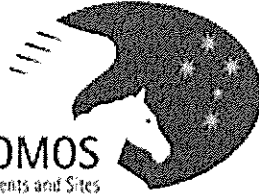


AUSTRALIA ICOMOS  
International Council on Monuments and Sites



Australia ICOMOS Secretariat  
Cultural Heritage Centre for Asia and the Pacific  
Faculty of Arts, Deakin University  
221 Burwood Highway  
Burwood Vic 3125  
Ph: +61 3 9251 7131  
Fax: +61 3 9251 7158  
austicomos@deakin.edu.au  
www.icomos.org/australia  
ABN: 85 073 285 798

18 August 2014

Hon Ian Hunter MLC  
Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation  
GPO Box 1047  
Adelaide SA 5001

By email: [minister.hunter@sa.gov.au](mailto:minister.hunter@sa.gov.au)

Dear Minister Hunter,

#### Premier's Review of Boards and Committees

We understand that the Premier of South Australia has recently undertaken to review the role and effectiveness of Boards and Committees advising government, with the aim of improving efficiencies and also providing a better system for community input into the decisions of government. Australia ICOMOS believes that the South Australian Heritage Council and its Register Committee is key to the management of cultural heritage in South Australia and write in support of their value to government and the community.

ICOMOS – the International Council for Monuments and Sites – is a non-government professional organisation that promotes expertise in the conservation of cultural heritage. ICOMOS is also an Advisory Body to the World Heritage Committee under the World Heritage Convention. Australia ICOMOS, formed in 1976, is one of over 100 national committees throughout the world. Australia ICOMOS has over 600 members in a range of heritage professions. We have expert members on a large number of ICOMOS International Scientific Committees, as well as on expert committees and boards in Australia. We have a particular interest in Australia's world heritage sites.

Australia ICOMOS supports the retention of the Council and Register Committee, as we believe both have an important to the management of South Australia's built heritage.

The Heritage Council is established under the SA Heritage Places Act 1993. The Act is directly related to the Development Act 1993, but also stands separate, as it deals with specific aspects of managing and safeguarding the historic environment. The Council comprises an independent group of people with heritage-related expertise, providing government with clear, independent and considered advice relating to the Act and cultural heritage matters in general. The Act requires Council to also establish a Register Committee, which is responsible for the consideration and evaluation of State Heritage place nominations from the community. The Register Committee recommends places for Provisional listing and the Heritage Council confirms these listings (or not) as State Heritage Places, after community and owner consultation.

We support the continuation of both the Heritage Council and a separate Register Committee. The Committee's work is focused on heritage listing, freeing up time and resources so Council can consider heritage management, policy and promotion in broader terms – for government and the community.

Australia ICOMOS is concerned about the processes and practice of cultural heritage management. We support the retention of the South Australian Heritage Council and its Register Committee, for good heritage governance in South Australia. We believe the current Council and Committee structure provides:

- independent and objective cultural heritage advice for both government and the community. Members of the Council and Committee are drawn from industry, the community and local government – providing a balanced, but expert reflection of community concerns. Members include historians, architecture, law, development, archaeology and tourism.

- allows for the administration of the SA Heritage Places Act 1993 and its inter-relationship with the SA Development Act 1993.
- delivers value for money – Council and Committee members provide targeted, expert heritage advice on a regular basis, supporting the work of the DEWNR State Heritage Unit. Advice is given within prescribed time frames, following the procedures as laid out in the Act in a transparent manner. Heritage Policy and Guidelines have also been developed by Council, providing an operational structure for the administration of the Act.
- support for heritage management – which we believe is important and highly valued by the community and the tourism industry. Council in the past has supported the Heritage Heroes and State Heritage Fund programmes.
- support for the development industry – by providing clear, expert advice which gives developmental certainty for owners of existing or nominated State Heritage places.

Thank you again for your consideration of the views of Australia ICOMOS in this important issue.

Yours faithfully



**MS ELIZABETH VINES OAM, FRAIA, MICOMOS**  
**President, Australia ICOMOS**