

# Heritage Strategy

## Stage 2 Consultation – Summary Report

Through June to July 2016, the City of Casey conducted community consultation to gather feedback from owners of heritage properties.

This report is a summary of what heritage owners felt was important and what they wanted from Council and its new Heritage Strategy.

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### How were people engaged?

Owners of Casey's heritage were engaged in the following ways:

- » Online, with a specific *Heritage Strategy* consultation website created via Casey Conversations. This included frequently asked questions, downloadable photos and documents, and a survey.
- » By letter sent to all heritage owners, including a copy of the survey.

### How many people were engaged?

There were numerous methods of engagement, and key numbers are as follows:

- » Letters were sent to over 190 land owners in Casey.
- » The Casey Conversations website attracted 91 total website visits from June to July 2016.
- » A total of 28 surveys were completed, accounting for almost 15% of Casey's heritage owners.

### What did we learn?

The key learnings of the Stage 2 consultation are as follows:

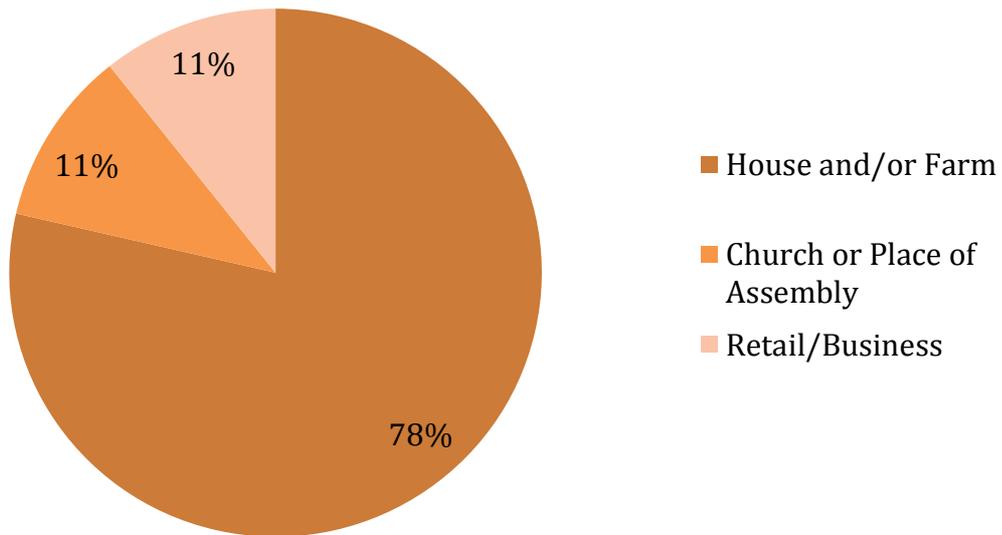
- » Approximately 18% of heritage places in Casey have adapted to a new use from their original purpose (i.e. a general store being converted into a residence).
- » Most heritage land owners generally consider it to be important to protect Casey's heritage, but a third of owners consider their property to not be of any specific importance to the municipality.
- » The costs of upkeep, maintenance and restoration of heritage buildings is considerable and on average land owners report annual expenses of approximately \$16,640.
- » Heritage land owners are almost all aware of Council's heritage grants program, but less than half have actually applied for grants in the past.
- » There is limited awareness of Casey's heritage advisory service and what advice Council can provide to land owners.

» There is a general feeling of not being well informed about what a land owner can and cannot do with their heritage properties for almost half of land owners.

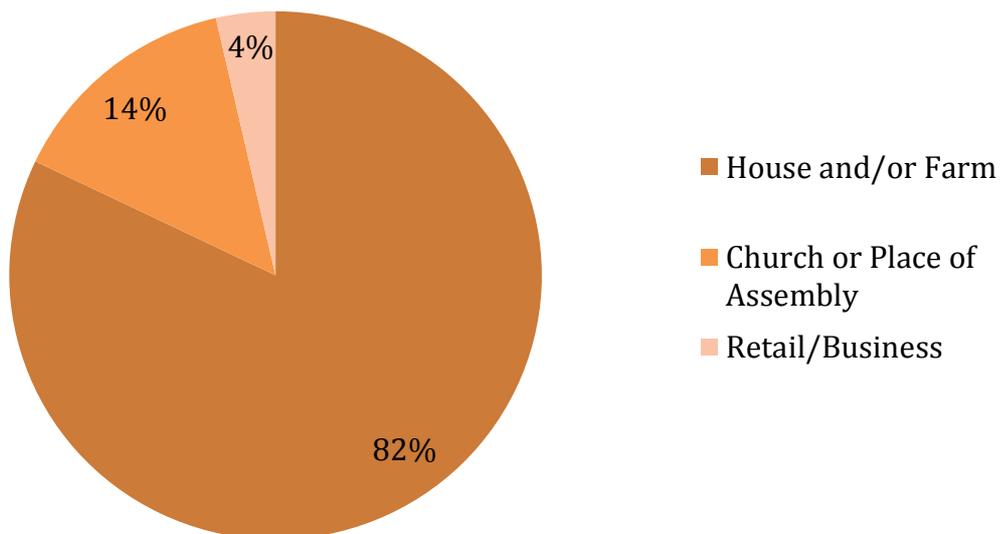
### What did people have to say?

The full consultation results are as follows.

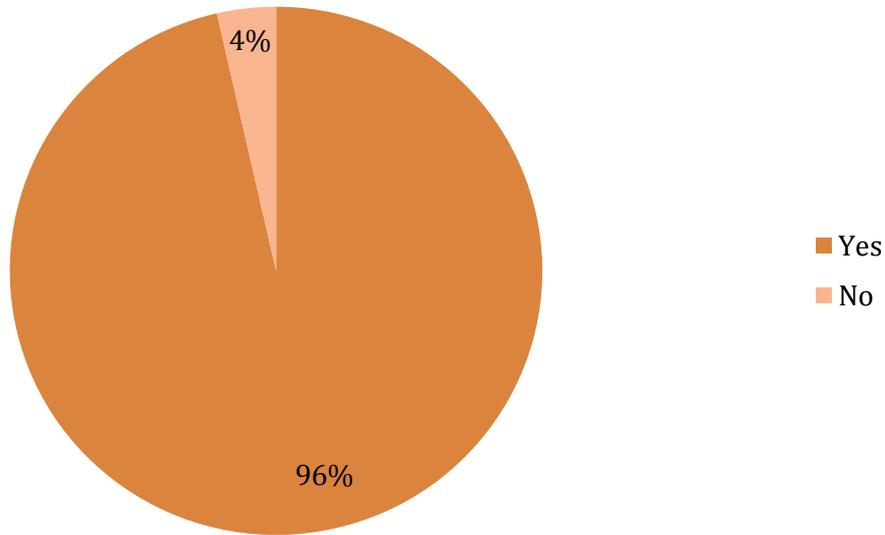
#### 1) Thinking about your heritage property, what was its original purpose?



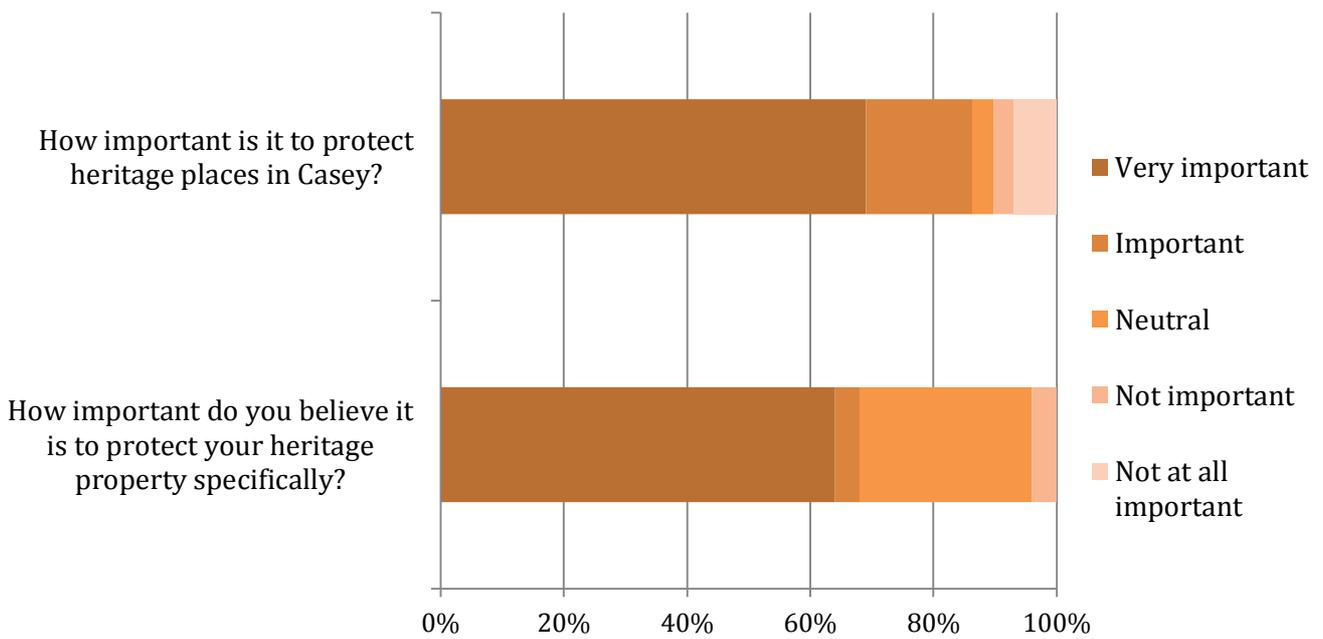
#### 2) Thinking about your heritage property, what is its current purpose?



3) Do you believe that heritage places are an important part of your community?



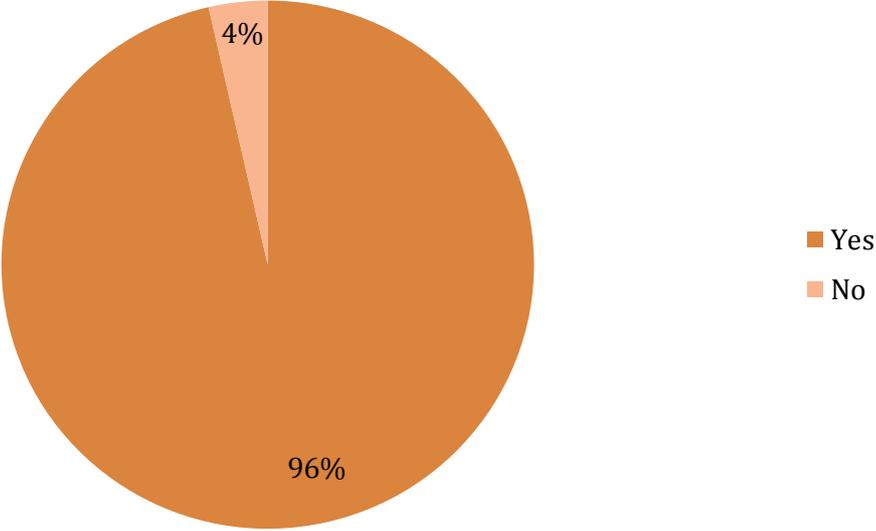
4) Please rate the importance of the following statements:



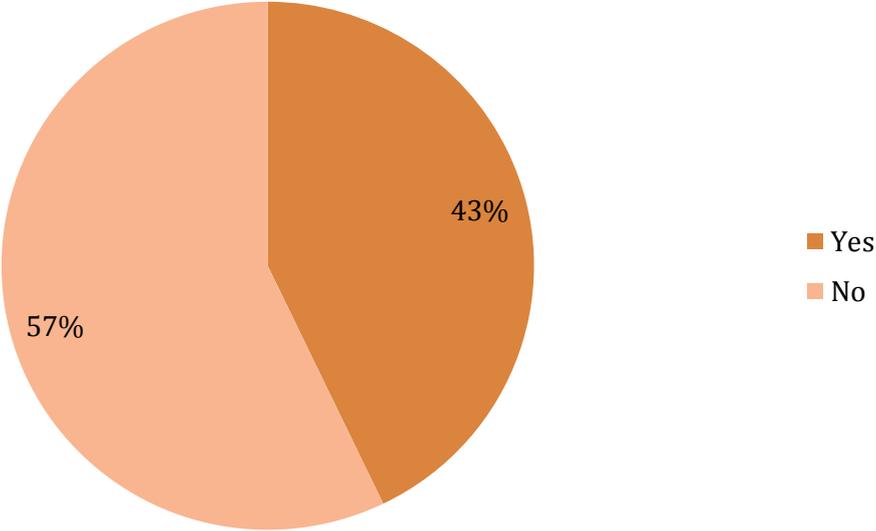
5) Roughly how much money have you spent on upkeep, restoration or maintenance of your heritage property in the past twelve months?



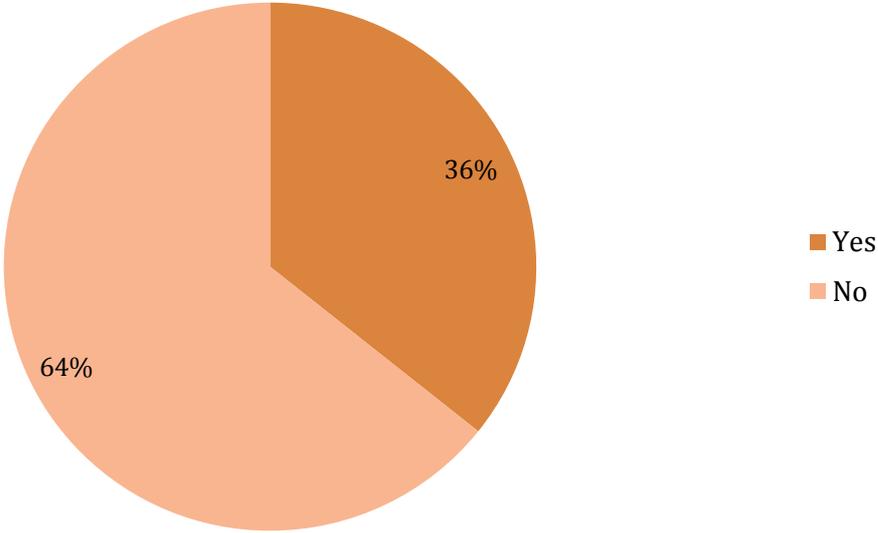
6) Are you aware that Council offers annual grants to assist owners of heritage properties across the City?



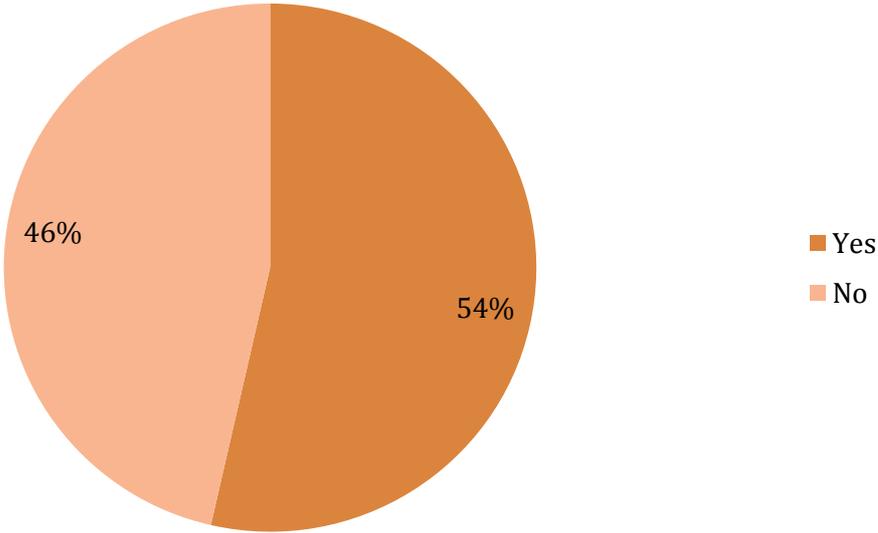
7) Have you applied for a heritage grant in the past?



8) Are you aware that Council can provide free preliminary heritage advice to owners of heritage properties?



9) Do you believe you are well informed about what you can and cannot do to your heritage property?



## 10) Further comments:

A summary of detailed comments provided by land owners is provided below. Comments have been categorised into 'financial', 'advice' and 'other'.

### Financial

- » Council should reduce rates for heritage properties to assist with maintenance costs.
- » Council should devise a 'rating system' to assess the level of upkeep required for each heritage building and provide financial assistance (be it through grants or rate reductions) accordingly.
- » Heritage grants:
  - » Council should increase the overall sum of money available.
  - » Council should increase individual maximum grant values.
  - » Council should make the grants application process less time consuming.
- » Vegetation:
  - » Council should provide financial assistance specifically for pruning heritage listed trees.
  - » Council should provide assistance to owners with significant native vegetation during times of drought, such as tankers of recycled water.

### Advice

- » Council should provide a list of suitable tradespeople for working with heritage buildings and of suppliers of replica parts and supplies.
- » Council should provide specific advice to land owners on the maintenance of their properties, such as the maintenance of rundown weatherboards.
- » Council should provide mentor personnel for each heritage property as a point of contact for advice.
- » Council should provide clearer advice on maintenance of trees so that permits and arborists are not required for every cut or prune.
- » Council should encourage and provide more assistance to people to help make heritage properties meet current living standards.
- » Council should be clearer on what can and cannot be done to a heritage property.
- » Council should raise awareness of heritage requirements to the general public (especially neighbours of heritage places) to prevent heritage land owners being harassed to prune heritage trees unnecessarily.

### Other

- » Council should have a single contact person for heritage who can provide positive advice and help to land owners.
- » Council should simplify the permit process for heritage properties.
- » Council should place more restrictions on development of properties adjacent to heritage places which threaten the livability of the heritage place.
- » Council should purchase heritage properties when the land owners feel threatened.
- » Council should leverage its own service departments, such as arborists and gardeners, to assist heritage owners with their own upkeep requirements.
- » Council should conduct annual forums with heritage land owners to discuss issues, share advice, and ensure Council staff is familiar with the challenges faced by owners.

- » Council should refrain from placing heritage controls on buildings that cannot be preserved.
- » Council should review and revise the heritage controls to ensure only the significant elements of a property are protected.

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### Contact City of Casey

03 9705 5200

**NRS:** 133 677 (for the deaf, hearing or speech impaired)

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