



COUNCIL POLICY

NORTH ADELAIDE PUBLIC REALM

Approved by: *City Strategy & Policy Committee on 27/08/2007*

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1. INTRODUCTION

The City of Adelaide has a long history of commitment to built heritage management and is a national leader among local government in supporting heritage. Adelaide is a City of substantial heritage value to the State, evidenced by the high number of State and local heritage listed places. The City of Adelaide has recently nominated the Historic Layout and Park Lands for the National Heritage List.

In March 2006, the North Adelaide Historic (Conservation) Zone was introduced in the City of Adelaide Development Plan over the residential areas of North Adelaide (excluding the main streets of O'Connell and Melbourne Streets), further recognising its historic character and heritage values. The aim of the Zone is to identify, conserve and appropriately manage the heritage values of North Adelaide in the context of change and development. While the introduction of the Zone will regulate development occurring on private property, its regulatory control does not extend to works within the public realm by Council and Government bodies.

The public realm provides the spatial setting and physical context for heritage places and plays an important part in influencing the "look and feel" of an area. In some instances, elements of the public realm have heritage value in their own right.

Consequently, Council is committed to lead by example in managing change within the public realm areas of North Adelaide. While it is recognised that infrastructure requires repair or replacement over time, the retention and conservation of significant historic fabric and elements that contribute to the historic character within the area are primary goals. Where this is not possible, the replacement of infrastructure should be carefully selected to complement the heritage values of the area.

Through the preparation of this Policy and Operating Guidelines, Council seeks to demonstrate its ongoing commitment to the protection of the heritage assets within the public realm of North Adelaide.

While the Historic (Conservation) Zone does not include the major retail streets (O'Connell and Melbourne Streets), for the purposes of this report they have been included to foster a comprehensive and inclusive approach to the management of the area as a whole.

2. GENERAL POLICY OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the North Adelaide Public Realm Policy are as follows:

1. To retain and conserve public elements that have heritage value or contribute to the historic character.
2. To manage new infrastructure and work practices in a manner that complements elements of heritage value and historic character.
3. To remove intrusive elements that have a negative impact on heritage values.
4. To provide a management framework for Council's asset management and capital works program.
5. To establish consultation and community input requirements for works that may influence the heritage value or historic character of North Adelaide.

3. GENERAL POLICY STATEMENTS

Arising from the Policy Objectives identified above, the following Policy Statements have been developed:

1. Council is committed to lead by example in the conservation of heritage values of North Adelaide.
2. Council recognises that elements within the public realm can influence the heritage value and historic character of an area, and may themselves be of some heritage value.
3. Council places importance on retaining and conserving original and/or significant historic elements within the public realm of North Adelaide, while maintaining a safe, serviceable and accessible environment.
4. Council promotes a collaborative approach between the community, Council and public authorities for the conservation of all heritage assets within the Zone.

4. LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS AND CORPORATE POLICY CONTEXT

In adopting this Policy and Operating Guidelines, it is recognised that there are specific legislative requirements to be met as well as other Corporate goals.

Related legislation to be considered in conjunction with this Policy include:

- Local Government Act, 1999
- Development Act and Regulations, 1993
- Heritage Places Act, 1993
- Disability Discrimination Act, 1992
- Australian Standards
- Adelaide (City) Development Plan
- Council By-Laws
- Building Code of Australia

Current corporate strategies, policies, guidelines and reports that have been used to provide a basis for this Policy are:

- Adelaide City Council Strategic Management Plan 2004-2007
- Heritage of the City of Adelaide : An Illustrated Guide (1990)
- City of Adelaide Draft Urban Design Strategy
- City of Adelaide Plan – Planning and Design Guidelines (1993) Edition 2 (1995)
- City of Adelaide Historic Layout and Park Lands National Heritage Nomination, 2005
- Corporation of the City of Adelaide : Streets, Squares and Park Lands : Adelaide's Public Realm (undated; c. 1997)
- Cabling and Communications Policy, 21 August 2000
- Built Heritage Management Policy, 2 September 2002
- Lighting Policy, 28 November 2005
- Objects on Footpaths Policy and Operating Guidelines, 13 December 2004
- Public Art Policy – “Watch this Space”, 2001-2006
- Street Tree Planting Policy and Operating Guidelines, 25 June 2001
- Public Communication and Consultation Policy, 13 June 2006
- Public Consultation Toolkit, 2006
- Outdoor Dining Policy, 29 April 1993 (under review)
- Footpath Paving Policy 2006

- Landscape-Streetscape Inventory, 1983
- Public Information & Signs Strategy, 1996 (Draft) and Sign Manual, 1998 (Draft)

Other relevant guidelines that have been considered in drafting this Policy:

- The Burra Charter, Australia ICOMOS, 1999
- The Illustrated Burra Charter: Good Practice for Heritage Places, Australia ICOMOS, 2004

5. MONITORING AND REVIEW

Overall monitoring and review of the effectiveness of the Policy will be undertaken in July 2010 by the Policy and Strategy Division.

The effectiveness of this policy will be measured by:

- The extent to which elements of heritage value and historic character are retained and conserved in the public realm areas of North Adelaide;
- The extent to which new works and work practices comply with the standards set in the North Adelaide Public Realm Operating Guidelines; and
- The extent to which the elements that have been identified as having a negative effect on the heritage value of the area have been modified or removed in the public realm areas of North Adelaide.