



GET THE FACTS - HERITAGE INFORMATION SERIES

03. THE BURRA CHARTER

All processes used by Australian heritage agencies and movable heritage collecting institutions to assess the significance of heritage objects and places, and to manage their significance is encapsulated within the Burra Charter. The Australian criteria, in common with their overseas equivalents, have been devised for a range of purposes: to enter places or objects on heritage registers and meet planning requirements, to offer protection from export or destruction, to inform the collecting policies of museums and other heritage

collections, or to provide guidelines for disaster planning. The majority of them, particularly those criteria which relate either to heritage places only, or to places and objects without distinguishing between them, are based on the charter developed by Australia ICOMOS in 1979 for conserving places of cultural significance. It is known as the Burra Charter, after the old South Australian copper mining town where it was developed. The Burra Charter sets out in detail the principles, processes and practice of caring for

culturally significant places. It is the basis for all Federal, State and Local heritage listings which deal variously with the built environment, the natural environment, maritime, Aboriginal, movable or intangible cultural heritage.