

Statement of Intent - [Heritage](#)

NATURAL HAZARD RISK REDUCTION FOR HERITAGE PLACES

1 Purpose

To establish the intent of the Heritage Council of Western Australia (Council) to integrate natural hazard risk reduction planning and mitigation into its strategic planning, programs, policies and operations.

2 Overview

Natural hazards such as bushfires, tropical cyclones, severe storms, flooding, coastal inundation, landslides, earthquakes and tsunamis have the potential to impact the built environment. While the impacts of natural hazards on cultural heritage places are difficult to predict, it is clear that heritage places can be particularly vulnerable. Climate change is associated with the occurrence of more extreme weather events including flash flooding, higher sea levels, drought, more intense storms and excessive temperatures, and is likely to exacerbate this vulnerability of heritage places.

It is a strategic objective of the Council to identify and address risks to cultural heritage places, associated with natural hazards, including those that may be linked to climate change.

3 Scope

This Statement of Intent applies to the Heritage Council and the Department in its role supporting the Council.

4 Objective

This Statement of Intent is intended to highlight the following strategic objectives:

- Identify and understand natural hazard risk to heritage places
- Equip owners and managers of heritage places with the information they need to reduce disaster risk and manage residual risk to heritage places
- Establish proactive measures and address barriers to reducing the risk of impact of natural hazards
- Leverage existing and future Council programs to promote risk reduction measures.

5 Statement of intent

The Council will integrate natural hazard risk reduction strategies into its policies, programs and operations by:

- continuing to collaborate with other agencies and organisations that possess climate change science and natural hazard disaster risk management data and expertise to ensure the risks to cultural heritage are adequately understood and considered ;
- ensuring natural hazard risk identification and management of heritage places is based on sound research that is available from other agencies and organisations;
- embedding natural hazard risk reduction within Council policies, strategies, projects, programs and heritage practices to increase resilience and recovery of heritage places impacted by natural hazards;
- seeking to understand how climate change and natural hazards may impact owners and managers of cultural heritage places, engage with them to gain a greater understanding of challenges and opportunities for managing associated risks and support them in disaster risk management planning, mitigation measures and recovery;
- promoting good heritage practice and standards for natural hazard risk reduction through its policies, programs and more generally through advice and dissemination of information;
- prioritising natural hazard mitigation measures in the annual Heritage Grants Program;
- considering climate change and natural hazards in all aspects of nomination and management of State heritage places;
- developing an approach for dealing with inevitable change, including loss; and
- monitoring and evaluation of the effectiveness of its strategies, policies, programs and operations in reducing risk to heritage places due to natural hazards.

Supporting Information

This Statement of Intent will be supported by associated information as it becomes available from other agencies and/or is developed by the Department and will be made publicly available through the Council's website.

Definitions and Acronyms¹

Hazard	an event, situation or condition that is capable of causing or resulting in loss of life, prejudice to the safety, or harm to the health of persons or animals; or destruction of, or damage to property or any part of the environment and is defined in the Emergency Management Act 2005 or prescribed in the Emergency Management Regulations 2006
Natural hazard	A geological, meteorological or biological hazard
Mitigation	measures taken in advance of a disaster aimed at decreasing or eliminating its impact on society and environment
Disaster	the occurrence or imminent occurrence of a hazard which is of such a nature or magnitude that it requires a significant and coordinated response
Disaster Risk	The potential loss of life, injury, or destroyed or damaged assets, which could occur to a system, society or a community.
Risk Reduction	Actions taken to lessen the likelihood, negative consequences, or both, associated with a risk
Residual Risk	The disaster risk that remains even when effective disaster risk reduction measures are in place, and for which emergency response and recovery capacities must be maintained.
Recovery	the support of emergency affected communities in the reconstruction and restoration of physical infrastructure, the environment and community, and the psychological and economic wellbeing.

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¹ [State Emergency Management Glossary \(semc.wa.gov.au\)](https://semc.wa.gov.au)