

Conference Report

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Annual conference in Fremantle: Challenge and Change in Ports, their Towns and Cities

The conference was held last week in Fremantle and attracted a large number of delegates (including many non-ICOMOS members) to the Fremantle Town Hall to hear some fascinating papers by local and overseas speakers, on port cities including Gdansk, Capetown and Portsmouth as well as Melbourne, Sydney and Fremantle itself.

Among the highlights of the conference was the speech at the conference dinner by Dr Carmen Lawrence, MP, on the Burrup Peninsula, followed by a surprise visit from the Prime Minister (or possibly not) and a hugely successful raffle that raised over \$1,000 towards our Indigenous and Pacific Training funds. The minute of silence on November 11, in the atrium of the Town Hall with the Last Post floating through the door from the ceremony outside, was another memorable moment.

At lunchtime that day, the conference delegates passed the following resolution on the Burrup Peninsula:

Delegates to the Australia ICOMOS Annual Conference in Fremantle on 11 November 2006,

- Noting the listing of the Burrup Peninsula Rock Art sites in the International ICOMOS Typological Study of Rock Art;
- Noting the listing of the Burrup Peninsula Rock Art sites on the World Monuments Fund Watch list of the one hundred most endangered sites;
- Noting that the Minister, Senator Ian Campbell, has invited comments on the proposed inclusion of the Dampier Archipelago (including the Burrup Peninsula) on the National Heritage List by the 28th November;
- Noting the assessment provided to the Minister by the Australian Heritage Council and its recommendation to add the place to the National Heritage List; and
- Noting with concern that proposed industrial development for the area may further detrimentally affect the significant values of the Rock Art sites and cultural landscape,

RESOLVED to ask the Executive Committee of Australia ICOMOS to request the Minister for the Environment and Heritage, Senator Ian Campbell, the Premier of

Western Australia, the Hon Alan Carpenter, and the Western Australian Minister for Heritage, the Hon Michelle Roberts, to act with urgency to:

- Ensure that the cultural heritage values of the Rock Art sites and their cultural landscape are retained and protected and that any activities on the sites retain and respect these values;
- Ensure that an appropriate and effective environmental and heritage management regime, in accordance with the principles and processes of the Australia ICOMOS Code on the Co-Existence of Cultural Values and the Burra Charter, is established to protect the sites and their vicinity; and
- Request that alternative sites be investigated for the proposed development, which would avoid adverse heritage impacts on the Burrup sites and their cultural landscape.

This resolution was endorsed in the form above by the Executive Committee of Australia ICOMOS, at its meeting on 12 November 2006.

As mentioned in the e-news on 20 October, the Minister for the Environment and Heritage has invited public submissions on the recommendation of the Australian Heritage Council to place the Burrup sites on the National Heritage List. The draft assessment of the sites and other documentation can be found on the DEH web site. Submissions in writing will be received until 28 November. I encourage all Australia ICOMOS members to read the material on the web site and to make a submission if they wish to do so.

We are planning to make the text of Dr Lawrence's speech available on our own web site. There will be a fuller report from the conference once the organisers have recovered! My grateful thanks to the Conference Organising and Steering Committees and our sponsors, especially the City of Fremantle, for producing a really great event.

Peter Phillips
President

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*If you would like to suggest an event, story, course etc for the Australia ICOMOS e-mail news or submit an article, or you wish to be removed from the distribution list, send an e-mail to the Australia ICOMOS Secretariat at: [austicomos@deakin.edu.au](mailto:austicomos@deakin.edu.au). Please note that as the office is not staffed full-time it may take a few days to deal with your request*  
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