

More ICOMOS highlights

IN response to the article *Kill port for homes*, (Fremantle Herald, Saturday November 18, 2006).

While we understand the desire to report on some of the perhaps more sensationalist aspects of certain ICOMOS conference speakers, we feel there are several other outcomes worth highlighting.

Following the conference's resolution on the Burrup Peninsula rock art site – stemming from Dr Carmen Lawrence's presentation – the Australia ICOMOS executive committee has now written to Federal Environment & Heritage Minister Ian Campbell, Premier Alan Carpenter and WA Heritage Minister Michelle Roberts urging:

1. The cultural heritage values of rock art sites and their cultural landscapes be retained and protected while any activities on these sites respect these values.

2. An appropriate and effective environmental and heritage management regime, in accordance with the Burra Charter and Australia ICOMOS Code on the Co-Existence of Cultural Values, be established to protect the sites.

3. Alternative sites be investigated for the proposed development, avoiding adverse heritage impacts on the Burrup sites and their cultural landscape.

Other conference highlights included Dr Jacek Dominiczak's presentation on the "local identity code" based on the Polish example in Gdansk. He demonstrated how important it would be to apply the theory and methodology of this code to

Fremantle to help council, architects and developers prepare their plans.

Peter de Tolly's overview of the Victoria and Alfred waterfront in Cape Town was also packed with useful hints for Fremantle, detailing the planning and implementation of the masterplan, along with describing what worked and what didn't.

It took 10 years for the waterfront and city centre to begin working together as complementary hubs of commercial activity, making it clear that a strategic planning framework is essential for quality outcomes.

Leigh Woolley's presentation on Hobart related to the proposed redevelopment of the Salamanca waterfront by international competition – this proved to be an insightful evaluation of the city-to-port relationship and what should be recognised in design briefs.

Ian Hocking's comparative evaluation of port cities throughout the history of civilisation proved to be an interesting analysis, especially given there are only two ports representing the colonial period that survive relatively intact: Liverpool and Fremantle. Of the two, only Liverpool is on the World Heritage List.

Ultimately, the ICOMOS conference provided much stimulating food for thought, truly reflecting the theme "challenge and change in ports, their towns and cities".

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