



Site of Palmyra
Syria

THE REVISED BURRA CHARTER

Heritage Management in Australia and Beyond

What is the Burra Charter?

Created by Australia ICOMOS in 1979

A charter for places of cultural significance

Defines the basic principles and procedures behind the conservation of heritage places

Accompanying practice notes

Can be applied to a wide range of places – monuments, gardens, shell middens, rock art sites, whole districts or regions

Influences heritage management internationally - English Heritage's 'Constructive Conservation'



ICOMOS

International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS)

Established in 1965 by UNESCO

Association of over 100 national committees – Paris HQ

Only global NGO dedicated to the conservation of cultural heritage places

Responsible for advising UNESCO on World Heritage listed properties

Australian chapter formed in 1976



Evolution of the Burra Charter

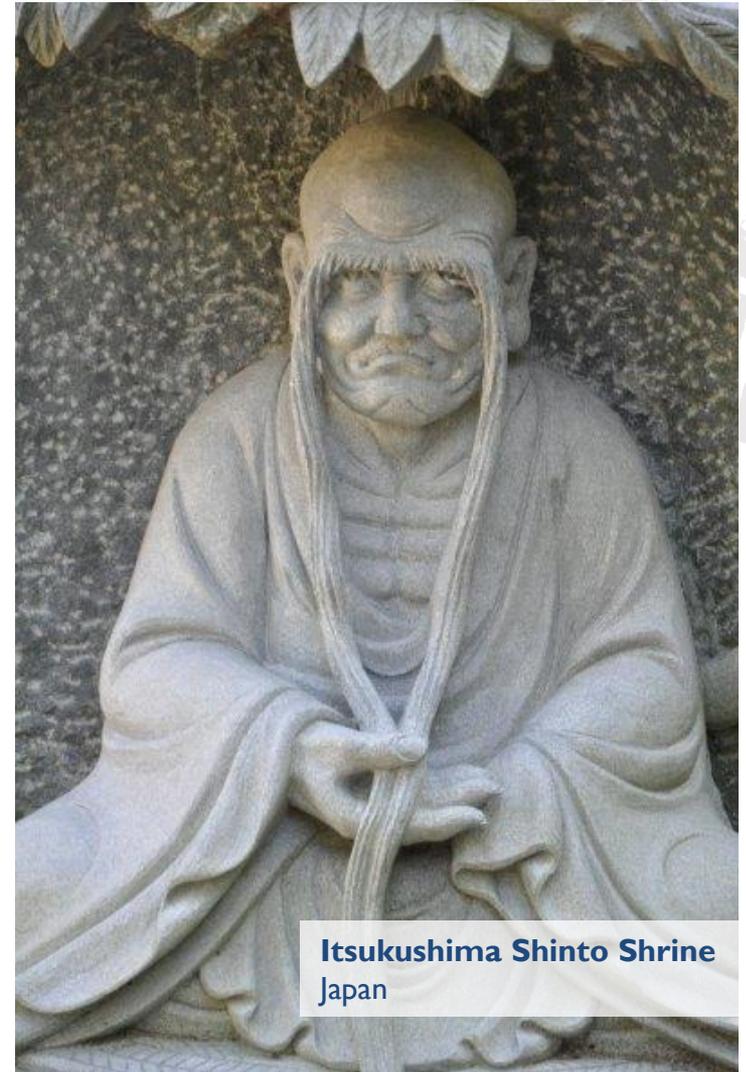
Based on the Venice Charter of 1964 that deals with the preservation and restoration of historic monuments

Principles and philosophy of the Venice Charter adapted to Australian conditions

More practical approach to heritage management – including detailed explanatory notes

Adopted during an Australia ICOMOS conference held in the South Australian mining town of Burra in 1979

Revisions undertaken in 1981, 1989 and 1999



Itsukushima Shinto Shrine
Japan

Main Principles

‘Do as much as necessary to care for the place and to make it useable, but otherwise change it as little as possible so that its cultural significance is retained’ - *Preamble*

There are places worth keeping because they enrich our lives

Cultural significance of a place is embodied in its physical material (fabric)

Management decisions relating to a heritage place should be informed by thorough research

Need to keep accurate records



Practical Application

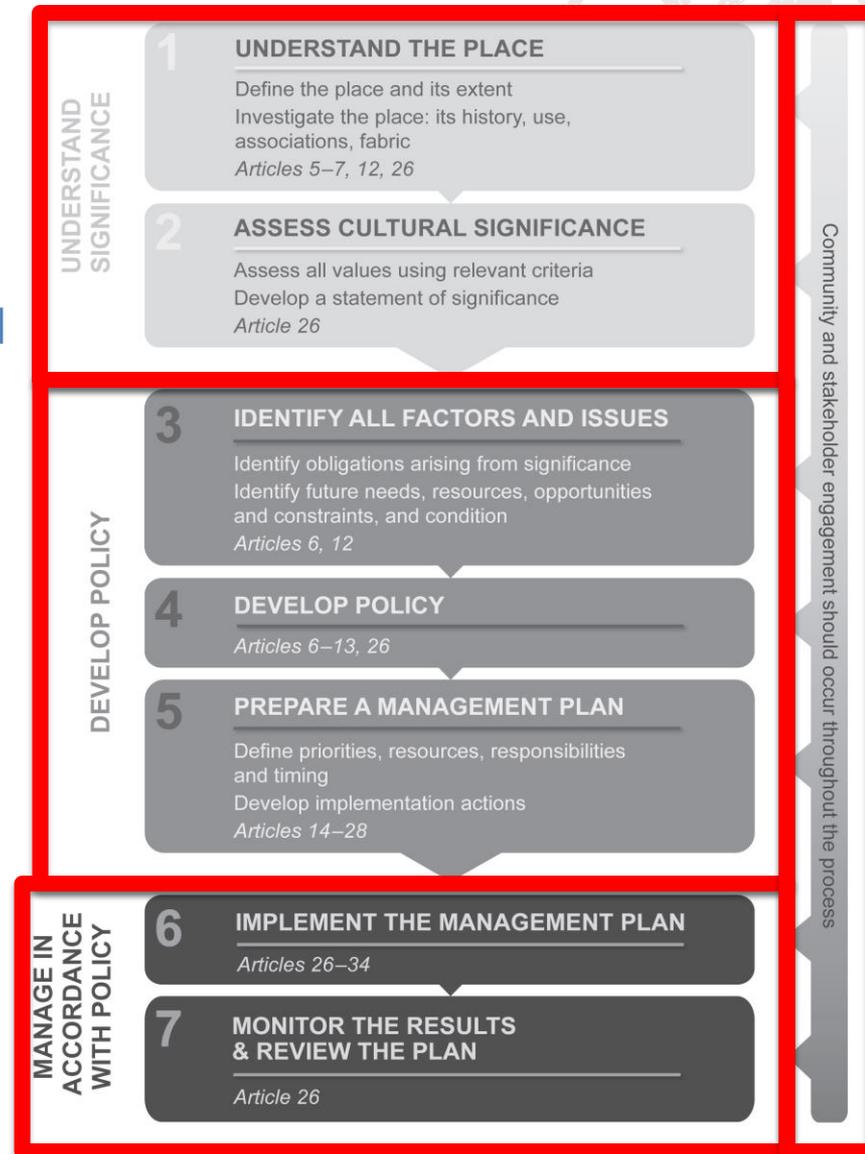
Charter advocates a cautionary approach

Non-prescriptive – decisions and works must be appropriate to individual place and circumstances

Three-step approach:

1. Understanding Significance
2. Develop Policy
3. Manage in Accordance with Policy

Supported by community and stakeholder engagement



What's New?

Philosophical basis of the Charter remains unchanged – minimal changes to the main text

Explanatory notes – these have been expanded both in number and detail, particularly in relation to the definitions of place, maintenance, use, and setting

Greater emphasis on Indigenous heritage

Revised process diagram provides greater clarity and recognises the importance of community and stakeholder consultation

Replacement of 1999 Guidelines with a set of Practice Notes – these currently number seven with several more in development



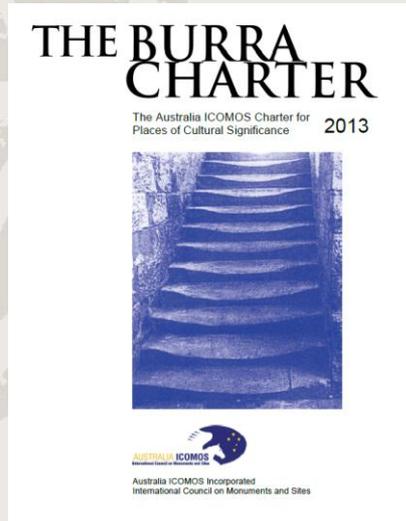
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