

CM13.7. Draft Uiver Collection Policy

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Purpose of Report

To present Council with the Draft Uiver Collection Policy for endorsement.

Background

The AlburyCity Museum and Social History collection incorporates approximately 30,000 objects that document and preserve the history and heritage of Albury and surrounding region. The collection is managed by Albury's Museum and Social History Team, with collection objects housed at the Albury LibraryMuseum and an offsite storage facility. Collection objects are utilised in semi-permanent and temporary on-site and on-line exhibitions to tell the story of Albury and region as part of the wider story of Australian history. Collection objects are also used for research purposes.

The Uiver collection is a sub-collection of AlburyCity's Museum and Social History Collection. There are approximately 350 archival, audio-visual and object-based heritage items in the Uiver collection. As with the wider collection, the Uiver collection is managed and stored to national best practice standards by a team of museum professionals at the Albury LibraryMuseum.

The Uiver collection has been used for interpretation purposes for a range of exhibitions, including the ongoing Uiver display as part of the permanent Crossing Place – A Story of Albury exhibition at the Albury LibraryMuseum.

A significance assessment of the Uiver collection was undertaken in 2015 by an external heritage consultant. This assessment indicated that the Uiver collection met the threshold for NSW State Heritage list nomination, which was recognised when it was entered onto the NSW State Heritage Register in August 2017.

The Uiver story is a key chapter in the memories and history of Albury. The Dutch KLM Douglas DC-2 Uiver airliner competed in the London to Melbourne MacRobertson International Centenary Air Race of 1934. Bad weather forced the Uiver to make an emergency night landing on the Albury racecourse with considerable difficulty, only executed safely as a result of fast-thinking members of the Albury community. After spending a night stationary, the Uiver was pushed out of the makeshift runway by Albury residents, re-joining the race to Melbourne in daylight, placing second overall and winning the Handicap Prize as a passenger liner.

The Uiver's journey had a lasting effect, including continuing pride within the Albury community, with visits and gifts being exchanged between people in and between the Netherlands, Netherlands East Indies (now Indonesia) and in Australia, creating ongoing international ties, and even technological advances in the aviation industry.

Issues

AlburyCity Policies

AlburyCity's Cultural Assets Development and Management Policy and the AlburyCity Cultural Collection Development Plan 2015 – 2020 currently provide the overarching direction on the management and development of the Uiver collection.

With such a significant State Heritage listed collection, it is proposed that the boundaries of the AlburyCity Uiver collection be more clearly defined in the form of an Uiver Collection Policy. This policy will provide Museum & Social History team members, the AlburyCity Museum, Social History & Archives Acquisition & De-accession Committee, donors, and the broader community a clearer understanding of what is meant by the Uiver collection, what it comprises and what it excludes.

AlburyCity Museum and Social History and Archives Acquisition and De-accession Committee

The role of this Committee is to ensure that the Cultural Assets Development and Management Policy and the associated Permanent Collections Acquisition and De-accession Procedure are adhered to and in doing so ensure an objective and professional approach to the management of AlburyCity's Museum and Social History collections. The committee achieves this by evaluating potential acquisitions to and de-accessions from the Museum & Social History Collection against criteria in the Cultural Assets Development and Management Policy and making informed recommendations. Detailed briefing papers are provided by Museum and Social History team members to assist the Committee's decision-making process.

The Committee consists of eight members, who serve a two year term. Membership of the Committee includes representatives from academia, the community, Albury & District Historical Society and an independent museum professional. Council officers attend committee meetings as non-voting attendees.

The Committee considered the draft Uiver Collection Policy at their meeting on 5 May 2021 and formally endorsed their support for the policy.

NSW State Heritage Register

When the Uiver collection was added to the NSW State Heritage Register in 2017, its management was placed under the higher level of authority of the Heritage Act 1977 (NSW). Under the Act the collection is legally protected and requires approval from the Heritage Office for major changes.

On listing, an exemption was given for the collection to be managed in accordance with the Albury City Council's current heritage and planning management documents. Specifically, all activities and

works in accordance with the Albury City Cultural Assets Development and Management Plan and the Albury City Cultural Assets Development Management Policy to ensure the ongoing development and upkeep of the Uiver Collection.

This exemption allows for preventative conservation of Uiver collection objects, inclusion in exhibitions and for the acquisition of new objects into the collection.

An Uiver Collection Policy will facilitate decision making processes regarding acquisition of objects into this State Heritage listed collection.

Uiver Memorial Community Trust

The Uiver Memorial Community Trust (UMCT) is a not-for-profit organisation with a mission to restore the DC-2 representative Uiver aircraft and establish a museum to display it and tell the Uiver story. While AlburyCity holds the Uiver Collection within the larger Museum and social History Collection, the UMCT focus is specifically on the Uiver story.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between AlburyCity and UMCT is in place which encourages collaboration and resource sharing for promotion and interpretation of the Uiver story.

UMCT are currently developing their own Collecting Policy, and it is therefore timely for the development of the AlburyCity Uiver Collection Policy to clarify the divergences and any potential overlaps between the AlburyCity Uiver collection and the UMCT collection.

Risk

- **Business Risk** – An Uiver Collection Policy will assist the business of Council by enhancing facilitation of decision-making processes for AlburyCity Museum, Social History & Archives Acquisition & De-accession Committee regarding acquisition of objects into this State Heritage listed collection.
- **Corporate Risk** – The Uiver collection has strong community connections, and a dedicated collection policy will assist in providing transparency, confidence and certainty to all stakeholders as to Council's intentions with respect to the Uiver collection.
- **WHS and Public Risk** – No risks identified.
- **Environmental Risk** – No risks identified.
- **Delivery Program Risk** – An Uiver Collection Policy will reinforce Museum best practice in the management of the Uiver collection and the processes related to the offering of new material to the collection.

Community Engagement

A stakeholder engagement plan guided consultation with key stakeholders in the development of the Uiver Collection Policy. A first draft Policy was distributed to the following groups and individuals requesting input and feedback, which as appropriate, has been integrated into the attached Draft Uiver Collection Policy:

- Uiver Memorial Community Trust – endorsed the draft as the basis for the AlburyCity Uiver Collection Policy. Members have provided feedback as private individuals.
- Albury & District Historical Society Committee – Indicated support for the policy.
- AlburyCity Museum and Social History and Archives Acquisition and De-accession Committee – formally endorsed support for the policy.
- Uiver historian Noel Jackling – A thorough submission has been received, with some suggested amendments integrated into the draft policy.
- Heritage NSW – In receipt of the draft policy, any feedback will be incorporated into the policy.

As this policy will impact on the public it is proposed to seek further community comment on the draft Uiver Collection Policy, through a 28 day public exhibition period, following endorsement of the draft Policy.

If submissions are received, a report will be presented back to Council at the completion of the public exhibition period outlining all submissions received and seeking AlburyCity Uiver Collection Policy adoption.

If no submissions are received, the draft Uiver Collection Policy will be adopted and placed on the Public Policy and Procedure Register.

Options

1. That Council endorses the draft Uiver Collection Policy and places the draft Uiver Collection Policy on public exhibition for 28 days. If no submissions are received the draft Uiver Collection Policy will be adopted and placed on the Public Policy and Procedure Register; or
2. That Council offers amendments to the draft Uiver Collection Policy prior to endorsement; or
3. That Council does not endorse the draft Uiver Collection Policy.

Conclusion

The AlburyCity Museum and Social History collection documents and preserves the history and heritage of Albury and surrounding region. The collection is managed by Albury's Museum and Social team, with collection objects housed at the Albury LibraryMuseum and an offsite storage facility.

The significant NSW State Heritage listed Uiver collection is a sub-collection of AlburyCity's Museum and Social History Collection. A dedicated Uiver Collection Policy will more clearly define the boundaries of the collection and provide Museum & Social History team members, the AlburyCity Museum, Social History & Archives Acquisition & De-accession Committee, donors, and the broader community a clearer understanding of what is meant by the Uiver collection, what it comprises and what it excludes.

An Uiver Collection policy will therefore facilitate decision making processes regarding acquisition of objects into this State Heritage listed collection.

Recommendation

That Council:

- a. Endorses the draft Uiver Collection Policy;
- b. Places the draft Uiver Collection Policy on public exhibition for 28 days; and
- c. If no submissions are received, that the draft Uiver Collection Policy be adopted and placed on the Public Policy and Procedure Register.

Attachments

- 1. Uiver Collection Policy (DOC21/118430).