

HERITAGE AT RISK 2011 NATIONAL LIST

ACT

Shores of Lake Burley Griffin

The lake and foreshore possess historic, scientific, social and aesthetic importance. The Lake was an integral part of the early design for Canberra, being an essential landscape element. It provides the centrepiece for the National Capital and also forms the immediate background of the national and parliamentary areas.

Threat

There are various pressures on the open spaces around the shores of Lake Burley Griffin, in particular the central and west basins. The proposed development of two War Memorials on Rond Terrace will have a severe impact on the Land Axis Vista between the Australian War Memorial and the Parliamentary Zone; this Land Axis was a central part of Walter Burley Griffin's design for Canberra.

Desired outcome/vision

There should be no development which impacts on the heritage and visual significance of the Lake and its shore line. The current Heritage Management Plan for Lake Burley Griffin needs to be endorsed and its policies enforced to ensure the important heritage aspects of the shore are appropriately managed and conserved.

NT

Snake Creek Armament Depot

Snake Creek Armament Depot is highly significant for being one of the Northern Territory's most extensive extant military sites from the Second World War. The place is also associated with the Indonesian Confrontation period of the 1960s. The site is of further interest for exemplifying a form of wartime explosives storage facilities.

Threat

The facility fell into disuse in the 1970s and subsequently the site was vandalised and much material removed. The structures on the site are all showing decay and in some cases extensive damage through vandalism and some structures have been burnt down. However, despite the neglect and vandalism, the layout and purpose of the site are still visible.

Desired outcome/vision

A conservation and management plan completed for the site, which would develop guidelines for immediate and long-term conservation and protection of the site complex. The site should be fully interpreted in terms of Australia's defence efforts during the Second World War.

Vic

Historic Pubs of Victoria

The Victorian National Trust has classified 176 hotels and pubs, 21 of which are in the Melbourne CBD and inner suburbs. Approximately 70 of these are still in use as a hotel and 100 are not in uses as hotels/pubs. Pubs form an important part of our socio-cultural history and identity, making their abandonment even more profound.

Threat

Of the 100 not used for their original purpose 30 have been demolished and 70 have alternate uses. Are we seeing a trend of deterioration amongst our watering holes?

Desired outcome/vision

In early 2012 the Victorian National Trust will be curating an exhibition of historic pubs around Victoria that have been registered by the Trust since 1956 – but subsequently have been demolished, re-used unsympathetically or are simply unloved and looking for a loving owner.

The National Trust is looking for any heritage places but particularly hotels and pubs that are neglected, abandoned, forlorn or orphaned, to form a snapshot of unloved heritage places across the state. These places have been loved before and can be loved again.

SA

Coorong and Lower Lakes

The Lower Lakes and Coorong region of South Australia has been internationally recognized as a significant wetland system. Since 1971 the Coorong has been recognised by the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Convention). The region is also of high cultural significance to the Ngarrindjeri people.

Threat

The rejection of flows set out in the 2010 Guide to the Plan, the alienation of recommendations in scientific work including the Wentworth Group plan show a lack of political will by Governments to support the eco-systems.

Desired outcome/vision

Environmental flows need to be guaranteed to save the lower Murray, lakes and Coorong.

Declining Birds of the Mount Lofty Ranges

The Mount Lofty Ranges are generally fertile with high rainfall and are recognised as a significant ecological region due to their isolation from similar ecosystems in the south-eastern part of the continent; this has produced a

high number of endemic avian sub-species.

Eight bird species are locally extinct, two are critically endangered (Southern Emu-wren, Spotted Quail-thrush), one is endangered (Chestnut-rumped Heathwren), one is vulnerable (Australasian Bittern) and five are near threatened (Black-chinned Honeyeater, Hooded Robin, Bassian Thrush, Diamond Firetail, Bush Stone Curlew

Threat

Birds in the Mt Lofty Ranges are declining in diversity and abundance due to multiple threats. Only 14% of remnant native vegetation remains in the Ranges and Adelaide Plains. Threats to the woodland avifauna include: continuing vegetation clearance and fragmentation of habitat, a reduction in nesting sites, the loss of key food plants, predation by foxes and cats and competition with introduced bird species and grazing by domestic stock and feral animals.

What happens here is an early warning for Australia's other landscapes.

Desired outcome/vision

Simply retaining existing native vegetation will not arrest the decline in species. Large-scale habitat restoration is needed to address this situation. While the Adelaide Mt Lofty Ranges Natural Resources Management Board (AMLRNRM) has an aspirational goal in its regional plan for conservation and revegetation and to achieve a 30% native vegetation cover across the rural parts of the region, progress is slow.

A rejuvenated and co-ordinated approach is urgently needed. This should be led by the regional AMLRNRM Board, in concert with government bodies such the Native Vegetation Council or a resurrected "Revegetation Committee" as well as private organizations, with the aim of regenerating, revegetating, connecting and extending significant areas of woodland habitat on a broad scale.

NSW

Hunter Valley Rural Landscapes

Conservation areas of:

Barrington Tops
Bow Wow Creek Gorge
Ellalong Lagoon
Hunter Valley Estuary
Macquarie Marshes
Momberoi
Pokolbin
Stround-Gloucester Valley

Bolwarra Flats
Burning Mountain
Glenrock-Burwood
Lambs Valle
MacDonald Valley/Wollombi
Muswellbrook-Jerrys Plains
Upper Dora Creek
Widden Valley

All of these rural landscapes have been listed as Landscape Conservation Areas on the National Trust Register in the 1970s and 1980s for their scenic, scientific and historic values.

Threat

These landscapes are threatened by open cut and long-wall coal mining and/or gas extraction

Desired outcome/vision

- Any coal mining in sensitive areas must, at the very least, utilise lower impact methods for coal extraction, rather than longwall methods, and extensive areas of subsidence protection zones should be established.
- Longwall coal mining must not be permitted beneath Landscape Conservation Areas, protected water catchment areas, rivers, streams, creeks or wetlands.
- Neither longwall coal mining nor coal seam gas production should be permitted where there is any risk of damage or pollution of subterranean aquifers.
- Reported damage to heritage values during ongoing mining operations must result in reviews of those operations to determine the impacts and put in place less-damaging alternatives.
- Open-cut mining must not be allowed to threaten the destruction of whole towns, with their built fabric and social values, prime agricultural land or recognised heritage landscapes.
- Gas production facilities must not be sited within, nor impact upon, prime agricultural land, recognised heritage landscapes or within protected water catchment areas.
- The Community and their local government representatives must be kept fully informed and briefed on all gas and coal exploration activities and the scope of existing mining leases throughout the State.

QLD

Ravenswood Community Church

Ravenswood is of historical significance for its strong association with the early development of north Queensland, particularly as part of the history of gold mining in the region. The town is also significant as the remains of a late nineteenth century/early twentieth century mining community, which, despite removals, has remained relatively intact and significantly free of later developments.

The Ravenswood Community Church opened as St Patrick's Catholic Church on 21 October 1871, when the town was prosperous with finds of alluvial gold. Now the property of the Charters Towers Regional Council, the church serves as the only place of worship in a town founded on mining. It serves a community with a future strongly linked to the continuation of mining. The timber gabled church has been at risk before, from termites in the 1950s and through under-utilisation and neglect in the 1970s. The timber gabled church

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Threat

Community Church worshippers are at risk of being undermined by Carpentaria Gold's Sarsfield Expansion Project at Ravenswood in North Queensland, if the project goes ahead according to its 'Frequently Asked Questions' brochure.

Desired outcome/vision

The church protected from the impact of industrial development and preserved as part of the significance of Ravenswood

Tas

Burnie Paper Mill (Tas Paper)

The Paper Mill has broad and deep-rooted significance within Tasmania being the symbol of industrial success and associated wealth, which in turn has impacted on the social and cultural heritage of the region. The site includes some rare and unique industrial applications of deco style through to post-modernist styles within the industrial context. Burnie has a rich heritage of deco style domestic dwellings and cityscape buildings, which largely remain in tact. With the Paper Mill providing an industrial example of the same influence, a unique and extraordinary example of dual application of style currently exists.

Threat

There is currently no management plan for the site to identify and preserve the numerous fine and unique examples of deco and post modernist structures. There is currently a Development Application in approval process with Burnie Council for demolition of the entire site with no consideration being given to maintaining significant structures of heritage significance.

Desired outcome/vision

The historical integrity of the site should be secured and maintained in an adaptive and sympathetic reuse of buildings and surrounds.

ACT, NSW, Qld, NT, Vic, SA, WA, Tas

Register of the National Estate (RNE, National Heritage Database)

The RNE, created by the former Australian Heritage Commission Act 1975, is a list of heritage places of local, regional, and national significance across the range of heritage environments – natural, Indigenous and historic. The Commonwealth's heritage amendments in 2003 provided for the continuance and maintenance of the RNE through the Australian Heritage Council Act 2003 and required the Commonwealth Minister to have regard to information it contained when making certain decisions under the Environment

Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act to which the RNE information was relevant.

The RNE is Australia's most comprehensive national inventory of heritage places considered worthy of protection for current and future generations. It includes over 13,000 places.

Threat

Under the present Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act) the legislative provisions of the RNE will be removed in February 2012. This places at risk many places of identified heritage values, which are not covered by the current National Heritage List, the Commonwealth Heritage List or State/Territory heritage lists.

Desired outcome/vision

In the immediate future and before February 2012, the legislative provisions removing the statutory status of the RNE should be reversed. The statutory status of the RNE should be maintained until the outcome of a strategic review is completed.

Region - Eastern and Southern Australia

Murray Darling Basin

Qld, NSW, Vic, SA.

The Murray Darling Basin contains Australia's most important river system. The drainage basin covers over 1,000,000 km², beginning in Queensland and extending through New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia. The system support agriculture and a wide variety of ecosystems, and have archaeological, scientific, ecological, Indigenous and European cultural and historical significance.

Threat

River flow has been drastically reduced throughout the system and in the drought years prior to 2011, ceased in places altogether.

Lack of flows and excessive salt levels due to regulatory structures, unsustainable water extraction together with drought have endangered flora and fauna habitats and have impacted on the sustainability of the economic and cultural practices throughout the vast region.

The demise of the 2010 Murray Darling Basin Plan Guide and the resulting lack of an overall control and management plan together with the uncertainty of formulating such a plan in the near future have allowed the deterioration to continue.

Desired outcome/vision

Government and community action with support of all stakeholders must restore the river systems throughout the Basin to health. Current market-based mechanisms are failing and Commonwealth government intervention is urgently needed to ensure sufficient freshwater to flow through the system.