generate more income allowing funds for the conservation of a heritage item than a permissible use, such as a dwelling house.

The LEP also includes Schedule 5, which lists the items of environmental heritage significance within the LGA. See Appendix C for a full list of all heritage items in Walcha, including those in Schedule 5.

Development Control Plan

Development Control Plans (DCPs) do not have a legislative weight, but are instead made, and enacted, by Council (generally through the passing of a resolution of Council). DCPs usually provide specific controls for certain types of development (e.g. residential, commercial and industrial) or development with certain environmental impacts (e.g. traffic and parking, flooding, vegetation).

¹ There are no heritage conservation areas in Walcha. Generally, heritage conservation areas are districts or neighbourhoods with cohesive thematic or architectural characters. For example, Potts Point in Sydney.

Many councils have a Heritage Conservation DCP which control the development, use, adaptive reuse and maintenance of heritage items. A Heritage DCP can specify everything from consideration of impacts of development, to building heights, building separation, permissible uses, location of parking and even colour schemes.

Walcha Council is unusual in that it has a single Development Control Plan, which governs signage and advertising. This means that no consideration can be given to the controls within a DCP when assessing a development application that has impacts on a heritage item. The lack of a Heritage Conservation DCP is an urgent matter facing Walcha which is a hindrance to the ongoing preservation, protection and management of heritage items in the LGA.

The lack of a Heritage DCP creates significant uncertainty for the owners and occupiers of heritage items; a comprehensive DCP can provide for appropriate guidance and assistance to allow for the ongoing use and maintenance of a heritage item. It is highly recommended that a Heritage DCP be prepared as an urgent priority.

Other Listings

Other statutory listings which have effect in NSW are:

- **Commonwealth Heritage List** A list of places owned or leased by the Commonwealth which have heritage value. There are no such items in Walcha.
- **Aboriginal Sites Register** A list managed by the National Parks and Wildlife Service.
- **Australian National Shipwreck Database** A list of all known shipwrecks in Australian waters. There are no such items in Walcha.
- **Heritage and Conservation Registers, or Section 170 Registers** A list of items under the care, control and management of NSW state agencies.

Community Registers

Community registers and listings tell us about places which have heritage significance, but they do not provide legal protection. They include:

- **The National Trust Register**, maintained by the National Trust of Australia, is one of the most comprehensive of the non-statutory registers. It was first established nearly fifty years ago and is a reference for the compilation of statutory registers, particularly local government heritage studies;
- **The Royal Australian Institute of Architects' Register of 20th Century Buildings** is an important resource in assessing more recent heritage items;
- **The Art Deco Society Register** lists important buildings from the interwar (1918-39) period;
- **The Geological Society Register** lists important geological sites;
- **The Australian Institution of Engineers Australia** lists sites or objects of engineering significance;
- **The Professional Historians Association (NSW) Register of Historic Places and Objects** lists sites and objects of historical significance;
- Information on movable heritage can also be found in database format at the Australian Museums Online site.

Walcha's Heritage Items

The Walcha LGA includes items of world, state and local significance. A full list of Walcha's heritage items is included in Appendix C. In summary, Walcha has:

- 1 item of national significance listed on the World Heritage List
- 5 items of state heritage significance listed under the Heritage Act
- 3 items owned by state agencies listed under s170 of the Heritage Act
- 1 Aboriginal place listed under the NPW Act
- 19 items of local significance listed under Schedule 5 of the Local Environmental Plan
- 1 archaeological site listed under Schedule 5 of the Local Environmental Plan
- 3 items with entries on the OEH database but not currently protected by any legislation
- No heritage conservation areas

Conclusion

In New South Wales there are various levels of heritage significance which are governed by Commonwealth, state and local legislation and guidelines. Ultimately, local councils are usually the first point of contact when it comes to the development or protection of heritage items.

Local government is often best placed to deal with the development and preservation of heritage items because they have the localised knowledge and resources to understand the importance of heritage items, can engage successfully with the community and have access to external support agencies (such as Office of Environment and Heritage) that can provide for the external guidance and support needed for the appropriate protection of heritage items.

It is important, then, that local councils have a robust understanding of the frameworks governing heritage conservation. This includes the creation of council policies relating to heritage at the local level and in particular the creation of a Heritage Development Control Plan which provides guidance and certainty to developers and the local community.

Appendix C: Heritage Items in Walcha LGA

Globally and Nationally Significant Heritage Items

Name	Listings	Australian Theme	NSW Theme
Gondwana Rainforests of Australia	World Heritage List National Heritage List NSW Heritage Act 1977	Environment Economy	Environment Forestry

State Significant Heritage Items Listed Under Heritage Act 1977

LEP No / Name	Address	Public/Private	Australian Theme	NSW Theme
I006 / St Andrews Rectory (former)	120W Fitzroy St	Private	Settlement Culture	Accommodation Towns, suburbs & villages Religion
I015 / Walcha Road Railway Station & yard group	Main Northern Railway	Public	Economy	Transport Pastoralism
I019 / Ohio Homestead	85 Ohio Homestead Rd	Private	Economy Settlement Working Culture	Agriculture Environment - cultural landscape Pastoralism Accommodation Land tenure Towns, suburbs & villages Labour Creative endeavour Domestic life Leisure Religion Social institutions
I020 / St Andrew's Anglican Church	5N-9N South St	Public	Culture Phases of Life	Creative endeavour Religion Birth and Death
I016 / Woolbrook Rail Bridge over McDonald River	Main Northern Railway, Woolbrook	Private	Economy	Transport

N.B. These five items are also listed under Walcha LEP 2012

Aboriginal Places Listed under National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974

Item	Public/Private	Australian Theme	NSW Theme
Inglebah	Private	Peopling	Aboriginal cultures and interactions with other cultures

State Significant Heritage Items Listed by State Agencies

Item	Address	Public/Private	Australian Theme	NSW Theme
Chimney Swamp Creek Bridge	Oxley Highway	Public	Economy	Transport
Surveyors Creek Bridge	Oxley Highway	Public	Economy	Agriculture Pastoralism Technology Transport
Walcha Road Official Residence	Oxley Highway & Middle Street, Walcha Road	Private	Governing	Law and order

Locally Significant Heritage Items Listed Under Walcha LEP 2012

LEP No / Name	Address	Public/ Private	Australian Theme	NSW Theme
I001 / Courthouse	2W Apsley St	Public	Settlement Governing Phases of Life	Towns, suburbs & villages Law and order Birth and Death
I002 / Cottage and surgery	114W Apsley St	Private	Economy Settlement Phases of Life	Commerce Towns, suburbs & villages Persons
I003 / Commercial Hotel	100W Commercial Lane	Public	Economy Settlement Culture	Commerce Towns, suburbs & villages Social institutions
I004 / Walcha General Cemetery	Darjeeling Rd	Public	Economy Culture Phases of Life	Environment - cultural landscape Creative endeavour Religion Birth and Death Persons
I009 / Parmenter/Fenwicke House	23E Fitzroy St	Private	Settlement Culture	Accommodation Towns, suburbs & villages Leisure
I010 / House	63W Fitzroy St	Private		
I007 / Memorial & Ex-Services Club (former CBC Bank)	67W Fitzroy St		Economy Settlement	Commerce Towns, suburbs & villages Utilities
I014 / St Paul's Presbyterian and Fletcher Memorial Hall	10E-14E Hill St	Public	Peopling Educating Culture Phases of Life	Ethnic influences Migration Education Religion Events
I011 / "Oorandumbie"	13 Lakes Rd	Private	Peopling Economy Settlement Working	Migration Agriculture Land tenure Labour
I017 / House	2N Middle St	Private		
I008 / School Building - Walcha Central (former)	3-5S Middle St	Public	Settlement Working Governing Culture Phases of Life	Towns, suburbs & villages Government and administration Social institutions Events Persons
I018 / "Europambela"	118 Moona Plains Rd	Private	Peopling Economy Settlement Working	Migration Agriculture Land tenure Labour
I005 / "Emu Creek"	247 Old Brookmount Rd	Private	Economy Settlement Working	Pastoralism Land tenure Labour
I024 / Walcha Catholic Cemetery	219E Oxley Dr	Public	Economy Culture Phases of Life	Environment - cultural landscape Creative endeavour Religion Birth and Death Persons
I021 / House	17N South St	Private		
I022 /	19N South St	Private	Economy	Commerce

Blair's Cottage			Settlement Phases of Life	Accommodation Towns, suburbs and villages
I023 / Betts Farm - Irish Town, Homeleigh	612 Thunderbolts Way		Peopling Settlement Working Culture	Ethnic influences Migration Towns, suburbs & villages Labour Religion
I013 / "Torsmond" (formerly the Old Manse)	14523 Thunderbolts Way	Private		
I012 / "Langford"	14598 Thunderbolts Way	Private*	Peopling Economy Settlement Working	Migration Pastoralism Accommodation Land tenure Labour

* Tours by Appointment

N.B. Woolbrook is on the boundary of Walcha and Tamworth. Some properties in Woolbrook are listed under Tamworth Regional Local Environmental Plan: Former Commonwealth Bank, Riverview (Residence), Trainview (Residence) and Old Cottage (Trainview), and Woolbrook Hall.

Archaeological Sites Listed Under Walcha LEP 2012

LEP No / Name	Address	Significance	Public/ Private	Australian Theme	NSW Theme
A001 / Winterbourne Ruins	Winterbourne Road	Local	Private	Peopling Economy Settlement Working	Migration Pastoralism Technology Accommodation Labour

Other Listings on Office of Environment & Heritage Database

Item	Address	Australian Theme	NSW Theme
Hospital (former)	51S South St	Economy Settlement Governing Phases of Life	Health Towns, suburbs & villages Government and Administration Birth and Death Persons
Odd Fellows Hall (former)	106W Fitzroy St	Settlement Culture Phases of Life	Utilities Leisure Persons
Royal Hotel (former)	26E Fitzroy St	Economy Settlement	Commerce Towns, suburbs & villages
School - Principal's Residence (former)	3S Middle St	Settlement Educating Phases of Life	Accommodation Education Events

N.B. The OEH database listings for the former Hospital, Odd Fellows Hall and Royal Hotel state that these properties were listed under the 2000 LEP. These three sites are not currently protected by any official heritage listing. The former principal's residence is now part of the larger listed school site.

*Council has made a request to the Department to remove this item from their database as the property has been demolished.

Appendix D: Funding Options

Author's Note: the NSW state election was held on 23 March 2019. The subsequent cabinet reshuffle led to the Office of Environment and Heritage being absorbed into the Department of Planning and Environment. Consequently, some previously available documentation became unavailable at the time of writing.

Funding options are available for two distinct groups:

- Councils, to undertake heritage studies and reports, and
- Landowners and business operators to undertake works on heritage items.

Funding for Councils and Community Groups

The Office of Environment and Heritage provides for significant funding for Councils through the issuing of grants for works and studies. Applications generally close in February of each year and funding is issued in April or May. Different areas of focus are funded each year. The application process is competitive; the existence of guidance documents such as a Strategic Heritage Plan are helpful in demonstrating that a grant application is part of a well-considered plan. In 2019 grants were available in the following categories:

- Aboriginal Culture Heritage
- Caring for State Heritage Grants
- Community Heritage Grants

Aboriginal Cultural Heritage

These grants are for:

- improving knowledge and understanding of items by developing conservation management documents for Aboriginal cultural heritage nominated for or gazetted as Aboriginal Places or listed on the State Heritage Register
- doing works within a conservation management document to conserve and protect items of Aboriginal cultural heritage that are gazetted as Aboriginal Places or listed on the State Heritage Register
- increasing understanding, respect, and celebration of and cultural participation in Aboriginal cultural heritage.

For example, a grant application may be made for Council and the Local Aboriginal Land Council to undertake a joint Aboriginal Heritage Study for the council area. Or, an application can be made for conservation works to be undertaken at listed Aboriginal Heritage Places.

Caring for State Heritage Grants

These grants are to support the understanding, conservation, protection and activation of items on the State Heritage Register. The emphasis is on the physical use of the item rather than studies or research into the item.

Community Heritage Grants

These grants provide funding for local councils and communities to identify, conserve, interpret and promote heritage. Some activities in this grant stream are only available to local government organisations while others are open to a broader group of applicants.

Other categories of funding that may become available are:

- Community Engagement Projects
- Local Government Heritage Studies

Other Funding Categories

Community Engagement Projects

Both councils and community groups can apply for grants for Community Engagement Projects which celebrate and promote heritage items of local importance and significance.

Interpretation Projects

Both councils and community groups can apply for grants for Interpretation Projects for items on the State Heritage Register.

Local Government Heritage Studies

Councils can make grant applications for heritage studies for specific items. For example, a Rural Lands Heritage Study may be part or fully funded under this grant application, or a detailed history of a significant building may be undertaken.

Local Heritage Advisor Services

The Office of Environment and Heritage offers grants whereby Council is allocated funds for appropriately trained and experienced in-house staff, or external consultants who can provide specialist heritage advice to applicants. Alternatively, Council may be able to allocate resources to provide this service without outside funding.

Funding for Landowners

State Heritage Register Emergency Works

This grant funding process is open year-round, unlike other grants offered through the Office of Environment and Heritage. The purpose of this grant category is to support the protection of, or repairs to, State Heritage Register Listed items or items under an Interim Heritage Order that have been damaged by unexpected events (such as an extreme storm or accident) and where the cost of repairs are not funded through insurance.

Assistance for Restoration or Upgrade Works

At certain times, either local government or the Heritage Office may have other assistance programs available, such as:

- grants to upgrade heritage buildings, or
- incentives, such as rate relief, for the owners of heritage buildings.

Appendix E: Best Practice and Additional Resources

The Burra Charter

The Burra Charter is a non-statutory document that defines the basic principles and procedures that should be followed in the preservation and conservation of Australian heritage places.

Its formal title is the *Australia ICOMOS Charter for the Conservation of Cultural Significance* and it was adopted at a meeting of the Australia International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) in 1979 at Burra, South Australia. It has been given the short title of the Burra Charter in recognition of this.

The Burra Charter adopted the overall philosophy of *The Venice Charter for the Conservation and Restoration of Monuments and Sites*, which was adopted by ICOMOS in 1964. The Burra Charter was amended and modified to be in a form that is applicable and practical for the Australian context.

The Burra Charter consists of:

- Definitions Article 1
- Conservation Principles Articles 2-13
- Conservation Processes Articles 14-25
- Conservation Practices Articles 26-34
- The Burra Charter Process flow chart.

The Burra Charter does not detail the specific techniques or approach to individual items. However, it does specify a seven-step process by which heritage places should be understood and managed:

1. Understand the Place
2. Assess Cultural Significance
3. Identify All Factors and Issues
4. Develop Policy
5. Prepare a Management Plan
6. Implement the Management Plan
7. Monitor the Results and Review the Plan

The Burra Charter is available to download at <https://australia.icomos.org/wp-content/uploads/The-Burra-Charter-2013-Adopted-31.10.2013.pdf>

Australia ICOMOS is also developing a series of Practice Notes to supplement the Burra Charter, which can be found here: <https://australia.icomos.org/publications/charters/>

Additional Resources

- Benefits of owning a heritage listed property (Office of Environment & Heritage)
<https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/Heritage/listings/benefitowners.htm>
- Better Placed: Design Guide for Heritage (Government Architect NSW)
<https://www.governmentarchitect.nsw.gov.au/resources/ga/media/files/ga/design-guides/better-placed-design-guide-for-heritage-2019-01-30.pdf>
- Criteria for Listing on the State Heritage Register (Office of Environment & Heritage)
<https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/Heritage/listings/heritage-register-criteria-listing.htm>
- Guide to developing a heritage listed property (Office of Environment & Heritage)
<https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/Heritage/development/index.htm>
- Guidelines for Interpretation of Aboriginal Heritage (National Trust)
<https://www.nationaltrust.org.au/publications/guidelines-for-interpretation-of-aboriginal-heritage/>
- Information for owners (Office of Environment & Heritage)
<https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/Heritage/listings/ownersinfo.htm>
- Heritage Consultants Directory (Office of Environment & Heritage)
<https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/heritageapp/HeritageConsultantsDirectory.aspx>
- List of OEH Publications (Office of Environment & Heritage)
<https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/heritage/publications/index.htm>
- Royal Australian Historical Society
<https://www.rahs.org.au/>
- Statements of Heritage Impact – Template (Office of Environment & Heritage)
<https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/resources/heritagebranch/heritage/hmstatementsofhi.pdf>
- The Conservation Plan (Australia ICOMOS)
<https://australia.icomos.org/publications/the-conservation-plan/>

WALCHA COUNCIL	
RECEIVED	
DATE	5.6.19.
BY	
TIME	
PLACE	
INITIALS	

neridahoy@yahoo.com.au

25 Oxley Drive,
WALCHA 2354
31st May, 2019

Mr Jack O'Hara,
General Manager,
Walcha Council
P O Box 2
WALCHA 2354

RE: Draft Strategic Heritage Action Plan

Dear Jack

The 'Friends of the Old Stone Church' would like to congratulate the Walcha Council on its Draft Strategic Heritage Action Plan (2019-2029). Even though the State Heritage listed original Anglican Church does not come under your jurisdiction, we applaud your support of heritage and note that at point 3.1 with the 2022-2024 funding round of Heritage Grants from the NSW State Office of Environment and Heritage, assistance with the process of application is proposed to be provided to maximise possible opportunities.

Hopefully, with the support of the Parish and Diocese we will be in the position to apply for the above.

Yours sincerely



Nerida Hoy
On behalf of the 'Friends of the Old Stone Church'

Item 6.4 Attachment 7

Liz Hobbs

From: Kathy Little <projects@walcha.nsw.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 20 May 2019 3:31 PM
Subject: RE: Wacha Heritage Strategic Plan

Hi Colleen,

Thank you for your email and phone message. I am making arrangements now to finalised all payments and complete the acquittal. I look to have the acquittal completed by the end of next week. There is a Councillor workshop on the draft plan next week and I would like to include the outcome of this workshop in the acquittal as well.

Nay problems please call.

Happy Monday! Cheers, Kath.

Kath Little

Contract Projects Officer

Walcha Council

PO Box 2

Walcha NSW 2354

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Council www.walcha.nsw.gov.au | Tourism www.walchansw.com.au



From: Colleen Klingberg [<mailto:Colleen.Klingberg@environment.nsw.gov.au>]
Sent: Friday, 17 May 2019 1:32 PM
To: Kathy Little
Subject: RE: Wacha Heritage Strategic Plan

Hi Kath,

At this stage, so that we can close the project off, we would be happy with the version endorsed by Council and has gone out for public consultation.

We are aware that you consulted with key community groups during the development of the plan.

When the final version is endorsed by the community and council is available, you can send it in.

If you have paid all your invoices, you can now complete your Final Acquittal and Project Report.

This is via SmartyGrants, I will add the form to your application for you.

As always, please get in touch with any questions

Kind regards

Colleen



Office of
Environment
& Heritage

Colleen Klingberg
Heritage Project Officer
Heritage Near Me program
Office of Environment & Heritage

Level 6, 10 Valentine Avenue
Parramatta NSW 2150
T 02 9873 8566
W environment.nsw.gov.au/HNM

I acknowledge and respect the traditional custodians and ancestors of the lands I work across.

From: Kathy Little <projects@walcha.nsw.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 1 May 2019 2:21 PM
To: Colleen Klingberg <Colleen.Klingberg@environment.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: Wacha Heritage Strategic Plan

Good afternoon Colleen,

Just wanted to update you that the Walcha Council has adopted the draft Walcha Strategic Heritage Action Plan, and the document is now going out for community consultation. The consultation will also include a Councillor workshop.

Do you require that this plan be adopted by Council prior to acquittal. What is the last day for acquittals?

Many thanks, Kath.

Kath Little
Contract Projects Officer
Walcha Council
PO Box 2
Walcha NSW 2354

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Council www.walcha.nsw.gov.au | Tourism www.walchansw.com.au



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Item 6.4 Attachment 8

Liz Hobbs

From: Rosalie Neve <Rosalie.Neve@environment.nsw.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 18 June 2019 1:48 PM
Subject: RE: Draft Action Plan for website

Good afternoon Libby

Apologies for not formally sending a reply last week.

The OEH has reviewed the draft *Walcha, Sharing Our Heritage, Draft Strategic Heritage Action Plan (2019-2029)* forwarded on 11 June 2019 and commends the people of Walcha's commitment to the conservation and celebration of the region's rich heritage.

With regard to Aboriginal cultural heritage the OEH offers the following comments and queries for your consideration.

- It is always difficult in NSW to decide in public documents whether to use the word Aboriginal or Indigenous. Whether to capitalise the chosen noun or not is also a matter of local and individual preferences. The OEH encourages the document to be consistent throughout in both the terminology and the capitalisation.
- The section 2.1 would be an appropriate place to reference the Amaroo Local Aboriginal Land Council's functions in relation to Aboriginal culture and heritage. That is to take action to protect the culture and heritage of Aboriginal persons in New South Wales, subject to any other law and to promote awareness in the community of the culture and heritage of Aboriginal persons in New South Wales.
- With regard to the proposed biannual review panel, will Aboriginal people be on it?
- Consider the use of different wording to 'discovered' in 2.2
- Is it intended for one (1) of the proposed trilogy of short films to have an Aboriginal focus?
- The OEH encourages a shared approach to Action 1.3 with the respective LALC for any area considered
- The Aboriginal Sites register mentioned on page 8 of Appendix B is called the Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) if is currently managed by OEH (but that will change after 1 July 2019)
- Clarification over what the three (3) items on the OEH database that have no legal protection are and why they have no current legal protection? (noted that currently ceremonial and dreaming sites with no tangible evidence of past use are not protected under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*)

An OEH search of the AHIMS database indicates that there are at least 145 known Aboriginal objects within the Walcha LGA that cover a range of features including but not limited to rock engravings, stone arrangements, ceremonial sites, open campsites, burials, carved trees, quarries and massacre sites. The OEH also notes that 70 of those sites are within the area of statutory responsibility of Amaroo LALC.

Rosalie Neve

Aboriginal Heritage PO
North East Branch
Conservation and Regional Delivery Division
Office of Environment & Heritage

Federation House, Level 8, 24 Moonee St, Coffs Harbour 2450
Locked Bag 914, Coffs Harbour 2450
T 02 66598221 F 02 66598281
M 0472 828864

From: Rachel Lonie
Sent: Tuesday, 18 June 2019 12:20 PM
To: Libby Cumming <planning@walcha.nsw.gov.au>
Cc: Rosalie Neve <Rosalie.Neve@environment.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Draft Action Plan for website

Hi Libby,

I have just forwarded your email to my colleague Rosalie. She has read the report but was away unexpectedly last week. She will call you today

Kind regards, Rachel



Rachel Lonie

Senior Conservation Planning
Officer, North East Branch
Conservation and Regional
Delivery Division

24 Moonee St, Coffs Harbour 2450
Locked Bag 914 Coffs Harbour 2450
T 02 6650 7130 F 02 6659 8281



From: Libby Cumming <planning@walcha.nsw.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 18 June 2019 12:12 PM
To: Rachel Lonie <Rachel.Lonie@environment.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Draft Action Plan for website

Hi Rachel

I haven't seen any comments yet, are they still coming and will they be here by close of business today. I have to have my Council report completed by 10am tomorrow morning.

Happy to discuss.

Cheers

Libby Cumming
Contract Planning Officer
Walcha Council
PO Box 2
Walcha NSW 2354

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From: Rachel Lonie [<mailto:Rachel.Lonie@environment.nsw.gov.au>]
Sent: Tuesday, 11 June 2019 3:57 PM
To: Libby Cumming
Cc: Rosalie Neve
Subject: RE: Draft Action Plan for website

Thanks Libby,

We should be able to get comments to you by Friday.

Kind regards, Rachel



Office of
Environment
& Heritage

Rachel Lonie

Senior Conservation Planning
Officer, North East Branch
Conservation and Regional
Delivery Division

24 Moonee St, Coffs Harbour 2450
Locked Bag 914 Coffs Harbour 2450
T 02 6650 7130 F 02 6659 8281

A banner image showing a beautiful beach with clear blue water and a rocky coastline under a blue sky.

We connect communities with conservation
and culture to deliver great outcomes for
the environment and heritage.

From: Libby Cumming <planning@walcha.nsw.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 11 June 2019 2:35 PM
To: Rachel Lonie <Rachel.Lonie@environment.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: Draft Action Plan for website

Libby Cumming
Contract Planning Officer
Walcha Council
PO Box 2
Walcha NSW 2354

P 02 6774 2521 | E planning@walcha.nsw.gov.au

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