

What we're asking for this election

National Trust
Victoria



Botanica Festival at Rippon Lea Estate, photo by Edward Lin.

National Trust Victoria is calling on all political parties and candidates to commit to two practical actions that will unlock the full economic, environmental and community value of Victoria's heritage.

Heritage is part of Victoria's future

Heritage is not simply about preserving the past. It can contribute to more sustainable housing, stronger local economies, thriving communities and places people want to live in.

The decisions made after this election will shape Victoria for decades.

Heritage should be part of that future.



1. Establish a dedicated Heritage Department within state government

Our ask: Establish a dedicated Heritage Department to provide strategic leadership and coordination for local and state heritage policy, planning and investment across Victoria.

Victoria currently lacks a coordinated policy voice and investment strategy for its broader heritage sector. A dedicated Heritage Department would ensure heritage expertise is embedded in the decisions shaping Victoria's future.

A state government Heritage Department would:

- integrate state and local heritage expertise into planning policy decisions
- support innovative adaptive reuse and retrofit of existing buildings
- reinstate heritage grants that support custodians and encourage investment in heritage places
- strengthen protections for green space and canopy trees on public and private land

2. Invest in Victoria's heritage custodians

Our ask: Establish ongoing investment in the conservation, activation and operation of publicly accessible heritage places, recognising them as essential community infrastructure.

Across Victoria, community organisations, volunteers, local governments and not-for-profit custodians care for the places that tell our state's story. They conserve buildings and landscapes, deliver education and public programs, support tourism and create places where communities can connect.

Like libraries, parks and sporting facilities, publicly accessible heritage places require ongoing investment to remain open, maintained and accessible.

We are asking the next Victorian Government to:

- invest in the conservation and activation of publicly accessible heritage places
- support their ongoing operation, maintenance and accessibility
- strengthen the capacity of not-for-profit and community heritage custodians
- support the volunteers and communities who care for Victoria's heritage

Take action

Help put heritage on the election agenda.

- **Contact your local candidates** – Ask them to support National Trust Victoria's two election priorities.
- **Tell them heritage matters to your vote** – Candidates need to hear directly from the people they hope to represent.
- **Share the campaign** – Encourage your friends, family and community to speak up for Victoria's heritage too.

It only takes a few minutes to make your voice heard.

Need more information or support?

visit nationaltrust.org.au/vic-election-2026-heritage

