

BURRA CHARTER

and/or to secure evidence about to be lost or made inaccessible through necessary *conservation* or other unavoidable action. Investigation of a *place* for any other reason which requires physical disturbance and which adds substantially to a scientific body of knowledge may be permitted, provided that it is consistent with the conservation policy for the *place*.

ARTICLE 25. A written statement of conservation policy must be professionally prepared setting out the *cultural significance*, physical condition and proposed *conservation* process together with justification and supporting evidence, including photographs, drawings and all appropriate samples.

ARTICLE 26. The organisation and individuals responsible for policy decisions must be named and specific responsibility taken for each such decision.

ARTICLE 27. Appropriate professional direction and supervision must be maintained at all stages of the work and a log kept of new evidence and additional decisions recorded as in Article 25 above.

ARTICLE 28. The records required by Articles 23, 25, 26 and 27 should be placed in a permanent archive and made publicly available.

ARTICLE 29. The items referred to in Article 10 and Article 22 should be professionally catalogued and protected.

Words in italics are defined in Article 1.

THE AUSTRALIA ICOMOS CHARTER FOR THE CONSERVATION OF PLACES OF CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE (The Burra Charter)

This revised Charter was adopted on 23rd February, 1981.

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PREAMBLE

Having regard to the International Charter for the Conservation and Restoration of Monuments and Sites (Venice 1966), and the Resolutions of 5th General Assembly of ICOMOS (Moscow 1978), the following Charter has been adopted by Australia ICOMOS.

DEFINITIONS

ARTICLE 1. For the purpose of this Charter:

- 1.1 *Place* means site, building or other work, group of buildings or other works together with pertinent contents and surroundings.
- 1.2 *Cultural significance* means aesthetic, historic, scientific or social value for past, present or future generations.
- 1.3 *Fabric* means all the physical material of the *place*.
- 1.4 *Conservation* means all the processes of looking after a *place* so as to retain its *cultural significance*. It includes *maintenance* and may according to circumstance include *preservation*, *restoration*, *reconstruction* and *adaption* and will be commonly a combination of more than one of these.
- 1.5 *Maintenance* means the continuous protective care of the *fabric*, contents and setting of a *place*, and is to be distinguished from repair. Repair involves *restoration* or *reconstruction* and it should be treated accordingly.
- 1.6 *Preservation* means maintaining the *fabric* of a *place* in its existing state and retarding deterioration.
- 1.7 *Restoration* means returning the EXISTING *fabric* of a *place* to a known earlier state by removing accretions or by reassembling existing components without the introduction of new material.

Words in italics are defined in Article 1.

Explanatory Notes

These notes do not form part of the Charter and may be added to by Australia ICOMOS.

ARTICLE 1.1

Place includes structures, ruins, archaeological sites and areas.

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- 1.8 *Reconstruction* means returning a *place* as nearly as possible to a known earlier state and is distinguished by the introduction of materials (new or old) into the *fabric*. This is not to be confused with either re-creation or conjectural reconstruction which are outside the scope of this Charter.
- 1.9 *Adaptation* means modifying a *place* to suit proposed compatible uses.
- 1.10 *Compatible use* means a use which involves no change to the culturally significant fabric, changes which are substantially reversible, or changes which require a minimal impact.

CONSERVATION PRINCIPLES

ARTICLE 2. The aim of *conservation* is to retain or recover the *cultural significance* of a *place* and must include provision for its security, its *maintenance* and its future.

ARTICLE 3. *Conservation* is based on a respect for the existing *fabric* and should involve the least possible physical intervention. It should not distort the evidence provided by the *fabric*.

ARTICLE 4. *Conservation* should make use of all the disciplines which can contribute to the study and safeguarding of a *place*. Techniques employed should be traditional but in some circumstances they may be modern ones for which a firm scientific basis exists and which have been supported by a body of experience.

ARTICLE 5. *Conservation* of a *place* should take into consideration all aspects of its *cultural significance* without unwarranted emphasis on any one at the expense of others.

Words in italics are defined in Article 1.

Explanatory Notes

These notes do not form part of the Charter and may be added to by Australia ICOMOS.

ARTICLE 2

Conservation should not be undertaken unless adequate resources are available to ensure that the fabric is not left in a vulnerable state and that the cultural significance of the place is not impaired. However, it must be emphasised that the best conservation often involves the least work and can be inexpensive.

ARTICLE 3

The traces of additions, alterations and earlier treatments on the fabric of a place are evidence of its history and uses.

Conservation action should tend to assist rather than to impede their interpretation.

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ARTICLE 6. The conservation policy appropriate to a *place* must first be determined by an understanding of its *cultural significance* and its physical condition.

ARTICLE 7. The conservation policy will determine which uses are compatible.

ARTICLE 8. *Conservation* requires the maintenance of an appropriate visual setting, e.g. form, scale, colour, texture and materials. No new construction, demolition or modification which would adversely affect the settings should be allowed. Environmental intrusions which adversely affect appreciation or enjoyment of the *place* should be excluded.

ARTICLE 9. A building or work should remain in its historical location. The moving of all or part of a building or work is unacceptable unless this is the sole means of ensuring its survival.

ARTICLE 10. The removal of contents which form part of the *cultural significance* of the *place* is unacceptable unless it is the sole means of ensuring their security and *preservation*. Such contents must be returned should changed circumstances make this practicable.

CONSERVATION PROCESSES

Preservation

ARTICLE 11. *Preservation* is appropriate where the existing state of the *fabric* itself constitutes evidence of specific *cultural significance*, or where insufficient evidence is available to allow other conservation processes to be carried out.

Explanatory Notes

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ARTICLE 8

New construction work, including infill and additions, may be acceptable provided:

- it does not reduce or obscure the cultural significance of the place
- it is in keeping with Article 8.

ARTICLE 9

Some structures were designed to be readily removeable or already have a history of previous moves, e.g. prefabricated dwellings and poppet-heads. Provided such a structure does not have a strong association with its present site its removal may be considered.

If any structure is moved it should be moved to an appropriate setting and given an appropriate use. Such action should not be to the detriment of any place of cultural significance.

ARTICLE 11

Preservation protects fabric without obscuring the evidence of its construction and use.

The process should always be applied:

where the evidence of the fabric is of such significance that it must not be altered.

This is an unusual case and likely to be appropriate for archaeological remains of national importance

where insufficient investigation has been carried out to permit conservation policy decisions to be taken in accord with Articles 23 to 25.

New construction may be carried out in association with preservation when its purpose is the physical protection of the fabric and when it is consistent with Article 8.

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ARTICLE 12. *Preservation* is limited to the protection, *maintenance* and where necessary, the stabilisation of the existing *fabric* but without the distortion of its *cultural significance*.

ARTICLE 13. The conservation policy will
concern the whole of the place.

ARTICLE 14. Restoration should reveal anew

Restoration

ARTICLE 13. *Restoration* is appropriate only if there is sufficient evidence of an earlier state of the *fabric* and only if returning the *fabric* to that state recovers the *cultural significance* of the *place*.

ARTICLE 14. *Restoration* should reveal anew culturally significant aspects of the *place*. It is based on respect for all the physical, documentary and other evidence and stops at the point where conjecture begins.

ARTICLE 15. *Restoration* is limited to the reassembling of displaced components or removal of accretions in accordance with Article 16.

ARTICLE 16. The contributions of all periods to the *place* must be respected. If a *place* includes the *fabric* of different periods, revealing the *fabric* of one period at the expense of another can only be justified when what is removed is of slight *cultural significance* and the *fabric* which is to be revealed is of much greater *cultural significance*.

Reconstruction

ARTICLE 17. *Reconstruction* is appropriate where a *place* is incomplete through damage or alteration and where it is necessary for its survival, or where it recovers the *cultural significance* of the *place* as a whole.

Words in italics are defined in Article 1.

Explanatory Notes

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ARTICLE 12

Stabilization is a process which helps keep fabric intact and in a fixed position. When carried out as a part of preservation work it does not introduce new materials into the fabric. However, when necessary for the survival of the fabric, stabilization may be effected as part of a reconstruction process and new materials introduced. For example, grouting or the insertion of a reinforcing rod in a masonry wall.

ARTICLE 13

See explanatory note for Article 2.

ARTICLE 14. Restoration should reveal anew

ARTICLE 20. Adaptation is acceptable

where the conservation of the place cannot

otherwise be achieved, and where the

adaptation does not substantially detract

from its cultural significance.

ARTICLE 21. Adaptation must be limited

to that which is essential to a use for the

place determined in accordance with Article

2 and 3.

ARTICLE 22. Fabric of cultural significance

unavoidably removed in the process of

adaptation must be kept safely to enable its

future reinstatement.

ARTICLE 23. Work on a place must be

preceded by professionally prepared studies

of the physical, documentary and other

evidence, and the existing fabric recorded

before any disturbance of the place.

ARTICLE 24. Study of a place by any

disturbance of the fabric or by archaeological

excavation should be undertaken where

necessary to provide data essential for

decisions on the conservation of the place.

ARTICLE 25. Words in italics are defined in

Article 1.

ARTICLE 26. Words in italics are defined in

Article 1.

ARTICLE 27. Words in italics are defined in

Article 1.

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ARTICLE 18. *Reconstruction* is limited to the completion of a depleted entity and should not constitute the majority of the *fabric* of a *place*.

ARTICLE 19. *Reconstruction* is limited to the reproduction of *fabric* the form of which is known from physical and/or documentary evidence. It should be identifiable on close inspection as being new work.

Adaptation

ARTICLE 20. *Adaptation* is acceptable where the *conservation* of the *place* cannot otherwise be achieved, and where the *adaptation* does not substantially detract from its *cultural significance*.

ARTICLE 21. *Adaptation* must be limited to that which is essential to a use for the *place* determined in accordance with Articles 6 and 7.

ARTICLE 22. *Fabric* of *cultural significance* unavoidably removed in the process of *adaptation* must be kept safely to enable its future reinstatement.

CONSERVATION PRACTICE

ARTICLE 23. Work on a *place* must be preceded by professionally prepared studies of the physical, documentary and other evidence, and the existing *fabric* recorded before any disturbance of the *place*.

ARTICLE 24. Study of a *place* by any disturbance of the *fabric* or by archaeological excavation should be undertaken where necessary to provide data essential for decisions on the *conservation* of the *place*

Words in italics are defined in Article 1.

Explanatory Notes