



Charters Towers Regional Council

General Exemption Certificate:

Local heritage places

Version 1



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1. Purpose

This General Exemption Certificate (GEC) permits certain types of work to local heritage places, such as maintenance and repairs, provided they comply with the conditions outlined in this certificate.

Under the *Planning Regulation 2017* ([Schedule 10, Part 8](#)), most types of work carried out on a local heritage place are considered development. However, [Part 6, Division 2](#) of the *Queensland Heritage Act 1992*, enables local governments to issue exemption certificates for works that will have no more than a minor detrimental impact on the cultural heritage significance of a local heritage place.

The GEC has been issued by the Chief Executive Officer of Charters Towers Regional Council in accordance with the requirements of the *Queensland Heritage Act 1992*. It **does not** require an application or fee to Council, and aims to:

- Reduce the regulatory burden for low-impact works.
- Support the ongoing maintenance of local heritage places in accordance with the conservation principles outlined in the [Australia ICOMOS Charter for Places of Cultural Significance](#) (Burra Charter).
- Ensure heritage values are protected and preserved for current and future generations.

2. Scope

This GEC applies to:

- Local heritage places identified in the Heritage overlay and [Schedule 5](#) of the Charters Towers Regional Town Plan (Version 2) (the Town Plan).
- Works listed in Column 1 of the relevant tables in [Section 9. Permitted works](#), provided they are carried out in accordance with the specified conditions
- Works substantially commenced on or after **1 June 2026**.
- Works that do not require separate development approval under the *Planning Act 2016*.

3. Instructions

Before commencing any works:

- **Step 1:** Refer to [Schedule 5](#) of the Town Plan to understand the cultural heritage significance of the place. This details the applicable criteria and, where available, provides information to help identify significant features and guide your works.
- **Step 2:** Review the General Conditions in [Section 4](#) that apply to all works.
- **Step 3:** Review Column 1: Development of the relevant tables in [Section 9](#) to confirm that your works are eligible under the GEC.
- **Step 4:** Review Column 2: Conditions of the relevant works to ensure that you can meet the conditions specified.
- **Step 5:** Seek specialist advice if you are unsure how to carry out the proposed works or need assistance identifying elements with cultural heritage value. If you are unsure, it is recommended that you seek advice from:
 - Heritage architects or consultants.
 - Specialised tradespersons with experience in heritage conservation and the identification of culturally significant features.

4. General conditions

Failure to comply with all general and specific conditions in this document may constitute an offence under the *Queensland Heritage Act 1992* and could result in penalties.

The below conditions apply to all works carried out under this GEC.

General Conditions	
1	Only works listed in Column 1 of the relevant tables are exempt under this GEC.
2	Development must meet the conditions in this table and Column 2: Conditions.
3	Works may only proceed with the consent of the property owner.
4	Use appropriately qualified persons when repairing or altering significant heritage features.
5	Avoid demolition, removal, or irreversible alteration of significant heritage elements.
6	Protect significant features from accidental damage during works.
7	If substantial damage occurs, contact Council on (07) 4761 5300 and report the incident.
8	Allow Council officers access to the place to inspect or record development.
9	Comply with any other applicable legislation (e.g., <i>Building Act 1975</i> , <i>Planning Act 2016</i>)

5. Heritage Exemption Certificate (HEC)

If your works are ineligible under the GEC, they may still qualify for a Heritage Exemption Certificate (HEC). The HEC allows approval for low-impact projects that do not affect the heritage significance of a place but are not otherwise covered by the GEC.

To obtain a HEC, you must:

- Apply to Council
- Pay the applicable fee
- Receive formal approval before commencing any works

If you are unsure whether your works are eligible under the GEC or require a HEC, please contact Council's Planning and Development team for guidance. You can reach us by calling (07) 4761 5300 or emailing development@charterstowers.qld.gov.au.

6. Other requirements

If development disturbs or reveals archaeological artefacts, you are obliged under the *Queensland Heritage Act 1992* to stop works and report the discovery to the Department of Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation (DETSI) at archaeology@des.qld.gov.au.

There are responsibilities for the owner of a local heritage place to identify health and safety hazards prior to undertaking works. There may be legal requirements for managing hazardous materials (e.g. asbestos), including requirements to obtain advice from qualified or licenced specialists. For information and guidance, contact the Queensland Government at WorkSafe - www.worksafe.qld.gov.au.

7. Keeping records

Owners of local heritage places should keep records of any changes, helping to protect heritage values, support conservation, and provide a reference for future owners or managers. Your record should note the work undertaken, dates, costs, contractors, warranties, and ideally include before-and-after photos.

8. Exclusions

The GEC does not permit:

- Development that may have more than a minor detrimental impact on the heritage significance of the place
- Demolition, removal, or destruction of significant structures, elements, or fabric.
- Alterations, additions, or extensions to the place.
- Construction of new buildings or structures, except where specified in the tables.
- Signage and advertising devices (see [Section 10. Further Advice](#))

9. Permitted works

The following categories of work (*Development*) are permitted under this GEC and must be undertaken in strict accordance with the specified conditions.

Refer to [Section 3. Instructions](#) and [Section 4. General Conditions](#) before commencing your works.

Where available, links to [Technical Notes](#) developed by DETSI are provided. These offer practical guidance on carrying out works in a manner that protects and maintains the cultural heritage significance of a place.

All works should follow the 'cautious approach' outlined in the Burra Charter, applying the principle of '**as much as necessary, as little as possible,**' to ensure heritage values are maintained.

Table 1 – Maintenance, cleaning and inspections

Regular maintenance and cleaning are essential to maintaining building condition, preventing deterioration of significant fabric, and detecting new maintenance issues

Examples works include:

- Cleaning masonry, timber and metal surfaces, or treating corrosion.
- Removal of graffiti.
- Refixing loose elements.
- Removing elements for inspection, testing, sampling, treatment and remediation.

Column 1: Development	Column 2: Conditions
<p>Cleaning significant elements</p> <p>Gentle, non-abrasive cleaning to remove surface deposits, organic growths and graffiti.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cleaning must not include harsh chemicals, abrasive techniques, water blasting or sandblasting. • Cleaning must use gentle, non-abrasive methods appropriate to the material being cleaned, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – low-pressure water (less than 100 psi). – pH neutral detergents. – mild brushing or scrubbing with soft brushes. • Cleaning must not remove or damage existing materials. • Cleaning must not alter the appearance of original or significant elements, including colour or texture. • A discreet test area must be completed before cleaning to confirm that the method does not cause adverse effects.
<p>Refixing loose elements</p> <p>Refixing elements that are loose or detached.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Existing fixings in sound condition must be reused. • New fixings must be of the same material as the existing and match the size and finish as closely as possible.
<p>Treatment of corrosion</p> <p>Treatment of partial or full corrosion to significant elements.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Treatment methods must not cause damage to areas of uncorroded material. • Removal of existing finishes to treat corrosion must comply with Table 3 – Painting.
<p>Grffiti Removal</p> <p>Removal of graffiti from painted and unpainted surfaces.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Painting over graffiti on previously painted surfaces must comply with Table 3 – Painting. • For unpainted surfaces, a test patch must first be undertaken to confirm that the method does not damage the substrate.

Column 1: Development	Column 2: Conditions
<p>Inspection, testing, sampling, treatment and remediation</p> <p>Inspecting, testing and remediation of buildings, structures, soil, pests, contamination and hazards.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This does not apply to ground testing or sampling within areas of identified archaeological significance or within the drip-lines of significant trees • The extent of fabric removal must be limited to the minimum necessary to undertake the required works • Significant fabric may only be removed where it can be fully restored or reconstructed to match the original material, condition, and detailing. • Permanent removal of significant fabric is permitted only where the fabric is demonstrably beyond repair. • All other damaged fabric must be reinstated to a condition that matches the original material, finish, and detailing. • Boreholes must not exceed 150 mm in diameter in soil or ground surfaces and 25 mm in diameter in all other materials. • Paint removal and testing must comply with Table 3 – Painting.

Technical notes

Supporting DETSI technical notes include:

- [Technical note: Inspection, cleaning and maintenance](#)

Table 2 – Minor repairs

Minor repairs help keep local heritage places in good condition, encouraging continued use and preventing deterioration.

Examples works include:

- Replacement of damaged sections of timber posts, cladding or architraves
- Replacement of damaged or deteriorated timber, steel or concrete stumps
- Repairs to roof, gutters, downpipes, windows and doors
- Repairs to fencing

Note – If a proposed roof replacement does not meet the conditions in Column 2, an application for a Heritage Exemption Certificate must be lodged with Council.

Note – Replacing more than 20% of the existing roof area will require a Building Approval via a private certifier, as per the [Building Regulation 2021, Schedule 1, section 8\(2\)\(a\)](#).

Column 1: Development	Column 2: Conditions
<p>Minor repair, removal and replacement (Damaged or deteriorated building material only)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Removal and replacement must only be undertaken when the original fabric is deteriorated such that it cannot be conserved. • Removed building materials or elements must be replaced with the same material, and must match the existing appearance, composition, detailing, size, position, finish and, where possible, fixing method. • Replacement must not exceed 20% of an existing element or feature in any two year period. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – This limit does not apply to roof or rainwater good replacement. • Roof replacement must match the existing in material, profile, finish, dimensions, and fixing method. • Existing roof ventilators are retained or replaced on a 'like-for-like' basis
<p>Minor structural work or propping (To reinforce defective structural elements only).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replacement of defective structural elements is permitted only when the elements are beyond reasonable repair, and the replacement matches the original in material, size, profile, and finish. • Minor structural work or propping must be carried out in concealed or unobtrusive areas. • Propping works must be designed in a manner which is reversible and avoids impacting original or early fabric.

Column 1: Development	Column 2: Conditions
<p>Restumping and levelling</p> <p>Repair or replacement of severely deteriorated structurally unsound timber or concrete stumps, and re-levelling</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replacement stumps must match the existing, or must match the original material, size (dimensions) and position. • Additional structural elements fixed to the existing building are permitted in concealed locations. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Example: flitch plates, steel strapping or brackets • Re-levelling must not raise or lower a structure in relation to the existing floor levels.

Technical notes

Supporting DETSI technical notes include:

- [Technical note: Minor repairs - door and window hardware](#)
- [Technical note: Minor repairs - conserving roofs](#)
- [Technical note: Minor repairs - metalwork](#)
- [Technical note: Minor repairs - steel framed door and window](#)
- [Technical note: Minor repairs - stone and masonry \(library catalogue\)](#)
- [Technical note: Minor repairs - timber](#)

Table 3 – Painting

Maintaining the surface condition of existing painted finishes on a Local heritage place is essential, as paintwork serves both as an important decorative feature and as a protective barrier that prevents deterioration.

Examples works include:

- Surface preparation using non-abrasive methods.
- Repainting or refinishing exterior and interior timber, masonry or metal elements.
- Preparation of clear-finish timber elements for a traditional finish such as oil, wax or shellac.
- Applying tung oil to timber floorboards of a verandah.
Re-waxing or reapplying oil to a timber floor.

WARNING: Older paints may contain lead. Avoid inhaling paint dust and wear a respirator with an appropriate safety rating when removing paint. Visit the Queensland Government website for more information about '[Lead-based paint](#)' and '[Working with lead-based paint](#)'

Column 1: Development	Column 2: Conditions
<p>Preparation, painting and finishing (Generally)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This table only applies to surfaces with an existing applied finish. It does not apply to unpainted or unfinished surfaces. • It does not apply to textured, patterned, or other special paint finishes, or to wallpaper.
<p>Surface preparation Surface preparation prior to repainting an existing painted or clear finish.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The paint finish must be tested on a small, inconspicuous area to confirm substrate safety and compatibility • Surface preparation must not damage the substrate. • Pressure washing above 100 psi or abrasive removal methods must not be used unless required for cast-iron elements. • Powered oscillating or orbital sanders (max 120-grit) may be used, except on moulded or profiled surfaces. • Cast-iron elements may be removed for abrasive preparation (e.g. sandblasting) before repainting or powder coating but must be reinstated in their original location using the existing fixing method.

Column 1: Development	Column 2: Conditions
<p>Repainting painted surfaces</p> <p>Repainting surfaces that have an existing paint finish.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where the original paint colour is intact or is a significant feature, the new paint must match the hue, saturation and tone and must allow for fading. • New paint must be suitable for the substrate and must not damage any earlier paint layer. • Before applying new paint, an appropriate undercoat must be used over existing paintwork to isolate and protect significant earlier layers and to create a stable surface for repainting.
<p>Clear finishes</p> <p>Buffing and reapplication of existing clear finishes such as oil, wax or shellac.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The method of application must not result in damage to the substrate or finish and must maintain the existing appearance. • Polyurethane coatings are not permitted. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Polyurethane forms a hard, permanent film-forming coating. It cannot be easily removed, ages poorly, requires sanding or chemical stripping, can damage the original substrate and prevents future conservation treatments.</i>

Technical notes

Supporting DETSI technical notes include:

- [Technical note: Painting – Maintenance](#)
- [Technical note: Painting – Surface preparation](#)
- [Technical note: Minor repairs – Glossary](#)

Table 4 – Fixings and penetrations

Fixings and penetrations may be required to install new services or undertake related works, but their placement must be carefully planned to avoid causing permanent damage to heritage fabric.

Example works include:

- Fixings and penetrations to install services and equipment
- Affixing signage and displays
- Affixing to brickwork and stonework

Column 1: Development	Column 2: Conditions
<p>Fixing and penetrations (Generally)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Existing fixing points and penetrations must be used where possible. • New fixings and penetrations must be limited to the minimum size and number required and positioned as unobtrusively as possible. • Openings up to a maximum diameter of 25mm can be made in significant fabric to facilitate insertion of wiring. • Service (e.g. plumbing) penetrations must not exceed a diameter of 150 mm unless concealed. • Fixings must be reversible, minimal in size, and under 16 mm in diameter. • Fixings and penetrations are only permitted in materials that can be easily repaired and must not impact significant elements. • Chemically bonded or expansive fixings must not be used. • Fixings to face brickwork and face stonework must be in mortar or grout joints so as not to damage the surface of stone, bricks or tiles. • Fixings must not cause or contribute to corrosion of significant features.

Table 5 – Building services and equipment

Maintaining, repairing, upgrading, or installing building services and equipment is essential to ensure buildings remain habitable, functional and safe.

Examples works include:

- Installation or replacement of water tanks, solar panels, and satellite dishes where not visible from the street or significant viewpoints.
- Installation of telecommunication systems.
- Upgrading climate control systems, such as air conditioning and insulation.
- Electrical and plumbing upgrades that do not alter significant fabric.

Column 1: Development	Column 2: Conditions
Maintenance and Repair	
<p>Maintenance and repair Maintenance and repair of existing buildings services and equipment, including electricity, telecommunication, climate control systems, fire detection and control, plumbing, drainage and gas.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wiring and data cables must be concealed in existing service routes, cavities, voids, sub-floor or ceiling spaces. • Work must be designed in a manner that is reversible and avoids impacting original or early fabric. • Trenching for the repair of underground services must not disturb built or landscape features. • Where archaeological values are identified, trenching should be limited to existing service trenches, and the ground surface reinstated after completion.
New Works	
<p>Upgrade and installation of services and equipment (Generally)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Install new fittings and equipment in unobtrusive locations. • Installation is only permitted where existing fittings and fixtures are not significant. • Installation must be designed in a manner that is reversible and avoids impacting original or early fabric. • Installation of new equipment must not result in corrosion damage or incidental deterioration • Trenching (see above). • All fixings and penetrations must comply with Table 4 – Fixings and penetrations.

Column 1: Development	Column 2: Conditions
<p>Electricity and telecommunications</p> <p>Upgrade and installation of electricity and telecom systems, such as switches and points, circuit breakers, power boards and cabling.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Original power points, gas lighting fittings and light switch fittings must be retained in their original locations and must not be removed or relocated. • Earth leakage protection is encouraged, must minimise damage to significant fabric and be reversible.
<p>Electrical fittings</p> <p>Upgrade and installation of electrical fittings to existing wall or ceiling mounts, such as fans and lighting.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New fittings must be positioned in the same places as previously mounted items, where possible. • Chasing for installing wiring in walls or other building surfaces is not permitted. • New wiring must be concealed in existing service routes, cavities, voids, sub-floor or ceiling spaces only. • New additions must be sympathetic to the heritage values of the place in scale, colour and finish.
<p>Climate control</p> <p>Upgrade and installation of climate control systems such as air conditioning, heating and ventilation systems.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Split systems must not be located on prominent elevations and should not be visible from the street (including any public laneways). • Ducted systems must use existing cavities and service routes where possible, and new penetrations MUST be minimised, discreet and reversible. • Existing vents and grills should be reused where possible. • New vents and grills must be located discreetly, and their style, scale, colour and finish must be sympathetic to the heritage values of the place. • Metal roof vents in metal roofs must be installed in a way that allows for easy removal without damage to significant fabric. • Installation of window box/wall air conditioners is not permitted.
<p>Plumbing and tanks</p> <p>Upgrade and installation of plumbing, drainage and rainwater tanks (including pads).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New plumbing must be concealed in existing cavities, and subfloor and ceiling spaces only. • Replacement water tanks must match existing tanks in appearance, material, size and position. • New rainwater tanks and associated pads must not be visible from the street or impact on significant views.

Column 1: Development	Column 2: Conditions
<p>Roof-mounted equipment Upgrade and installation of solar panels, solar hot water panels, antennae and satellite dishes.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equipment must not be located on major elevations and should not be visible from the street. • Installation and fixing methods must minimise damage to significant fabric and be reversible.
<p>Insulation Installation of insulation in wall cavities, ceiling spaces and other locations.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Insulation does not involve drilling into, cutting or removing significant fabric.
<p>Incidental damage – minor repairs Minor repairs resulting from removal of non- significant service items.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minor repairs must utilise materials that match existing appearance, composition, detailing, size, position, and finish of existing.

Technical notes

Supporting DETSI technical notes include:

- [Technical note: Building services – maintenance and repairs](#)
- [Technical note: Building services – upgrades and installation](#)
- [Technical note: Building services – planning \(library catalogue\)](#)
- [Technical note: Building services – heating and cooling](#)
- [Technical note: Building services – lighting](#)

Table 6 – Screening, safety and security

New and temporary security devices, screening and security barriers, enhance safety and protect fragile heritage features. These measures help meet contemporary security standards, ensuring heritage places remain secure and accessible.

Examples works include:

- Installing fencing, scaffolding, or hoarding.
- Fitting security mesh or bars.
- Installing insect screens (fly screens).
- Applying safety or privacy films to glass.
- Installing new locks.

Column 1: Development	Column 2: Conditions
<p>Temporary barriers Installation of temporary barriers (e.g. fencing, scaffolding or hoardings).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Temporary barriers must remain stable throughout construction and after completion to prevent accidental damage. • Temporary barriers must be installed for a maximum of 3 months in any 6 month period. • Temporary barriers must not be attached to or alter existing building fabric. • Installations must minimise impact on significant fabric and be fully reversible. • All fixings and penetrations must comply with Table 4 – Fixings and penetrations.
<p>New locks Installation of new surface mounted locks and rim locks.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Original hardware (e.g. locks and handles) must not be removed or relocated, regardless of condition. • Any new visible components must be the smallest practical size and positioned discreetly to minimise visual impact.
<p>Securing openings Installation of metal bars, mesh, or other screening to enhance security and prevent pest entry.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Installations must not involve removing significant original features or fixtures and should be fully reversible. • Security measures should be discreet and designed to minimise visual impact. • Diamond grille screens are not permitted. • All fixings and penetrations must comply with Table 4 – Fixings and penetrations.

Column 1: Development	Column 2: Conditions
<p>Alarms, surveillance and extinguishes</p> <p>Installation of alarms, portable fire extinguishers, detection devices, video surveillance and emergency lighting signage equipment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wiring must be concealed in existing service routes, cavities, voids, sub-floor or ceiling spaces only. • Where new components are visible, they must be the smallest practical size and positioned discreetly to minimise visual impact. • Installations must minimise impact on significant fabric and be fully reversible. • The following <u>are not permitted under this GEC:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – installation of new interior sprinkler systems – chasing for installing wiring in walls or other building surfaces. • All fixings and penetrations must comply with Table 4 – Fixings and penetrations.
<p>Application of film to glass</p> <p>Application of clear or translucent film to glass for safety or privacy purposes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applied film must be easily removable without causing damage to the glass. • Film must not be applied to glass with decorative finishes. • Tinted films are not permitted. • Application of frosted film with at least 50% light transmission is permitted.

Technical notes

Supporting DETSI technical notes include:

- [Technical note: Safety and security – Minor and temporary works](#)

Table 7 – Interior alterations

Minor internal changes enable local heritage places to stay in active use and good condition, facilitating adaptive reuse and contributing to their continued preservation.

Examples works include:

- Replacing or altering non-significant residential and commercial fitouts.
- Installing new floor coverings including substrates.
- Installing lightweight partitions.

Column 1: Development	Column 2: Conditions
<p>Interior alterations (Generally)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Works must not: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – alter, cover, or modify any part of the building’s exterior, including windows, doors, or other openings. – affect, remove, or weaken any load-bearing elements. – damage, remove, or permanently alter original or significant building fabric, features, materials, or fixtures. – adversely affect the cultural heritage significance of the place. • Applied finishes or materials glued, adhered, or painted onto original or significant fabric must be completely reversible without damage to the original fabric. • Painting and applied finishes to original or significant fabric must comply with Table 3 – Painting. • Fixings and penetrations into original or significant fabric must comply with Table 4 – Fixing and penetrations. • Installation and replacement of services and equipment must comply with Table 5 – Building services and equipment.
<p>Floor coverings Installation of new floor coverings or finishes onto existing flooring.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An easily removable substrate must be used to separate any new floor finish from the original flooring. • Where new floor linings are fixed to original or significant flooring, only the minimum number of fixings required must be used. • The use of adhesives or levelling compounds directly on original floor surfaces is not permitted.

Column 1: Development	Column 2: Conditions
<p>Lightweight partitions Installation of lightweight partitions or walls to building interiors.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Partitions must:<ul style="list-style-type: none">- be lightweight and easily removable- use the minimum fixings necessary.- not affect the original layout of the interior space.- not disrupt door or window openings.

Table 8 – Gardens, Vegetation and Landscaping

Regular maintenance of culturally significant parks, gardens and other landscape elements supports the conservation of garden design, promotes vegetation health and helps identify emerging issues.

Note: Changes to lawns, garden beds, edging or paths are not permitted where these elements are part of the place’s cultural heritage significance.

Example works include:

- Maintenance of gardens and lawns.
- General maintenance of gardens and lawns.
- Pruning of significant trees and branches overhanging fences and footpaths.
- Installing small-scale garden structures and fencing.
- Removal of pest plant species.

Column 1: Development	Column 2: Conditions
<p>Maintenance General maintenance of gardens and lawns</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use plant species and planting designs that retain significant landscape and garden elements or features. • Avoid using chemical fertilizer and chemical weed killers near masonry structures.
<p>Pruning Pruning of significant trees for health and safety.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pruning must not adversely affect the health of the tree and must be carried out in accordance with Australian Standard Pruning and Amenity of Trees AS4373. • No more than 20% of a tree canopy may be removed in any 2-year period.
<p>Tree removal Removal of trees that are dead, dangerous or beyond curative repair.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Removal is only permitted for trees that have been assessed by a qualified arborist or horticulturalist as dead, dangerous or beyond curative repair. • Prior to removing, submit for Council approval a written report prepared by an Australian Qualification Framework level 5 qualified arboriculturist to demonstrate: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – the vegetation is in poor health and a safety hazard. – is not reasonably capable of being restored to good health.

Column 1: Development	Column 2: Conditions
<p>Removing pest species Removal of species which are a restricted matter under the <i>Biosecurity Act 2014</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Removal of a pest tree species listed as restricted under the <i>Biosecurity Act 2014</i> is permitted unless the species holds significance. If removed, the tree must be replaced: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – with a species of similar height, shape and appearance. – within 2 months of the pest tree species removal.
<p>Sprinkler systems Installation of garden sprinkler systems.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Place sprinklers to ensure water discharge remains at least 2 metres from buildings and in-ground structures. • Trenching associated with irrigation installation is permitted if the ground surface is remediated to its prior state.
<p>Installation of garden elements or structure Installation, relocation or removal of fixed garden elements and small outdoor structures</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Removal, replacement or relocation of fixed garden elements that have cultural heritage significance is not permitted. • The installation of new, fixed, small-scale garden elements under 10 m² is permitted, provided they do not adversely affect the garden setting or the place’s cultural heritage significance. • Works must not cause damage to any elements that contribute to the cultural heritage significance of the place.
<p>Fencing New fencing to unfenced areas, and replacement of side and rear fences.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Removal of fences with cultural heritage significance is not permitted. • New fences on a street boundary are not permitted. • New fence designs must not detract from the aesthetic qualities, garden setting, or significance of the place. • New fences must not obscure significant features or views. • Installing, replacing, or repairing fencing must not damage vegetation of cultural heritage significance.

Technical notes

Supporting DETSI technical notes include:

- [Technical note: Parks, gardens and landscapes – Maintenance](#)

Table 9 – Cemeteries and memorials

Cemeteries and memorials play a vital role in reflecting a community’s history and identity. The installation and maintenance of new graves and associated memorials supports their ongoing use and ensures they remain active and meaningful.

Example works include:

- New internments.
- Constructing columbaria.
- Adding a name to a grave marker at a cemetery, a memorial or an honour board.

Column 1: Development	Column 2: Conditions
<p>Cemetery or memorial additions</p> <p>Works related to a new plot or columbarium, including installing memorials, grave markers, and plaques</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect all existing features and fabric from damage, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Headstones, footstones, grave markers and memorials – Kerbing. – Grave furniture, enclosures and fencing. – Vegetation. • New designs must match the character of the cemetery or columbarium, in colour, materials, size, and form.
<p>Repairs and replacement memorials, grave markers and plaques</p> <p>Repair of damaged element, and replacement of those that are beyond repair or have been destroyed.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Record the existing condition of the grave, memorial or plaque in situ. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – <i>A photograph of the existing grave, memorial or plaque prior to works will satisfy this condition.</i> • Repairs to stonework must be carried out by an experienced stonemason or monumental mason. • New lettering must match the typeface, weight and material of the existing lettering.
<p>Inscriptions and lettering</p> <p>Adding names, restoring inscriptions, or replacing lost lettering.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Addition of names must follow the traditional practices associated with the place. • New lettering must match the existing craftsmanship in style, material, size, layout, spacing, and colour.

Table 10 – Other minor works and structures

Minor, small-scale structures are common additions to local heritage places. When appropriately designed and located, they can support the ongoing use of the place and help accommodate contemporary living needs without diminishing its heritage values.

Example works include:

- Small sheds, including garden sheds.
- Lightweight, open carports.
- Small greenhouse or potting shelters.
- Bin enclosures.

Column 1	Column 2
Development	Conditions
<p>Fixed, small-scale structures</p> <p>Construction of small-scale fixed structures such as sheds and open carports.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Installation of new, fixed, small-scale structures and elements is permitted, provided that the structure or element: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – has a footprint of less than 24 m² – is less than 4.5 m in height. – does not impact on significant heritage fabric, including buildings, landscape features, and mature vegetation • Structures must be located to the rear or side of the heritage place and must avoid impacting on significant views. • The scale and form of the structure must not visually dominate or compete with the heritage place. • Designs must use materials and colours that are low-reflective and visually recessive to the heritage place. • Materials must not replicate the primary materials or detailed design features of the heritage place, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – <i>This ensures that the new structure is readily identifiable as non-original in the future.</i> • Structures must not negatively impact on the garden setting or cultural heritage significance of the place.

Table 11 – Temporary Works

Temporary works may be necessary to enable development activities, maintenance, or temporary events at a Local heritage place

Example works include:

- Temporary scaffolding to facilitate works.
- Temporary handrails, barriers or bollards for public safety during works.
- Temporary ramps or walkways to maintain access while work is underway.
- Installing of temporary vibration-monitoring equipment.
- Installing temporary marquees and track matting for events.
- Installing temporary site offices, on-site power poles, toilet facilities

Column 1: Development	Column 2: Conditions
<p>Temporary works and structures</p> <p>Temporary works and the installation of lightweight, temporary structures.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Temporary works must be fully reversible. • All areas affected must be remediated to their pre-works condition. • Temporary works and structures must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – be located to minimise visual impact and maintain views to and from the place. – not disturb ground beneath the canopy of mature vegetation. – avoid all areas of archaeological significance within the Local heritage place. – be removed within 14 days of practical completion of the contract or works. – not remain in place for more than six months within any 12-month period. • No evidence of any temporary works or structures is to remain once they have been removed.

10. Further Advice

This section provides further guidance for undertaking certain types of development on a local heritage place. These works fall outside the scope of this GEC.

Signage and advertising devices

Council regulates signage and advertising devices on Local heritage places in the commercial centre via the:

- Heritage Overlay.
- SC4.3 Heritage Town Plan Policy (SC4.3.3).

These provisions work with Council's Local Laws to protect the character of the City by managing the visual impact of advertising devices. Appropriate signage will depend on the specific context of each Local heritage place.

For advice on suitable signage or assessment requirements, contact Council's Planning and Development Team on (07) 4761 5300 or development@charterstowers.qld.gov.au.

11. Acknowledgements

This GEC has been prepared with reference to the following documents:

- General Exemption Certificate – Queensland Heritage Places (Version 1.2020) produced by the Department of Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation (State of Queensland) and licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 3.0 Australia (CC BY) licence.
- Brisbane City Council General Exemption Certificate – Local Heritage Places (Version 1.2023) prepared by Heritage Policy, Brisbane City Council, 2023.
- General Exemption Certificate – Local Heritage Place (Version 1.0 – 26 April 2022) prepared by Mackay Regional Council.
- General Exemption Certificate - Local Heritage Places (Version 1.0 – 28 February 2025) prepared by Bundaberg Regional Council.
- Redland City Plan - General Exemption Certificate - Local Heritage Places (Version 1)

12. Review and Updates

This GEC may be reviewed and updated periodically. Please refer to the Council's website for the latest version.