

AUSTRALIA'S *Commonwealth Heritage*



OTHER RESOURCES

- Significance (objects and collections)
- Adaptive re-use
- Steps to sustainable tourism
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INTRODUCTION

THROUGHOUT AUSTRALIA THERE ARE MANY GOVERNMENT AND NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANISATIONS WITH AN INTEREST IN HERITAGE CONSERVATION.

These organisations often provide information and advice on a range of matters such as significance, adaptive re-use, sustainable tourism and international charters. This section contains a list of useful references and web links that may be of assistance.

SIGNIFICANCE



Significance - A Guide to Assessing the Significance of Cultural Heritage Objects and Collections was published by the Heritage Collections Council in 2001. It has been designed to assist all those who care for collections to identify and preserve items of movable cultural heritage. The guide can be used to assess the significance of objects in a collection - providing a sound basis on which to make collection management decisions relating to conservation, preservation and access.

Available to download from:

↘ sector.amol.org.au/publications_archive/collections_management/significance

ADAPTIVE REUSE



Adaptive Reuse: Preserving our past, building our future was published by the Australian Government in 2004, the Year of the Built Environment, and contains examples from across Australia. Adaptive re-use of heritage places may provide an opportunity to conserve these places. In the pursuit of sustainable development, communities have much to gain from adaptively re-using historic buildings. Bypassing the wasteful process of demolition and reconstruction alone sells the environmental benefits of adaptive re-use. Environmental benefits, combined with energy savings and the social advantage of recycling a valued heritage place make adaptive re-use of historic buildings an essential component of sustainable development.

Available to download from:

↘ www.environment.gov.au/heritage/publications/adaptive/index.html

OTHER RESOURCES

STEPS TO SUSTAINABLE TOURISM



Steps to Sustainable Tourism was published by the Department of Environment and Heritage in 2004 as a tool for use when managing and developing regions, places and tourism products. The document is designed for tourism operators, heritage and environment managers, community groups and others with an interest in places, regions and associated tourism products. The underlying principle of this guide is the need to recognise and protect the values of important natural and cultural places in order to enhance tourism product development and the management of places in the long term.

Achieving sustainable tourism requires motivation, determination and a systematic approach. *Steps to Sustainable Tourism* offers a tool or process to assist in this task which has been developed and tested in partnership with both tourism and heritage interests. The process, set out in 10 steps, integrates the needs of tourism, the environment and heritage when developing a tourist destination, a tourism product or managing a place.

The Department developed the steps approach based on established strategic planning principles, and specialist experience and advice from people working in environment, heritage and tourism planning. The approach advocated is designed to be flexible and can be adapted as it is applied to many and varied situations.

Available to download from:

↳ www.environment.gov.au/heritage/publications/sustainable-tourism/index.html

INTERNATIONAL CHARTERS

International Charter for the Conservation and Restoration of Monuments and Sites – The Venice Charter 1964

This charter was developed by the International Congress of Architects and Technicians of Historic Monuments and adopted by ICOMOS in 1965. The charter recognises the common need to protect historic monuments and places. Containing 16 articles, the charter made a significant contribution to best practice heritage management. It continues to be used as a framework when developing new charters.

Available to download from:

↳ www.iflaonline.org/resources/policy/pdf/charter/venice_charter.pdf

ICOMOS Ename Charter for the Interpretation of Cultural Heritage Sites

The aim of this Charter is to define the basic objectives and principles of site interpretation in relation to authenticity, intellectual integrity, social responsibility, and respect for cultural significance and its context. It recognises that the interpretation of cultural heritage sites can be contentious and should acknowledge conflicting perspectives.

Although the objectives and principles of this Charter may equally apply to off-site interpretation, its main focus is interpretation at, or in the immediate vicinity of, cultural heritage sites.

The Charter seeks to encourage a wide public appreciation of cultural heritage sites as places and sources of learning and reflection about the past, as well as valuable resources for sustainable community development and inter-cultural and inter-generational dialogue.

Available to download from:

↳ www.enamecharter.org/downloads.html

OTHER RESOURCES

Historic Gardens, The Florence Charter 1981

The ICOMOS-IFLA International Committee for Historic Gardens drafted the Florence Charter and it was adopted by ICOMOS on 15 December 1982 as an addendum to the Venice Charter.

Available to download from:

📄 www.international.icomos.org/charters/gardens_e.htm

Charter for the Conservation of Historic Towns and Urban Areas – The Washington Charter 1987

This charter was developed to complement the Venice Charter to define the principles, objectives, and methods necessary for the conservation of historic towns and urban areas. It contains the steps necessary for the protection, conservation and restoration of such towns and areas as well as their development and harmonious adaptation to contemporary life.

Available to download from:

📄 www.international.icomos.org/charters/towns_e.htm

Charter for the Protection and Management of the Archaeological Heritage 1990

This Charter was prepared in recognition of the fact that the protection of archaeological heritage cannot be based upon the application of archaeological techniques alone and requires a wider basis of professional and scientific knowledge and skills. The Charter recognises that some elements of archaeological heritage may be related to buildings and structures; and others will constitute part of the living traditions of Indigenous peoples, and for such sites and monuments the participation of local cultural groups is essential for their protection and preservation.

The protection of archaeological heritage must be based upon effective collaboration between professionals from many disciplines and it also requires the co-operation of government authorities, academic researchers, private or public enterprise, and the general public. This Charter therefore lays down principles relating to the different aspects of archaeological heritage management. Because of its wide-ranging nature, the charter should be supplemented at state and national levels by further principles and guidelines.

Available to download from:

📄 www.international.icomos.org/charters/arch_e.htm

Charter on the Protection and Management of Underwater Cultural Heritage 1996

This Charter is a supplement to the *Charter for the Protection and Management of the Archaeological Heritage* and is intended to encourage the protection and management of underwater cultural heritage in inland and inshore waters, in shallow seas and in the deep oceans. It includes submerged sites and structures, wreck-sites and wreckage and their archaeological and natural context.

Available to download from:

📄 www.international.icomos.org/charters/underwater_e.htm

OTHER RESOURCES

International Cultural Tourism Charter (Managing Tourism at Places of Heritage Significance, 1999)

This Charter recognises that a primary objective for managing heritage is to communicate its significance and need for its conservation to its host community and to visitors. Reasonable and well managed physical, intellectual and/or emotive access to heritage and cultural development is both a right and a privilege. It brings with it a duty of respect for the heritage values, interests and equity of the present-day host community, Indigenous custodians or owners of historic property and for the landscapes and cultures from which that heritage evolved.

Available to download from:

↘ www.international.icomos.org/charters/tourism_e.htm

Principles for the Preservation of Historic Timber Structures 1999

The aim of this document is to define basic and universally applicable principles and practices for the protection and preservation of historic timber structures with due respect to their cultural significance. Historic timber structures refer here to all types of buildings or constructions wholly or partially in timber that have cultural significance or that are parts of a historic area.

Available to download from:

↘ www.international.icomos.org/charters/wood_e.htm

Charter on the Built Vernacular Heritage 1999

This Charter recognises that vernacular buildings occupy a central place in the affection and pride of all peoples and have been accepted as a characteristic and attractive product of society. Vernacular building appears informal, but nevertheless orderly; it is utilitarian and at the same time possesses interest and beauty. It is a focus of contemporary life and at the same time a record of the history of society.

Vernacular building is the traditional and natural way by which communities house themselves. It is a continuing process including necessary changes and continuous adaptation as a response to social and environmental constraints.

Available to download from:

↘ www.international.icomos.org/charters/vernacular_e.htm

Principles for the Analysis, Conservation and Structural Restoration of Architectural Heritage 2003

Structures of architectural heritage, by their very nature and history (material and assembly), present a number of challenges in diagnosis and restoration that limit the application of modern legal codes and building standards. These recommendations are intended to be useful to all those involved in conservation and restoration projects, but cannot in any way replace specific knowledge acquired from cultural and scientific texts.

The recommendations presented in the complete document are in two sections: Principles, where the basic concepts of conservation are presented; and Guidelines, where the rules and methodology that a designer should follow are discussed. Only the Principles have the status of an approved/ratified ICOMOS document.

Available to download from:

↘ www.international.icomos.org/charters/structures_e.htm (Principles and Guidelines)

OTHER RESOURCES

LEGISLATION

A full copy of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) can be found at:

↘ www.frli.gov.au/ComLaw/Legislation/ActCompilation1.nsf/0/31F5646F4E2C1D20CA25728F0017A803?OpenDocument

A full copy of the EPBC Regulations can be found at:

↘ www.frli.gov.au/ComLaw/Legislation/LegislativeInstrumentCompilation1.nsf/0/6762C4F433643BDACA25728800075F3C?OpenDocument

A list of heritage laws can be found at:

↘ www.environment.gov.au/heritage/laws/index.html

DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT, WATER, HERITAGE AND THE ARTS GUIDELINES

The Department's guideline *Management Plans for Places on the Commonwealth Heritage List*.

A guide for Commonwealth agencies can be found at:

↘ www.environment.gov.au/heritage/publications/index.html

The Department's guideline *Heritage Strategies. A guide for Commonwealth agencies* can be found at:

↘ www.environment.gov.au/heritage/publications/index.html

The Department's guideline *Significant Impact Guidelines 1.1 – Matters of National Environmental Significance*.

↘ www.environment.gov.au/epbc/publications/pubs/nes-guidelines.pdf

The Department's guideline *Significant Impact Guidelines 1.2 – Actions on, or impacting upon, Commonwealth land and Actions by Commonwealth Agencies*.

↘ www.environment.gov.au/epbc/publications/pubs/commonwealth-guidelines.pdf

OTHER RESOURCES

GLOSSARY

KEY TERMS	DEFINITION
Commonwealth Heritage place	A place that is included in the Commonwealth Heritage List.
Commonwealth Heritage List	A heritage list of places which meet the Commonwealth Heritage criteria. This list is maintained by the Commonwealth Government and consists of heritage places which are located on Commonwealth land.
Commonwealth Heritage criteria	A set of nine criteria for the assessment of places for entry on the Commonwealth Heritage list. See EPBC Act s341D (1) and EPBC Regulations 10.03A.
Commonwealth Heritage values	The Commonwealth Heritage values of a Commonwealth Heritage place are the Commonwealth Heritage values of the place included in the Commonwealth Heritage List for the place. A place has Commonwealth Heritage value if and only if the place meets one of the Commonwealth Heritage criteria.
Conservation	Conservation means all the processes of looking after a place so as to retain its cultural significance (<i>Burra Charter</i>). Conservation means all the processes and actions of looking after a place so as to retain its natural significance and always includes protection, maintenance and monitoring (<i>Australian Natural Heritage Charter</i>).
Significance	Cultural significance means aesthetic, historic, scientific, social or spiritual value for past, present or future generations (<i>Burra Charter</i>). Natural significance means the importance of ecosystems, biodiversity and geodiversity for their existence value or for present or future generations, in terms of their scientific, social, aesthetic and life-support value.
Statement of significance	The Statement of significance is a concise description of the heritage values of the place. It is a summary statement written for a general audience and does not involve citation of sources used.
Commonwealth area	See EPBC Act s525
Commonwealth agency	See EPBC Act s528
Environment	See EPBC Act s528
Place	See EPBC Act s528

CONTACT US

THE HERITAGE DIVISION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT, WATER, HERITAGE AND THE ARTS ADMINISTERS, PROMOTES AND DISTRIBUTES THIS GUIDE. IT MONITORS AND COLLATES THE VIEWS OF USERS AND UPDATES THE GUIDE WHEN REQUIRED.

FOR COMMENTS AND ASSISTANCE CONTACT

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The information provided above has been prepared to assist Commonwealth agencies to understand their obligations under the EPBC Act. It should not be used as a substitute for a direct reference to the applicable legislation.