

5. ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

5.1. CRITERIA FOR ASSESSMENT

The aim of this section is to discuss the issues arising from the documentary and physical evidence, which contribute to the significance of the place. The Guidelines to the Burra Charter: Cultural Significance states that:

Cultural significance is a concept, which helps in estimating the value of places. The places that are likely to be of significance are those which help an understanding of the past or enrich the present, and which will be of value to future generations.

Although there are a variety of adjectives used in definitions of cultural significance in Australia, the adjectives 'aesthetic', 'historic', 'scientific', and 'social', given alphabetically in the Burra Charter, can encompass all other values.²

The discussion of documentary, oral and physical evidence and the assessment of significance in this section is considered in terms of the Heritage Council of Western Australia's Criteria for Entry in the Register of Heritage Places (Nov. 1996); refer to Appendix Four. It considers the documentary, oral and physical evidence in sections 3 and 4 to assist with the formulation of Statements of Significance. The nature of significance is discussed in terms of the place's aesthetic, historic, scientific and social values. This is followed by a discussion of the degree of significance in terms of rarity and representativeness. The condition, integrity and authenticity of the place and its various components are detailed in the inspection schedules and summarised in this section.

5.2. AESTHETIC VALUE

HCWA Criterion 1. It is significant in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics valued by the community.

Hyde Park, with its mature tree canopy of exotic trees, shady walks, expansive lawns and tree-lined lakes with landscaped islands, is important to the community for its aesthetic value. (Criterion 1.1)

Hyde Park is an aesthetically pleasing, mature example of a Federation-Era park that exhibits elements of the earlier Victorian Gardenesque style, a style that continued to be used in the landscaping of municipal parks well into the Twentieth Century. In particular, the use of distinctive plants as ornamental features and their arrangement so as to display their individual form and contrasting characteristics.

The selection and composition of the trees and palms within *Hyde Park* is aesthetically pleasing in the way it uses the contrasts between the form, texture and colour of different species to provide richness, texture and seasonal colour within the landscape. For example, the contrast between evergreen and deciduous, between broad leaf, palm frond and pine needle; between glossy dark green leaf and matt pale green leaf; and between broad spreading canopies and the upright sculptural form of palms and australian acacias. (Criterion 1.2)

² Marquis-Kyle, P. & Walker, M, *Australia ICOMOS The Illustrated Burra Charter*, Prestige Lithgo, 1996, pp. 72,73.

Hyde Park demonstrates a degree of technical achievement in creating an aesthetically pleasing landscape by the selection and management of exotic species in a harsh, dry climate with limited financial and water resources.

Due to its size and contrast with the surrounding inner-city suburban development, *Hyde Park* with its mature tree canopy, expansive lawns and tree-lined lakes is an important landmark on the corner of the busy intersection of William and Vincent Streets. The tall Norfolk Island and Bunya Pines in *Hyde Park* are a landmark to the north of central Perth. (Criterion 1.3)

Hyde Park forms the focus for vistas down the busy Vincent and William Streets as well as along the quieter residential Glendower and Throssell Streets. It also forms a vista terminator for the adjoining Ethel, Norfolk, Hyde, Chatsworth, Lincoln, Lake and Palmerston Streets (Criterion 1.3)

There are many pleasant vistas in *Hyde Park* along the shady tree-lined paths between the massive buttressed trunks of mature Figs and Camphor Laurels, across undulating lawns to clusters of sculptural trees and palms and down to the lakes with their exotically planted islands and birdlife. (Criterion 1.3)

As an oasis of mature landscaped public space within the inner-suburban built environment, *Hyde Park* makes a strong aesthetic contribution to North Perth and the Town of Vincent. (Criterion 1.3)

Together with the surrounding streetscapes, *Hyde Park*, forms a precinct of early Twentieth Century suburban development. (Criterion 1.4)

5.3. HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE

HCWA Criterion 2. It is significant in the evolution or pattern of the history of Western Australia.

Hyde Park illustrates the evolution of the area from a natural to a designed landscape and from a seasonal camping ground of the Yabbaru Bibbulman people to pastoral lands and a temporary camp for gold seekers to a suburban park for a permanently settled community. (Criterion 2.1)

Hyde Park is important as the last remaining swamp in the North Perth area where the topography of the site and the few remnant trees provide evidence of the landscape which existed at the time when Europeans first arrived to permanently settle in the Perth area. *Hyde Park* also demonstrates the various changes, which have occurred to the North Perth area as the city developed northwards in the early Twentieth Century. (2.1)

Hyde Park is historically significant as an illustration of the rapid suburban development that occurred on the periphery of Perth following the population explosion created by the late nineteenth century Goldrush. (Criterion 2.2)

Hyde Park illustrates the civic pride of the politicians, planners and the residents of the new suburbs and their desire to create an attractive and healthy environment by the provision of public gardens and parks. The park also demonstrates the influence of the City Beautiful Movement. (Criterion 2.2)

Hyde Park is associated with J.G. Braithwaite (1897-1936) and H.R. Braithwaite (1937-1956) who served consecutively as the city gardener for a total of sixty years and who designed, developed and managed *Hyde Park* during that time. *Hyde Park* also has associations with the many staff who served there over the last 105 years. (Criteria 2.3)

Hyde Park is associated with W.G. Brookman, Mayor of the City of Perth, who donated a fountain to the park in 1898. (Criteria 2.3)

5.4. SCIENTIFIC VALUE

HCWA Criterion 3a. It has demonstrable potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of the natural or cultural history of Western Australia.

HCWA Criterion 3b. It is significant in demonstrating a high degree of technical innovation or achievement.

Hyde Park is important as a site for research and education, including the diverse aspects of Western Australian history including the interaction of Aboriginal people and Europeans, horticultural, social and cultural history. *Hyde Park* also has the potential to yield information about the uses of the site and its evolution as a garden during the Late Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries. (Criteria 3.1 & 3.2)

The collection of mature trees in *Hyde Park* are a valuable reference collection which may be used to record and monitor data relating to the growth and life span of trees that are not indigenous to the locality or the state. The trees are also a source of seed and plant material that can be used to propagate historic cultivars. (Criteria 3.2)

5.5. SOCIAL VALUE

HCWA Criterion 4 It is significant through association with a community or cultural group in Western Australia for social, cultural, educational or spiritual reasons.

Hyde Park is important to the people of North Perth and the Town of Vincent as an important community asset that has been in continuous use as a public park for 105 years.

Hyde Park has social importance to various community groups who have used it as a location for festivals, celebrations, religious events, organised sporting activity and passive recreation.

Hyde Park contributes strongly to the sense of place of North Perth and the Town of Vincent as a focus for community events and passive relaxation and as an aesthetically pleasing landscape.

An indication of the importance of the park to the local community is the degree of public debate that was created by the proposed redevelopment of the park in 1989. Since that time there has been ongoing public involvement and direct public input into the running of the park through the Patrons of Hyde Park and also through the precinct group system.

5.6. RARITY

HCWA Criterion 5 *It demonstrates rare, uncommon or endangered aspects of the cultural heritage of Western Australia.*

Hyde Park has value as a rare example of a largely intact park from the Federation era. Generally the park has undergone little modification apart from removal and/or replacement of trees from natural attrition.

Hyde Park is rare as a large collection of mature trees from the Federation era.

Hyde Park is rare as the last swamp in the North Perth area that largely retains its original topography and a few remnants of original vegetation.

5.7. REPRESENTATIVENESS

HCWA Criterion 6 *It is significant in demonstrating the characteristics of a class of cultural places or environments in the State.*

Hyde Park is a representative example of a Federation park exhibiting the characteristic palette of trees and plants used in landscaping at that time as well elements of the Gardenesque style.

5.8. CONDITION

Condition *refers to the current state of the place in relation to each of the values for which that place has been assessed. Condition reflects the cumulative effects of management and environmental events.*

Hyde Park as a whole is generally in good condition with some areas and elements that are in fair or poor condition. In particular the western island is in very poor condition and the limestone walls to the edges of the lakes are poor in places. Some trees are not in good health and are currently being monitored these include, a mature Port Jackson Fig tree on the south side of the park and some senescent trees. The surface tree roots of the mature figs trees are lifting some paths on the northern side of the park. There are also a few places where the soil is being eroded where grass can not grow due to shade and ground covers can not be established due to pedestrian traffic.

5.9. INTEGRITY

Integrity is a measure of the likely long-term viability or sustainability of the values identified, or the ability of the place to restore itself or be restored, and the time frame for any restorative process.

Since its development as a park, *Hyde Park* has remained constantly in use for its intended purpose as a recreational reserve for public use. It is also highly likely that it shall continue to be used in the same fashion for the foreseeable future. For these reasons *Hyde Park* has a high level of integrity.

5.10. AUTHENTICITY

Authenticity refers to the extent to which the fabric is in its original state.

Consideration of authenticity is difficult to apply to landscape elements because of the nature of growth, decay and death in plant material. However, generally the authenticity of the place is very high. While most of the original built elements and park furniture has been removed or replaced, the basic form of the park, the mature trees, the lakes and islands, the path layout and the entrances have been retained.



6. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Hyde Park is a substantial Federation era municipal park of exotic trees, lawns and lakes that has considerable cultural heritage significance for the following reasons:

as a well composed example of a Federation era park that exhibits elements of the earlier Victorian Gardenesque style, a style that continued to be used in the landscaping of municipal parks well into the Twentieth Century;

as an unusual example of a largely intact Federation landscape;

for its historic and social value to the people of Perth as an important community asset that has been in continuous use as a public park for 105 years;

for its historical value as an illustration of the evolution of the area from a natural to a designed landscape and the rapid suburban development that occurred on the periphery of Perth following the population explosion created by the late nineteenth century Goldrush;

the collection of mature trees in *Hyde Park* are a valuable reference collection which may be used to record and monitor data relating to the growth and life span of trees that are not indigenous to the locality or the state and as a source of seed and plant material that can be used to propagate historic cultivars;

for its historic value as the last remaining swamp in the North Perth area where the original topography of the site is still discernible and where a few remnant trees provide evidence of the landscape, which existed at the time when Europeans first arrived to permanently settle in the Perth area;

for the aesthetic contribution that it makes to North Perth and the Town of Vincent and as an important landmark to the north of the central Perth;

as a site for research and education, including the diverse aspects of Western Australian history including the interaction of Aboriginal people and Europeans, horticultural, social and cultural history;

for the degree of technical achievement demonstrated in creating an aesthetically pleasing landscape by the selection and management of exotic species in a harsh, dry climate with limited financial and horticultural resources;

for its historic associations with J.G. Braithwaite who designed, developed and managed *Hyde Park* during his tenure as the City Gardener for the City of Perth between 1897 and 1936;

together with the surrounding streetscapes, *Hyde Park*, forms a precinct of early Twentieth Century suburban development;

Hyde Park has social importance to various community groups, families and individuals who have used it as a location for festivals, celebrations, religious events, organised sporting activity and passive recreation;

as an illustration of the civic pride of the politicians, planners and the residents of Perth and their desire to create an attractive and healthy environment by the provision of public gardens and parks, also as a demonstration of the influence of the City Beautiful Movement; and,

for its historic associations with W.G. Brookman, Mayor of the City of Perth, who donated a fountain to the park in 1898.

7. GRADED ZONES, SECTIONS AND ELEMENTS OF SIGNIFICANCE

The purpose of this section is to identify and discuss zones and elements of the place that have varying degrees of significance. These gradings are based on consideration of the evidence, the assessment of significance and authenticity. All parts of the study area, including landscape, setting, building(s) and physical features and elements have been assessed in this section.

The assessed cultural heritage significance of the main zones and elements that contribute to the overall cultural heritage significance of the place is set out graphically below. The significance of the place is in many ways dependent on the significance of its composite elements, and it must be understood that successful conservation of the whole depends on the sensitive conservation of the parts.

A five tier grading system is used to identify the place and the different zones and elements that comprise the place as being of:

Exceptional significance

Considerable significance

Some significance

Little and/or no significance (neither contributes nor detracts from the significance of the place); and,

Intrusive (detracts from or has an adverse affect on the significance of the place).

7.1. ZONES

Due to the intactness of the original scheme for the park, which was realised between 1895 and 1936, the whole of *Hyde Park* forms a single zone of Considerable Significance. This zone demonstrates the characteristics of a substantial, well composed, Federation era municipal park of exotic trees, lawns and lakes that exhibits elements of the earlier Victorian Gardenesque style.

7.2. ELEMENTS

The elements that make up *Hyde Park* are graded according to the degree to which they contribute to or detract from the cultural heritage significance of the place as a whole, that is, as an example of a Federation era municipal park of exotic trees, lawns and lakes. The exceptions to this are the remnant elements of the indigenous landscape that have exceptional significance because of their rarity and scientific and historic values which contribute to an understanding of the place before the arrival of Europeans.

7.2.1. Exceptional Significance

This category only includes remnants from the indigenous landscape.

Pre-European Paperbark trees, Flooded Gum and Jarrah trees

7.2.2. Considerable Significance

Generally, this includes elements from the period when the park was established under the guidance of John Braithwaite (1897 – 1936)

The Park as a whole landscape
 Mature trees and palms planted between 1897 and 1936
 Lakes, islands and causeway
 Lawns
 Path network

7.2.3. Some Significance

Generally, this includes elements from the period of continuity and maintenance under the guidance of Henry Braithwaite (1937 – 1959) when minor alterations made to the park based upon the original design concept.

Planting and garden beds to the south east corner of the park including the lineal plantings of Jacaranda trees
 Trees planted during between 1937 and 1959 including: Queensland Box Trees, Cape Lilacs, Orchid Tree, Nookta Cypress, Plum Pine and Strawberry Tree
 Replacement plantings of elements of considerable significance including: Aleppo Pines to Glendower Street, Red Flowering Gum,
 Memorial trees
 Unusual or rare trees planted in the park between 1959 and 1989 and which contribute to the amenity of the park and are sympathetic with the original landscape scheme including the Desert Ash, Chinese Hawthorn, Woman's Tongue Tree and the Fishtail Palm
 M.S.W. Vent
 Remnants of standard lights on East and West Islands

7.2.4. Little Significance

This category includes new buildings, plantings and facilities added to the park to revitalise the place and re-establish its popularity as a public park between 1960 – 1989 and to conserve and refurbish the park between 1990 – 2000.

Trees and palms planted between 1959 and 1989 including Bottlebrush, New Zealand Christmas Tree and Kentia Palm
 Shrubbery beds in Section 5, 7, 9, 10 (excepting earlier palms and trees associated with these shrubberies)
 Central path to causeway
 Water playground and other playgrounds

Works Area and East Toilets

Perimeter planting of Flame trees and Jacarandas

Gardens of native Australian plants established between 1990 and 2003

Trees and palms planted between 1990 and 2003 including Poinceana

Seating, barbecue area, lighting and signage

7.2.5. Intrusive

Modifications to the earlier landscape that detract from the significance of the place as a whole by removing or obscuring original fabric of exceptional, considerable or some significance. This category also includes standard elements that may be suitable for other landscapes but which modify the nature of this culturally significant landscape by undermining the low-key nature of the original design intent.

West Toilet Block

Brick paving

Entry statement garden beds

Stage

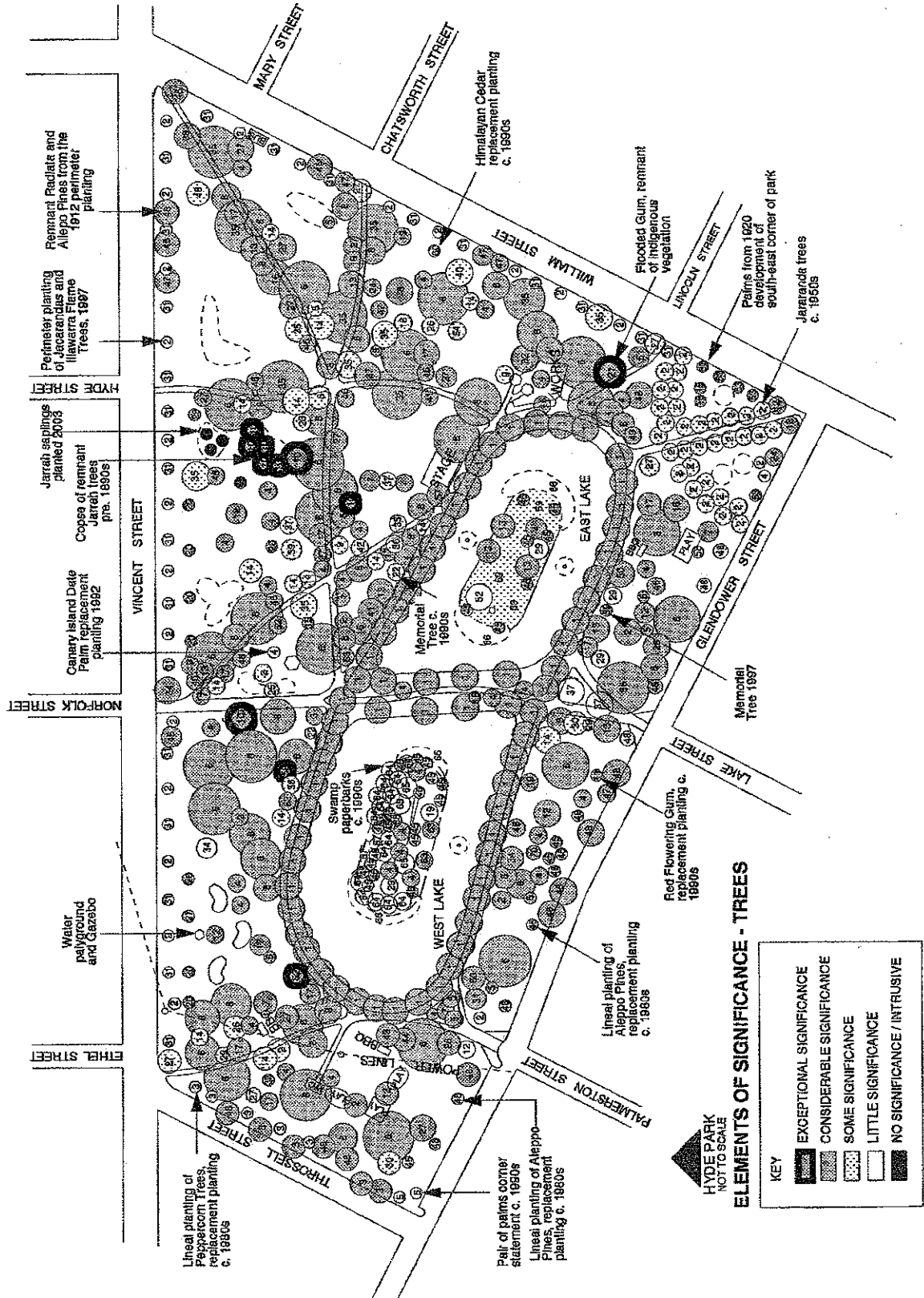
Limestone retaining walls to garden beds

High Voltage Power Lines

Concrete path to William Street boundary

Jarrah Trees planted in 2003

FIGURE 21
GRADED ELEMENTS OF SIGNIFICANCE – TREES AND PALMS
Kelsall Binet Architects



8. CONSERVATION POLICY

8.1. INTRODUCTION

The aim of this section is to establish clear policies based on the Statement of Significance and the evidence presented in the previous sections. In general, the policies address how to:

- i) retain or reveal significance of the place;
- ii) identify actions to control and plan for inevitable changes due to the natural lifecycle of a growing landscape;
- iii) identify feasible and compatible uses for the place;
- iv) meet statutory requirements; and,
- v) work within procurable resources.

Policies are numbered and highlighted using a bold italicised format. Where appropriate policies are discussed in supporting text.

8.1.1. Summary of Major Issues Considered

The Conservation Policy also identifies:

- conservation principles and processes arising out of the Burra Charter (8.2.2 & 8.2.3 & 8.2.4)
- opportunities and constraints arising from the statement of significance (8.2.5)
- policies arising from the graded zones and elements of significance (8.2.6)
- policies related to the physical setting (8.2.7)
- policies related to the nature of landscape (8.2.8)
- opportunities that arise for the implementation of an interpretation policy (8.2.9)
- policies arising from the physical condition of the place (8.3)
- constraints and opportunities arising from current heritage listings and registrations (8.4.1)
- constraints and opportunities arising from the various statutory requirements (8.4.2)
- constraints and opportunities arising from the requirements, resources and expectations of the owner (8.5.1)
- constraints and opportunities arising from the possible community attitudes and expectations regarding the place (8.5.2)
- policies arising from social, religious or other cultural constraints (8.5.3)
- policies that arise as a result of requirements for compatible use (8.5.5)
- recommended conservation works (8.7)
- timeframe for implementation of policies (8.8)

8.1.2. Key Policy Statements

- That any future conservation work, alterations or maintenance be carried out in accordance with the principles listed in the Australian ICOMOS Burra Charter 1999.
- That the Statements of Significance set out in Section 6.0 and the Graded Zones of Significance identified in Section 7.0 should be accepted as one of the bases for future planning and work.
- That the policies and options discussed in this plan be adopted as a guide to future planning and works.

8.2. POLICIES ARISING OUT OF THE CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE OF THE PLACE

8.2.1. The Burra Charter

The Burra Charter was adopted by Australia ICOMOS on 19 August 1979 at Burra, South Australia. Revisions were adopted on 23 February 1981, 23 April 1988 and 26 November 1999.

The Burra Charter provides guidance for the conservation and management of places of cultural significance and is based on the knowledge and experience of Australia ICOMOS members. Conservation is an integral part of the management of places of cultural significance and is an ongoing responsibility.

The Charter sets a standard of practice for those who provide advice, make decisions about, or undertake works to places of cultural significance, including owners, managers and custodians. State heritage organisations and local government authorities have incorporated the principles and logic of the Burra Charter into guidelines and other conservation planning documents.

The Charter can be applied to all types of places of cultural significance including natural, indigenous and historic places with cultural values.

8.2.2. The Burra Charter principles

There are places worth keeping because they enrich our lives, by helping us understand the past; by contributing to the richness of the present environment; and because we expect them to be of value to future generations.

The cultural significance of a place is embodied in its physical material (fabric), its setting and its contents; in its use; in the associated documents; and its meaning to people through their use and association with the place.

The cultural significance of a place, and other issues affecting its future, are best understood by a methodical process of collecting and analysing information before making decisions.

The safeguarding of existing records, and keeping accurate records about decisions and changes to the place, helps in its care, management and interpretation.

The Burra Charter and its guidelines should be used in determining the acceptability of adaptive uses and in the undertaking of all works that may have an impact on the cultural significance of the place.

Policy 1 *All works that may have an impact on the Cultural Significance of the place must be carried out with regard to the principles of the Australia ICOMOS Burra Charter 1999.*

Policy 2 *Conservation policy appropriate for Hyde Park must be determined by an understanding of the cultural significance of the place.*

The cultural significance of a place and other issues affecting its future are best understood by a sequence of collecting and analysing information before making decisions. Understanding cultural significance comes first, then development policy and finally management of the place in accordance with the policy.

The policy for managing a place must be based on an understanding of its cultural significance.

Policy development should also include consideration of other factors affecting the future of a place such as the owner's needs, resources, external constraints and its physical condition.¹

The preceding sections of this report establish the cultural heritage significance of *Hyde Park* and the zones and elements of which it is comprised and form a strong basis for this conservation policy.

8.2.3. Conservation Principles Arising out of the Burra Charter

Policy 3 *Given the acknowledged cultural heritage significance of Hyde Park, it should be conserved and provision made for its future security and maintenance.*

Places of cultural significance should be conserved.

The aim of conservation is to retain the cultural significance of the place.

Conservation is an integral part of good management of places of cultural significance.

Places of cultural significance should be safeguarded and not put at risk or left in a vulnerable state.²

The cultural significance of *Hyde Park* has been recognised by its inclusion on the Heritage Council of Western Australia's Register of Heritage Places as well as Municipal Inventory of the Town of Vincent.

Policy 4 *A cautious approach should be adopted during any future conservation work carried out at Hyde Park that respects significant fabric and changes only as much as is necessary but as little as possible and does not distort the evidence provided by the fabric.*

Conservation is based on respect for the existing significant fabric, use, associations and meanings. It requires a cautious approach of changing as much as necessary but as little as possible.

Change should not distort the physical or other evidence it provides, nor be based on conjecture.³

¹ ICOMOS *Burra Charter*, Articles 6 and 26

² ICOMOS *Burra Charter*, Article 2

³ *ibid.* Article 3.

The traces of earlier additions and alterations to the landscape of *Hyde Park* are important evidence of its history and uses and affect the significance of the place. Conservation work should assist in the understanding of important changes and a loss of this record would diminish the cultural significance of the place. For example there are a number of mature Aleppo Pines standing hard against the kerb of Glendower Street that were part of a perimeter planting of trees that originally stood approximately three metres (nine feet) in from the park boundary. These trees are important because they indicate how the alignment of that street was modified in 1914. Another example is the surviving indigenous trees in the park that indicate the type of flora that originally grew in the area.

Policy 5 *Future conservation of significant fabric at Hyde Park should be carried out under the direction of suitably qualified professionals and should make use of all the knowledge, skills and disciplines which can contribute to the study and care of the place.*

Conservation should make use of all the knowledge, skills and disciplines which can contribute to the study and care of the place.⁴

To bring the necessary skills and knowledge to a conservation project a team of suitably qualified professionals and people with specialised skills to work with both the living and built elements of the landscape may need to be assembled. To work with the living elements of the landscape specialists may be required with arboricultural and horticultural skills and a knowledge of late nineteenth and early twentieth century gardening practices and plant varieties. To work with the built elements of the landscape, such as the paths and stone retaining walls to the lakes, specialists may be required with knowledge of traditional craft practices, techniques and materials. To provide the best conservation advice for a particular project, the following consultants may need to be involved as required: structural engineers, archaeologists, historians, landscape architects, environmental scientists or geologists etc..

Policy 6 *Future conservation of significant fabric at Hyde Park should preferably use traditional techniques, materials and plant varieties.*

Traditional techniques and materials are preferred for the conservation of significant fabric⁵

In some cases modern techniques and materials may offer substantial benefits for the conservation of the place but they should only be used if scientific evidence or a large body of experience can prove this benefit. Generally, experience has shown that when dealing with built elements traditional techniques and materials produce the best results and that some modern materials and techniques can damage significant fabric. For example the use of cement rich renders and sealers on stonework and other masonry can increase the rate at which the material deteriorates and the use of sandblasting to remove paint can destroy the surface of the fabric causing irreparable damage. However, in some cases modern arboricultural techniques and treatments are more sound and effective than traditional practices. For example, there is some evidence that J.G. Braithwaite, the City Gardener between 1897 and 1936, used to heavily lop the Plane Trees around the lake to promote

⁴ *ibid.* Article 4

⁵ *ibid.* Article 4

dense re-growth for shade. This is a practice that would not be recommended today because it would create trees with structurally unsound canopies.

The use of traditional plant cultivars is important in the conservation of an historic landscape because some modern cultivars are quite different to those used in the late Nineteenth and early Twentieth centuries. Where possible replacement plantings of exotic plants should be propagated from seeds and cuttings collected within the park. Replacement plantings of indigenous species should also be propagated from seed collected from the remnant trees as there are sometimes subtle variations in the same species in different locations. Refer to Section 8.2.8 Policies Related to the Nature of the Landscape.

Policy 7 *Conservation of Hyde Park should take into consideration all aspects of its cultural heritage significance without unwarranted emphasis on any one aspect at the expense of others. However, due consideration should be given to the relative significance of the component parts to ensure that the significance of the place as a whole is maintained and enhanced.*

Conservation of a place should take into consideration all aspects of its cultural heritage significance without unwarranted emphasis on any one aspect at the expense of others.

Relative degrees of cultural significance may lead to different conservation actions at a place⁶.

The primary significance of the place derives from its use as a public park. For this reason the most significant elements of *Hyde Park* relate to the landscape scheme that was largely realised between 1897 and 1936. Subsequent changes to the park, that were carried out between 1937 and 1959, while not as important as the original scheme are still significant for their ability to illustrate the evolution of the design of public landscapes. For example, it would diminish the significance of the place if Jacarandas planted in the south east corner of the park were removed to allow the reinstatement of the earlier plantings from the 1920s.

Policy 8 *New uses for landscapes and buildings at Hyde Park should be compatible with their original use to minimise the amount of adaptive change required and maintain the significance of the place.*

All new uses must retain the nature of the landscape, require no adaptation that will adversely affect the significant fabric and should continue to allow public access.

Where the use of a place is of cultural significance it should be retained.

A place should have a compatible use⁷.

Compatible use: means a use which respects the cultural significance of a place. Such a use involves no or minimal, impact on cultural significance.⁸

The choice of a compatible new use for a place and the elements of which it is comprised is often essential to the survival of the cultural heritage significance of the place. Each change of use is accompanied by some degree of change to make it suitable for its new use. The

⁶ *ibid.* Article 5

⁷ *ibid.* Article 7.

⁸ *ibid.* Article 1.

degree of change depends upon how compatible the new use is to the landscape, building or place. Refer to Section 8.5.5 Compatible Use.

Policy 9 *The visual setting of Hyde Park should be appropriately conserved because it makes an important contribution to the cultural significance of the place.*

The conservation of a place requires the retention of an appropriate visual setting and other relationships that contribute to the cultural significance of the place.

New construction, demolition, intrusions or other changes, which would adversely affect the settings or relationships, are not appropriate.⁹

Setting: means the area around a place, which may include the visual catchment.¹⁰

Hyde Park is surrounded on all sides by roads. How the roads and the road verges are treated, as well as the elements placed within the road verges, will affect the visual presentation of the place. The surviving early twentieth century suburban residential development that surrounds *Hyde Park*, especially on the western side and the north western corner, also contributes to the significance of the place. The importance of the setting of *Hyde Park* is discussed in further detail in section 8.2.7 below.

Policy 10 *Relocation of any of the culturally significant elements in Hyde Park is generally unacceptable unless it is the sole means of ensuring its survival.*

The physical location of a place is part of its cultural significance. A building, work or other component of a place should remain in its historical location. Relocation is generally unacceptable unless this is the sole practical means of ensuring its survival.

Some buildings, works or other components of places were designed to be readily removable or already have a history of relocation. Provided such buildings, works or other components do not have significant links with their present location, removal may be appropriate.

If any buildings, works or other component is moved, it should be moved to an appropriate location and given an appropriate use. Such action should not be to the detriment of any place of cultural significance.¹¹

Some trees and palms can be successfully transplanted to other sites although as the plants get larger this process become more difficult and expensive. Relocating plants within *Hyde Park* should only be considered if the plant can not survive in its current location due to unavoidable causes, such as the over-shading of an adjacent tree, and if the plant has a good chance of surviving the transplanting process. Generally it would be preferable to leave the plant in place and plant a replacement in a nearby but more suitable location.

Policy 11 *Removal of the contents, fixtures, trees, shrubs or delicate plants, which contribute to the cultural significance of a place within Hyde Park, is generally unacceptable unless this is the sole practical means of ensuring their security and preservation.*

⁹ *ibid.* Article 8.

¹⁰ *ibid.* Article 1.

¹¹ *ibid.* Article 9.

Contents, fixtures and objects which contribute to the cultural significance of a place should be retained at that place. Their removal is unacceptable unless it is the sole means of ensuring their security and preservation. Such contents, fixtures and objects should be returned where circumstances permit and it is culturally appropriate.¹²

It is preferable that all significant plants should be retained in their original locations but if they need to be relocated for safekeeping they should be stored in a suitable place, tagged to indicate their original location and returned if circumstances permit in the future. There are no significant structures or built elements in *Hyde Park* that could be removed and stored to ensure their safe keeping.

Policy 12 *Where possible, conservation, interpretation and management of Hyde Park should provide for the participation of people for whom the place has special associations and meanings.*

Conservation, interpretation and management of a place should provide for the participation of people for whom the place has special associations and meanings, or who have social, spiritual or other cultural responsibilities for the place.¹³

Hyde Park is an important and popular community asset for passive recreation, community events and celebrations. People for whom the place has special associations and meanings would include users of the park from all over the state, local residents, community groups that have used the place for special events and celebrations and aboriginal peoples whose relations and ancestors camped around the swamp.

8.2.4. Conservation Processes Arising out of the Burra Charter

Conservation may, according to circumstance, include the processes of: retention or reintroduction of a use; retention of associations and meanings; maintenance, preservation, restoration, reconstruction, adaptation and interpretation; and will commonly include a combination of more than one of these.¹⁴

Definitions for all these processes are set out in Article 1 of the Burra Charter and have been reproduced in Section 1, the introduction to this report.

Policy 13 *Changes that reduce cultural significance should be avoided but if they are unavoidable, they should be reversible, and be reversed when circumstances permit.*

Change may be necessary to retain cultural significance, but undesirable where it reduces cultural significance. The amount of change to a place should be guided by the cultural significance the place and its appropriate interpretation.

Changes, which reduce cultural significance, should be reversible, and be reversed when circumstances permit.

Demolition of significant fabric of a place is generally not acceptable. However, in some cases minor demolition may be appropriate as part of conservation. Removed significant fabric should be reinstated when circumstances permit.

¹² *ibid.* Article 10.

¹³ *ibid.* Article 12.

¹⁴ *ibid.* Article 14.

The contributions of all aspects of cultural significance of a place should be respected. If a place includes fabric, uses, associations or meanings of different periods, or different aspects of cultural significance, emphasising or interpreting one period or aspect at the expense of another can only be justified when what is left out, removed or diminished is of slight cultural significance and that which is emphasised or interpreted is of much greater cultural significance.¹⁵

By its nature as a designed composition of living, changing things, there is always a degree of change occurring in a landscape. Changes that would affect the cultural significance of the place are those that would alter the actual structure or composition of the landscape such as altering the path layout, modifying the proportion of open grassed areas to shaded areas, simplifying the diversity of the plantings or altering key elements such as the lakes or islands. *Hyde Park* is now a parkland of substantial, mature trees and the removal of numbers of these trees would greatly affect the composition of the landscape and would take decades to regenerate – this kind of change should be carefully avoided.

Where small changes can not be avoided they should also be reversible so that if at a later date the change is no longer needed, it can be removed without damaging the surrounding significant fabric. If the removal or demolition of significant fabric is unavoidable it should be adequately recorded before any changes are made. Re-useable elements should be safely stored for later reinstatement.

Policy 14 *A regular maintenance programme should be implemented to protect important plants, buildings and landscape elements to retain the cultural significance of Hyde Park.*

Maintenance is fundamental to conservation and should be undertaken where fabric is of cultural significance and its maintenance is necessary to retain that cultural significance.¹⁶

Maintenance: means the continuous protective repair of the fabric, contents and setting of the place and is to be distinguished from repair. Repair involves restoration and reconstruction and should be treated accordingly.¹⁷

A lack of maintenance can lead to the loss of significant fabric. Maintenance practices need to be based on good conservation practice and should be supervised by suitably qualified professionals as inappropriate maintenance or repairs can lead to the gradual erosion of the significance of a place. Refer to 8.3 Policies Arising from the Physical Condition of the Place.

Policy 15 *Where necessary significant fabric should be preserved to retain the cultural significance of the place.*

Preservation is appropriate where the existing fabric or its condition constitutes evidence of cultural significance, or where insufficient evidence is available to allow other conservation processes to be carried out.¹⁸

Preservation: means maintaining the fabric of a place in its existing state and retarding deterioration.¹⁹

¹⁵ *ibid.* Article 15.

¹⁶ *ibid.* Article 16.

¹⁷ *ibid.* Article 1.

¹⁸ *ibid.* Article 17.

An example where preservation would be appropriate would be to protect and stabilise the remnants of the dead Paperbark Tree that supports the old Bougainvillea creeper in Section 2 of the park. This dead tree is a remnant of the indigenous landscape and also an example of the late nineteenth century gardening practice of planting creepers on old stumps for picturesque effect.

Another example where important fabric should be preserved to retain the significance of a place is where old trees that are deteriorating should be managed to prolong their life. In particular surviving indigenous trees such as the Flooded Gum in Section 11 and the Paperbark Trees *Melaleuca preissiana* in Section 4.

Policy 16 *Restoration and reconstruction should be carried out to reveal culturally significant aspects of the place but only if there is sufficient evidence of an earlier state of the fabric.*

Restoration and reconstruction should reveal culturally significant aspects of the place.²⁰

Restoration is appropriate only if there is sufficient evidence of an earlier state of the fabric.²¹

Restoration: means returning the EXISTING fabric of a place to a known earlier state by removing accretions or by reassembling existing components without the introduction of new material.²²

Reconstruction is appropriate only where a place is incomplete through damage or alteration, and only where there is sufficient evidence to reproduce an earlier state of the fabric. In rare cases, reconstruction may also be appropriate as part of a use or practice that retains the cultural significance of the place.

Reconstruction should be identifiable on close inspection or through additional interpretation.²³

Reconstruction: means returning a place as nearly as possible to a known earlier state and is distinguished by the introduction of new materials (new or old) into the fabric. This is not to be confused with either recreation or conjectural reconstruction.²⁴

A good example of an opportunity for restoration would be to re-plant the perimeter of Pines to the park. These trees are shown in a number of aerial photographs dating from the 1940s onwards. Another example would be to reconstruct the planting on the West Island based on oral and photographic evidence. The reconstruction of the circa 1914 Gazebo/ Bandstand should only be undertaken if sufficient documentary evidence is uncovered, evidence that clearly indicates its form, size and the materials used in its construction.

Policy 17 *Adaptation of significant fabric must be limited to essential changes and should be undertaken only when it has minimal impact on the cultural significance of the place.*

¹⁹ *ibid.* Article 1.

²⁰ *ibid.* Article 18.

²¹ *ibid.* Article 19.

²² *ibid.* Article 1.

²³ *ibid.* Article 20.

²⁴ *ibid.* Article 1.

Adaptation must be limited to that which is essential to a use for the place determined in accordance with Articles 6 and 7 of the Burra Charter.

Adaptation is acceptable only where the adaptation has minimal impact on the cultural significance of the place.

Adaptation should involve minimal change to significant fabric, achieved only after considering alternatives.²⁵

Due to changing requirements for modern public parks, some adaptation of significant fabric may be necessary even when there is no change of use. For example the upgrading of lighting and security within the park and the provision of access points and facilities for disabled people to enjoy the place.

Special care needs to be taken when installing new services as this work can often destroy significant fabric and be visually intrusive. This is particularly the case with placing underground services within a mature landscape as cutting through tree roots can severely damage or kill significant trees. Suspended wires can also require the regular pruning of trees and will change the density of the tree canopy.

Policy 18 New work, such as the construction of new buildings or structures within the park, may be acceptable where they do not distort or obscure the cultural significance of the place, or detract from its interpretation and appreciation. New work should be readily identifiable.

New work such as additions to the place may be acceptable where it does not distort or obscure the cultural significance of the place, or detract from its interpretation and appreciation.

New work should be readily identifiable as such.²⁶

New buildings or structures should be sympathetic to the significant landscape elements on site by utilising appropriate siting, form, scale, colour and material. However, imitation of historic building styles should be avoided as it distorts the significance of the place by confusing what is original significant fabric and what is new work.

The original landscaping of *Hyde Park* was carefully designed and the location of buildings within the landscaped spaces is of particular importance. The location of new buildings or extensions to existing buildings should be carefully considered to avoid diminishing the significance of the place by obscuring the original design intentions and the open parkland nature of the site. Refer to 8.2.8 Policies Related to the Nature of the Landscape.

The existing state of the place should be adequately recorded prior to any changes being carried made.

²⁵ *ibid.* Article 21.

²⁶ *ibid.* Article 22.

Policy 19 *Any changes to significant fabric at Hyde Park should be managed to retain the cultural significance of the place.*

The impact of proposed changes on the significance of a place should be analysed with reference to the statement of significance and the policy for managing the place. It may be necessary to modify proposed changes following analysis to better retain cultural significance.

Existing fabric, use, associations and meanings should be adequately recorded before any changes are made to the place.²⁷

Policy 20 *Disturbance of significant fabric for study, or to obtain evidence should be minimised. Such investigation should be based on important research questions, which can not be answered in other ways.*

Disturbance of significant fabric for study, or to obtain evidence should be minimised. Study of a place by any disturbance of the fabric, including archaeological excavation, should only be undertaken to provide data essential for decisions on the conservation of the place, or to obtain important evidence about to be lost or made inaccessible.

Investigation of a place, which requires disturbance of the fabric, apart from that necessary to make decisions, may be appropriate provided that it is consistent with the policy for the place. Such investigation should be based on important research questions, which have potential to substantially add to knowledge, which can not be answered in other ways and which minimises disturbance of significant fabric.²⁸

In some cases it may be necessary to disturb significant fabric, for example, to carry out structural investigations to assist conservation works. These investigative works should be carried out in unobtrusive locations and in a manner that minimises the amount of disturbance. For example, archaeological digging to locate the sites of earlier removed structures, such as the 1915 Gazebo or the 1900 Fountain, should be carefully considered as this work could damage the root systems of surrounding trees.

Policy 21 *As the local government authority responsible for Hyde Park, the Town of Vincent should play the primary role in its conservation and management.*

The organisations and individuals responsible for management decisions should be named and specific responsibilities taken for each such decision.²⁹

Refer to Section 10: Policy Implementation for a discussion of this issue.

Policy 22 *Any changes to significant fabric at Hyde Park should be directed, supervised and implemented by people with appropriate knowledge and skills.*

Competent direction and supervision should be maintained at all stages, and any changes should be implemented by people with appropriate knowledge and skills.³⁰

²⁷ *ibid.* Article 27.

²⁸ *ibid.* Article 26.

²⁹ *ibid.* Article 29.

³⁰ *ibid.* Article 30.

Currently *Hyde Park* is managed by a qualified Horticulturist and the advice of an Arboriculturist is sought as necessary. To ensure the appropriate conservation and management of the place, this practice should be continued. Refer to 8.3 Policies Arising from the Physical Condition of the Place.

Policy 23 *When conservation works are carried out in the future a record of the work, the decisions underlying the project and the evidence upon which they were based should be collected as a record and to assist with future decisions and works.*

A log of new evidence and additional decisions should be kept.³¹

Policy 24 *Records about the history of Hyde Park, including recent records associated with the conservation of the place, should be protected and made publicly available, subject to requirements of security and privacy, and where this is culturally appropriate.*

The records associated with the conservation of a place should be placed in a permanent archive and made publicly available, subject to requirements of security and privacy, and where this is culturally appropriate.

Records about the history of a place should be protected and made publicly available, subject to requirements of security and privacy, and where this is culturally appropriate.³²

Most of the historic records of the Town of Vincent are in the possession of the City of Perth. As information about the park is retrieved from the City of Perth Archives, it should be collected into one location and stored in a manner that will prevent their deterioration. These records should be available for public access. Records of new buildings, adaptive works to the landscape and the plants within it and other changes that have occurred at the place since the creation of the Town of Vincent should also be collected and stored safely for future reference. These records should be available for public access, subject to requirements of security and privacy.

8.2.5. Opportunities Arising from the Statement of Significance

Refer to Section 7 Statement of Cultural Heritage Significance. Based on the statement of significance, the following opportunities exist:

- develop a landscape plan to guide the maintenance and enhancement of significant fabric and to protect significant fabric from further decay or loss and to guide the removal of intrusive elements;
- prepare a management plan for all significant mature trees and palms on site and carry out recommended work including the replacement of senescent but significant plants;
- develop a memorandum of understanding with the Heritage Council of Western Australia to guide future minor adaptations to the place; and,
- develop and implement an interpretation plan.

³¹ *ibid.* Article 31.

³² *ibid.* Article 32.

Policy 25 *The opportunity exists for the reinstatement of significant missing elements, where clear evidence exists to enable this to be accurately undertaken and provided that there are relevant skills available to implement such proposals.*

If in the future an opportunity for the reinstatement of a significant element presents itself, such as if an intrusive element or one of little significance needs to be replaced or removed, it should be undertaken. If it is not undertaken at that time, new works should not be carried out that prevent the significant element being reinstated in the future.

Significant elements that could be reinstated if the opportunity to do so arises include:

- the reconstruction of the West Island;
- the reinstatement or interpretation of the earlier landscaping scheme to the West Island;
- the reinstatement of Aleppo pines to the perimeter of the park; and
- the reinstatement of bitumen paths to areas that have been brick paved.

Policy 26 *The opportunity exists for the removal of intrusive elements to reveal significant fabric*

These opportunities include:

- removal of self-seeded trees and plants which may be taking over or damaging significant parts of the landscape, e.g. considerably thin out the Spanish Reed or Bamboo on the East Island;
- removal and reorganisation of the 1960s shrubberies to open up the earlier vistas within the park;
- removal of limestone retaining walls to garden beds;
- removal of the existing stage area and permanent pipe rail frame and replacement with a more unobtrusive, low-key element or a temporary structure

Policy 27 *The opportunity exists to investigate and reinstate previous landscape finishes.*

These opportunities include:

- using documentary evidence to reconstruct a list of herbaceous plants, roses and annuals that were used in *Hyde Park*.

8.2.6. Policies arising from the Graded Zones, Sections and Elements of Significance.

Refer to Section 7 Graded Zones, Sections and Elements of Significance, which grades all the items that make up the place. Refer also to the associated figures, which graphically indicate the zones, sections and elements of significance.

Zones and elements of exceptional and considerable significance

Policy 28 *The significant fabric of spaces or elements of exceptional and considerable significance should be preserved, restored or reconstructed as appropriate. Reconstruction is desirable provided sufficient detailed information is available. Adaptation is acceptable to the extent of installing reversible small fixtures, services and elements, provided this does not affect any fabric that is of exceptional or considerable significance. No significant fabric should be removed or action taken to confuse the sense of the landscape. Structural adaptation is generally unacceptable. However, minor structural adaptation may be considered if it is in keeping with the overall aims of the conservation policy and has minimal impact on the significant fabric. Any alterations to the building fabric should be documented.*

Landscape elements should not be removed without due consideration of their heritage values. Where removal of significant trees is necessary due to their condition, replacement plantings of the same species should be made.

There should be no new works in open space areas which will adversely affect the nature of the landscape or obscure important views to and from the site.

Plantings of exceptional and considerable significance should be suitably monitored and the appropriate arboricultural and other works carried out as required to restore and preserve them, and to ensure that they reach their optimum longevity. A register of all mature plantings should be compiled. This register should record the name, cultivar, place of origin, age and location in the park plus any special care or protection that it may require.³⁰ It should also record all arboricultural works undertaken and their progress, and schedule an inspection regime.

Intrusive elements and elements that are detrimental to plantings of considerable significance should be removed (unless they are themselves of considerable significance) and new built and horticultural elements that are detrimental to significant plantings should not be planted or constructed. For example, new paving under the drip line of significant trees should not be considered.

It should be noted that no elements of exceptional or considerable significance pose a threat to existing structures within the park. Plantings of exceptional significance should not be removed or extensively pruned without consideration of heritage values. Pruning should only be carried out for reasons of public safety or to benefit the health of the plant and on the advice of an arboriculturist. Where removal of a significant plant is necessary due to its condition, a replacement planting of the same species should be made in the same location.

³⁰

For example if a particular plant is susceptible to certain types of weed killer.

New services or the construction of new structures should not adversely affect the significant fabric of the park. Work that requires digging or any other disturbance of the root zone of significant plantings, or that will affect the distribution of water to these plants should not be undertaken. Significant plants must be protected from any building material, which may be hazardous to their health such as cement, paint, acid, noxious fluids and building materials.

The location of paths, street boundaries and entrances of considerable significance should not be altered or relocated. There should be no new paths made within the park.

Zones of some significance

Policy 29 Elements of some significance should be preserved, restored or reconstructed as appropriate. Adaptation is acceptable to the extent of installing fixtures, services and small reversible elements provided this does not affect the significant appearance of the landscape. Discreet structural changes can be made. Any alterations to the fabric should be documented.

Landscape elements should not be removed without due consideration of their heritage values. Where removal of significant trees is necessary due to their condition, appropriate replacement plantings should be made.

There should be no new works in open space areas which will adversely affect the nature of the landscape or obscure important views to and from the site.

Generally the recommendations made for zones of considerable significance apply to the zones of some significance.

If there is no other option available but to remove a plant of some significance, for reasons other than its condition, it should be relocated to another more suitable location in the park following the advice of an arboriculturist and a consultant with experience with heritage gardens. Preferably the new location should be nearby or associated with an earlier planting of the same species.

Zones of little or no significance

Policy 30 The fabric of spaces or elements of little significance can be removed depending on the future use requirements. Before removal/ demolition ensure that a comprehensive photographic, drawn and written record is completed.

Some mature trees from the 1960s have been graded as having little significance but they should only be removed if there is no alternative as they are not intrusive and contribute to the amenity of the park.

Care should be taken to ensure that any works to areas or elements of little significance do not detract from more significant adjoining areas or elements.

Intrusive zones

Policy 31 *Intrusive spaces or elements have been identified as detracting from the significance of the place and their removal, and/or replacement with more appropriate detailing, should be encouraged. Their removal needs to be assessed against other considerations, such as function and economics, before implementation. Before removal/ demolition ensure that comprehensive photographic and graphic recording is completed.*

8.2.7. Policies Related to the Physical Setting

Impact of the Setting and Surrounding Development

The conservation of a place requires the retention of an appropriate visual setting and other relationships that contribute to the cultural significance of the place. Refer to Article 8, Burra Charter.

Policy 32 *No work should be carried out, or elements added to, the verges of Hyde Park that would diminish the cultural significance of the place.*

Hyde Park is surrounded on all sides by roads. Control needs to be exerted over any developments of the road verges lining the park including footpaths, street tree planting, bus stops, telephone kiosks, street furniture, signage and street lighting to limit the profusion of clutter that distracts from the aesthetic significance and visual presentation of the place. Any modification to the road verges of *Hyde Park* or the significant trees within them need to be referred to the Heritage Council for their advice.

Recently, a concrete path has been built along the William Street edge of *Hyde Park*. This path replaces an earlier concrete slab path that was set in from the kerb. Concrete paths have not traditionally been used in *Hyde Park* and should be avoided where possible. Further the borders of *Hyde Park* have been soft edged with any perimeter path set in from the kerb. It would be preferable if this configuration could be maintained and if a new path is required that earlier paths could be reinstated.

Policy 33 *Development surrounding Hyde Park should be subject to controls to ensure that the significance of the place is not diminished.*

The surviving early twentieth century suburban residential development that surrounds *Hyde Park*, especially on Throssell Street and most of Vincent Streets, also contributes to the significance of the place. In many places these early houses can be glimpsed through the trees much in the way they were in the early Twentieth Century photographs. For this reason some control beyond the site itself is required to conserve the streetscape setting and the context of *Hyde Park*.

Policy 34 *The narrow vistas through the mature trees and into Hyde Park from Vincent, William, Glendower and Throssell Streets, as well as those from the side streets that terminate at the park, should be not be interrupted nor should they be allowed to become too open.*

Planting has traditionally controlled the views into and out of the park and a good balance needs to be struck between maintaining and controlling these vistas and maintaining the secluded feeling within the park.

8.2.8. Policies Related to the Nature of the Landscape

General Landscape Issues

Hyde Park is a large mature urban park with two lakes located in a grassed parkland of exotic trees and palms that dates largely from the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries and shows the influence of the Gardenesque style. The lakes are set roughly in the centre of the park in a natural basin and they form the major visual focus within *Hyde Park*. Each lake has an island planted with exotic trees and palms. The islands are a visual focal point within the lake and a nesting site for the water birds. There is a lineal planting of Plane Trees *Plantus x hispanica* around the lakes which provides a homogenous backdrop to the lakes and their islands and shade the path surrounding the lakes. In the winter these trees lose their leaves allowing sun and light into the centre of the park and opening up views across the park.

Apart from the lakes, the other dominant feature of *Hyde Park* is the diverse collection of mature exotic trees and palms. Most of the trees in *Hyde Park* have been planted in an informal manner, with umbrageous trees lining the network of paths and the more sculptural trees and palms planted in loose groupings in the centre of the lawns. Generally umbrageous trees have been chosen to line the paths and the more sculptural trees and palms have been planted in the centre of the lawns between. The exceptions to this are the plane trees surrounding the lakes, the Jacarandas in the south-east corner of the park and the recent perimeter planting of Jacaranda and Flame trees. The trees and palms appear to have been planted in a manner that highlights the contrasting nature of their form, habit, foliage colour and type.

The network of shaded paths is another significant feature of the park. The canopies of the mature trees join above the paths and the massive tree trunks of the figs and the camphor laurels give the paths an enclosed and intimate feel.

Policy 35 *The landscape of Hyde Park and the changing nature of the plantings over time must be managed as a whole to preserve the design concepts which contribute to the cultural significance of the place. These design concepts would include the influence of the Gardenesque style, the lakes and islands as a visual focus for the park, the informal planting of trees lining paths and as a focal point with the lawns, the diversity of exotic plant species, the shady tree-lined paths, the early avenue plantings of Plane Trees surrounding the lakes and the Pines to perimeter of park, the soft edged nature of the landscape and the informal, low-key nature of the park furniture and hard landscaping.*

Unlike built elements, man-made landscapes are constantly changing due to the nature of the growth patterns of the plants species of which they are composed. Attention needs to be paid to not only preserving and conserving individual elements but to the nature of the garden in its entirety. Conservation of landscape elements of cultural heritage significance must address the reality that plant material matures and decays over time, necessitating maintenance, removal and replacement. It is also inevitable that ongoing and changing uses of the areas within *Hyde Park* will lead to changes to parts of the landscape, sometimes as a result of changing functional requirements, and often because of the desire of occupants and users of the place to express their personal taste. Generally, the conservation of the landscape should be aimed at ensuring that the essential landscape qualities that contribute to the cultural heritage significance of the place are conserved, while allowing enough flexibility to accommodate change where this is inevitable and desirable.

Plant Selections for New Plantings

Policy 36 *New plantings should aim to reinstate known former plantings where these have been removed or where existing plant material is senescent and requires rehabilitation or replacement. New plantings should generally conform to previous plantings patterns and be of the same or similar species where this information is known.*

There are examples in *Hyde Park* where this recommended practices has already been carried out, for example, the recently planted Red Flowering Gum in Section 1 and the Himalayan Cedar in Section 11. It should be noted that it is not always possible or good horticultural practice to reinstate a planting in the exact location of the earlier plant as the canopies of the surviving trees may now shade the location and prevent good development of the tree's structure. Where possible the new location for the replacement tree should be as near to the original planting while being suitable for the good growth of the new plant and also considering the need to preserve the characteristics of the original design concepts.

However, it may not always be considered functionally appropriate to replace a senescent tree or plant with the same species. In some cases the replacement of certain plants may not be advisable as they have been found to grow poorly in the park, they have ongoing structural problems or they have a limited lifespan. For example it would not be advisable to replant Monterey Pines as they have a lifespan of only 100 years. Also as most of the Coral Trees have been removed due to limb shedding they may not be suitable for replacement. On the other hand, a tree such as the Bunya Pine, that is such a important sculptural element within the park but has a problem with dropping heavy cones, should not be removed but an alternative solution found. For example, planting could be established around the base of the tree to prevent people from being under its canopy.

An example of finding a suitable plant to replace an early planting that can not be replaced due to the changing nature of the growing landscape is the use of Ivy as an alternative to grass. An important feature of the original design of *Hyde Park* was the sweeping grass lawn that covered the park but as these trees have matured there are many places where grass will no longer grow due to the lack of sunlight. Recently shade tolerant ground covers such as Ivy have been planted under trees as an alternative to grass. This practice is appropriate,

as a shade tolerant ground cover is a low growing, single species cover like grass and it is a soft edged, low-key solution to the problem. The establishment of garden beds of shrubs under the trees would be an overly complex solution that would detract from the uncluttered, parkland nature of *Hyde Park*.

Recently a Port Jackson Fig was removed from the park after it failed to recover from an infestation of Fig Psyllid. If in future it becomes apparent that new Port Jackson Figs can not be planted to replace removed trees, they should be replaced with a similar plants such as another *Ficus sp.* of similar size. If all figs are susceptible to the pest, replacement plantings should be an appropriate large, shady, evergreen tree with dark foliage. If large numbers of mature Port Jackson Fig are affected by this problem and require removal finding an appropriate replacement tree will be essential to maintain the quality of the landscape and the significance of the place.

Policy 37 Where possible, replacement plantings of senescent important plants should be carried out in preparation for their future removal.

Planning ahead and planting replacement trees prior to the removal of senescent specimens is a good practice as in the meantime the replacement tree can become well established and the change to the landscape will not be as sudden and obvious. Some replacement plantings have already been made in the park including a number of Aleppo Pines *Pinus halepensis* on Glendower Street. Replacement plantings of the indigenous Paperbark Trees should also be carried out. For the purpose of genetic continuity, where possible, replacement plantings should be grown from seeds or cuttings taken from the plants to be replaced.

A programme for the replacement of senescent but significant trees should be incorporated in the arboricultural management plan and carried out. Where possible, a replacement tree should be planted beside the original so that it can reach a reasonable size before the original tree dies.

Policy 38 A list of plant species suitable for use in the gardens should be selected by historical appropriateness and with the advice of an appropriate professional consultant with horticulture and/ or arboricultural and heritage experience.

Where appropriate, plant species may be selected for their interpretative value or to be consistent with a particular era. Attention should be given to the selection of appropriate cultivars as well as species. New varieties of popular horticultural plants are continuously being introduced to the commercial market and displace earlier varieties. Recent introductions will generally be the material most readily available and care should be exercised in obtaining plants that are appropriate from a cultural heritage viewpoint rather than being those that are currently fashionable.

Documentary evidence such as plans, photographs and written records should be consulted to establish a list of suitable plants, to locate earlier plantings, to determine the way plants were arranged and how different species were grouped together.

Policy 39 *New plantings should reflect the traditional bias of earlier plantings at Hyde Park towards exotic plants and also towards the diversification of plant material within the range historically available.*

The documentary and physical evidence suggests that during the period from 1897 to 1936, when the basis of the landscape of *Hyde Park* was planned and planted, the policy of selecting a diverse range of exotic plants was established. Apart from the avenue planting of Planes and Pines, photographs of the park show that large numbers of any particular species were not grouped together but rather arranged throughout the landscape to create visual contrast and interest.

The documentary evidence would also suggest that while substantial indigenous trees were retained on site they were not replaced when they died nor were they deliberately planted within the park. There are a number of references in the documentary evidence to the regular removal of indigenous scrub, reeds and rushes that would become re-established in the less developed parts of the park. Also while some residents suggested sowing wildflowers in the park this was never taken up by either of the Braithwaites. For this reason the use of indigenous species in the park is generally not recommended. The exception to this is for replacement plantings of senescent specimens of surviving indigenous trees or for the purposes of interpretation. Refer to Interpretation 8.2.7

Policy 40 *Apart from the areas in the immediate vicinity of the lakes, new plantings should reflect the traditional bias at the park towards the use of drought-tolerant exotic plants within the range historically available.*

Due to the early difficulties with obtaining a regular water supply at *Hyde Park* the early plantings were mainly hardy plants indigenous to Mediterranean countries, the Middle East, South America and Eastern Australia. Planes, Poplars, Oaks and Elms, species that required more water, were planted around the Lakes.

The Lakes and Water Quality

The documentary evidence states that originally the lakes at Third Swamp contained water all year making it a popular camping and meeting place for Aboriginal groups. However, once the development of the surrounding area began it changed the natural water catchment and discharge patterns requiring at different times for the lakes to be drained and filled. Mains water was used to fill the lakes for the first time in 1912 and in the 1930s the first problems with the uncontrolled growth of algae was recorded. Since that time there have been ongoing problems with water quality which has at time led to outbreaks of botulism amongst the water birds leading to large numbers of deaths. There have also been problems with the lakes silting up with soil and leaf litter and they have been dredged several times. Following the preparation of the *Hyde Park Lakes Water Quality Report* in 1991, the Town of Vincent has put in place a number of measures to alleviate these problems. These measures have included the installation of fountains to aerate the water and a filter on one of the storm-water drains to prevent debris washing into the lakes. Reeds, sedge and Swamp Paperbark trees have also been planted on the islands to help strain the water.

It has been suggested that by allowing the lakes to dry out in the summer months that the excessive nutrients in the lake bed could be taken up by plants. However, the lakes are an important part of the original scheme to develop the park and have considerable cultural heritage significance for their historic, social and aesthetic value. Also letting the lakes dry out would be unpalatable to the majority of the users of the park as the lakes are a special and valued element in the park especially during the hot summer months. For these reasons the water level of the lakes at *Hyde Park* should be maintained and other solutions sought to control the quality of the water.

Following the recent dredging of the West Lake, parts of the island have collapsed into the lake leading to the inundation and death of certain trees and shrubs and the reduction in the depth of the lake. The islands in the lakes are an important design element of the original scheme for the park and a visual focus within the lakes. In the past the West Island was a particular horticultural feature. The islands should be conserved and consideration given to the reinstatement or interpretation of original planting schemes.

Policy 41 The permanently full lakes and islands are an important design feature and focal point in Hyde Park and should be conserved and maintained.

Paving and Paths

Generally *Hyde Park* is a landscape with soft edges. Traditionally there were no hard edges to garden beds or raised kerbs to paths, the limestone walls to garden beds and the concrete kerbs to paths are more recent additions. The existing layout and construction of the path network is of considerable significance as it has remained largely unaltered since the park was developed between 1897 and 1936. The paths in *Hyde Park* were originally gravel but as early as 1913 there were discussions about surfacing them with bitumen (macadam) to make them more durable. The exact date when this work was begun is difficult to ascertain. From 1920 onwards all paths were kerbed with jarrah boards to prevent the edges breaking away. Later in the 1960s low concrete kerbs were added to some paths and a number of paths were removed. In the 1990s brick paving was laid at a number of entry points into the park to create 'entry statements'.

Policy 42 There should be no major changes to the layout and form of the bitumen path system and timber boardwalks and substantial concrete kerbs should not be used.

New brick, concrete block or concrete paving should be avoided, as it is not appropriate to the context or heritage value of the place. Generally new kerbs to paths should also be avoided but if a kerb is essential a jarrah edge strip or a low, narrow, unobtrusive concrete kerb such as those installed in the 1960s could be used.

In the northern section of the park there are a number of places where the buttressing roots of mature Fig species have lifted paths. Because some of these paths were repaired only three years ago it has been suggested that a system of timber boardwalks would be a more permanent solution to the problem.

However, any timber boardwalk used to bridge over tree roots will be a substantial structure. The underside of the flat section that bridges over the tree roots will need to be at least 200mm off the ground to protect the timber from contact with the ground and to allow for the space beneath to be kept clean of rubbish and debris. If the structure is approximately 300mm deep the top of the boardwalk will be 500mm above ground level. To make the structure accessible to disabled people the ramps on either side of this flat section will need to be at an incline no greater than 1:14 making them each seven metres long. Therefore a boardwalk required to bridge one tree root would need to be approximately 15 metres long. This boardwalk will also require handrails as well as timber kerbs to the edge of the deck. This type of structure would dominate its immediate surrounds, markedly change the open nature of the park and its shady tree lined walks and will reduce the cultural heritage significance of *Hyde Park*. A Boardwalk would be an alien and intrusive element in *Hyde Park*, a park with a tradition of few built elements and simple, unobtrusive hard landscape elements and park furniture. Timber boardwalks should only be constructed if it is necessary to ensure the survival of a significant tree not as a solution for tree roots lifting bitumen paths.

Where tree roots have lifted a path it would be preferable to build the bitumen path up beside the tree root so that a gentle ramp is formed up and over the root. It may be useful to consult an arboriculturist prior to the commencement of work as in some tree species selected surface roots can be cut back making the repair of the path easier. However, it is important that no tree roots are cut back before arboricultural advice has been sought, as damage to significant trees will reduce the cultural significance of the place.

Policy 43 Reinststate earlier surface finishes and edge treatments to paths and where suitable, reinststate earlier paths that were removed during the 1960s.

If the opportunity or the need arises, the paths that were removed in the 1960s should be reinstated including the perimeter path and the diagonal paths in sections 1, 2 and 4. Also if the circumstance occurs where the brick paved entry statements or seating areas need to be upgraded or replaced, they should be replaced with bitumen paving.

Policy 44 The proportion of hard to soft landscaping is not to be increased beyond current levels. No new paths or paved areas without historical precedent are to be established.

Areas of hard landscaping over the root zone of trees can be detrimental to the health of a tree as the paving forms an impenetrable hard surface over a compacted soil layer. With the exception of reinstating paths that have been removed from the park, limit the proliferation of new paths or paved areas. If a new minor path is required in a certain area, give preference to the use of soft alternatives such as sawdust. Prior to the installation of any new surface under the existing play equipment it should be determined if the new surface allows water penetration and how it might affect the health of adjacent trees.

Generally the only vehicles allowed to access to the park are staff vehicles and equipment. This practice should be continued. To limit the time vehicles are driving in the park and to control the compaction of soil around tree roots a direct route from the street grid to the Works Depot would be preferable. However, it would be more suitable to use an existing path, such as the one at the corner of Glendower and William Streets rather than construct a new path. In the past vehicles used this path as the main entry into the park, gates on the corner prevented the public driving into the park. (Refer to Policy 63 for further discussion).

Buildings and Structures

Over the history of *Hyde Park* only a few buildings have been constructed within the park, a gazebo bandstand, public toilets, a shade structure, a gardener's store / tool shed and more recently the stage and the little gazebos in Section 4 and 5. These buildings were all either utilitarian structures or for passive recreation. It should be noted that when the Returned Soldiers League applied in 1920 to erect a Memorial Hall in the south-western corner of *Hyde Park* they were refused permission. At this time it was pointed out that the Crown Grant of *Hyde Park* vested the reserve in the Perth City Council in trust for recreational purposes only and no portion of the park should be used for building purposes. For this reason it will not be possible for a building to be erected in the park for a café, sporting club or any other private business.

Policy 45 Where essential new structures or buildings need to be constructed in the park they should be limited in size and scale and when possible they should be of a lightweight construction that could easily be removed when required with the least damage to significant fabric.

For example because of their small scale and careful positioning the East Toilet and separate Tool Shed are less intrusive than the larger West Toilet. Also if the stage were largely a temporary structure, it would be far less intrusive as it would not contrast with the remaining soft edged landscape and because it can be removed when it is not in use.

Proposals for erecting shade structures over the water playground should be carefully considered. While using trees to shade playgrounds is preferable, this is not possible for the water playground as leaves will clog up the drains. However, large shade structures will dominate the area and detract from the visual presentation of the place. If a less intrusive option can not be found, new shade structures should be temporarily erected for the summer months and then removed. A number of smaller structures would be preferable to a single large shade and consideration should be given to not shading all of the fountain areas.

If the opportunity arises to upgrade the existing stage it should be removed in favour of a largely temporary structure that can be adapted to suit different types of events and removed when not required. There is a long tradition of small performances being held in *Hyde Park* such as the band concerts that were held on Sundays in the gazebo in the 1920s and 1930s. However, these modest events did not require a dedicated structure and made use of the existing facilities. It would be inappropriate to erect a large, permanent stage structure that would dominate the surrounding area and reduce the cultural heritage significance of the park, particularly for the accommodation of infrequently held events.

Policy 46 No new limestone retaining walls or garden bed surrounds should be constructed in Hyde Park.

Generally the early landscape treatment of *Hyde Park* was simple, soft edged and unobtrusive. The traditional finishes were practical and did not 'make a statement'. The ground fell naturally across the site and was not terraced with retaining walls. Garden beds were originally level with the ground and did not have a raised masonry edge. The only masonry walls on site were the limestone walls that contained the edges of the lakes and because the top edge of these walls were level with the surrounding ground they were relatively unobtrusive. However, recently constructed limestone retaining walls to garden beds are not compatible with the earlier soft edged garden style and they are dominant and intrusive features. The stone retaining walls around the lakes should be conserved and any necessary repairs should match the construction and finish of existing stonemasonry. When the opportunity arises the recently constructed raised garden bed walls should be removed and the garden beds made level with the surrounding ground.

Policy 47 New artworks and memorials in the park should be functional elements.

As there has not been a tradition of public sculptures, artworks or memorials in *Hyde Park* it is recommended that they are limited to functional elements. It is preferable that artworks and memorials are associated with *Hyde Park* and its history. The exception to this was the fountain presented by W. G. Brookman.

Artworks should be used to embellish functional elements in the way the mosaic paving enlivens and enhances the water playground. Memorials should be limited to functional elements such as seats or water fountains. The policy for these elements could be similar to the current Town of Vincent policy on memorial trees where the Town chooses the type of item to be used, selects a location and has a standard plaque type.

Policy 48 If the opportunity arises the High Voltage Power Line that cross Hyde Park should be relocated.

The High Voltage Power Line that cross the western end of *Hyde Park* is visually intrusive as the massive concrete pylons and the high electrical wires are alien elements that dominate the landscaped spaces and diminish the peaceful, secluded nature of the park.

Policy 49 No Mobile Phone Towers or other communications devices should be constructed in Hyde Park.

Mobile Phone Towers, including the slim-line mono-pole type, would be visually intrusive elements in the park that would diminish the cultural heritage significance of the place. The addition of a Mobile Phone Tower near the High Voltage Power Line at the western end of *Hyde Park* would further compromise the amenity of the area and reduce its cultural heritage significance. A Mobile Phone Tower disguised as a palm tree would not be a suitable alternative. As *Hyde Park* has been placed on the Register of Heritage Places the installation of a phone tower would require the approval of the Heritage Council of Western Australia.

Policy 50 *Park furniture should be simple in design and not make use of elaborate historical embellishments.*

Park Furniture

Seating, lighting and other furniture in *Hyde Park* has traditionally been simple and utilitarian. No early seats, lights or other furniture has survived. The original seats were just planks on jarrah stumps with no seat back, this type of seat may not be acceptable today.

The existing park furniture in *Hyde Park* dates from a number of different eras although since the 1990s there has been a programme of upgrading all furniture using a new pallet of elements chosen by the Patrons of *Hyde Park* to reflect the heritage value of the park. The new furniture has little significance but it is not intrusive. The use of overly elaborate historical style furniture would be discouraged as it may confuse the history of the place but the new furniture is fairly simple in design.

8.2.9. Interpretation

Policy 51 *Hyde Park is of such importance that a comprehensive interpretation programme should be undertaken and an interpretation plan prepared.*

As all aspects of the cultural significance of *Hyde Park* are not readily apparent, they should be explained by interpretation. Interpretation means all the appropriate ways of presenting the cultural significance of the place. Interpretation may be a combination of the treatment of the fabric (e.g. maintenance, restoration, and reconstruction); the use of and activities at the place; and the use of introduced explanatory material. Interpretation should enhance understanding and enjoyment, and be culturally appropriate.³⁴

An interpretation programme is the key to allowing the visitor to understand the site and its phases of development. This type of plan should be prepared by professional staff with appropriate skills and should include a variety of means such as publications, fixed displays and explanatory plaques.

Aspects of the cultural and natural history of *Hyde Park* that could be interpreted are:

- the nature of the indigenous landscape and its place within the chain of wetlands to the north of Perth;
- the use of the swamp as a camping and meeting place by the traditional aboriginal owners of the land;
- the use of the place as a camping ground during the Goldrush era;
- the development of the park and the establishment of the existing man-made landscape;
- the names and places of origin of exotic plant species in the park;
- the remnant indigenous plants;

³⁴

The Burra Charter, 1999, Articles 1.17 and 25

the wildlife to be found in the park; and,

the social history of the park as a place of recreation, entertainment and celebration.³⁵

There are already a number of interpretative signs in the park, including a series of small plaques mounted on wrought iron bases, that interpret the history of the place as well as larger signboards that identify the bird species that inhabit the park. Recently there have been discussions regarding the need to interpret the aboriginal history of the place. At this point in time an interpretation programme for the park that considers all aspects of the significance of the place would be very beneficial as it would produce an integrated scheme with a standard sign format. This would avoid unnecessary duplication of information and would prevent the proliferation of signs of varying sizes, styles and types that may detract from the visual quality of the place.

Treatment of fabric

Conservation of a significant place is a form of interpretation because it helps to explain the significance of a place.

Policy 52 Physical elements should be used to interpret how Hyde Park has been modified or adapted over time and to reveal past uses or configurations.

Interpretative elements can be used to explain how the landscape has been modified or changed over time or to indicate how it was once configured. For example, the location of removed buildings, structures or paths could be marked on the ground. The reconstruction of elements or the introduction of replacement planting, such as perimeter pine trees, would also help to interpret the place.

Recently beds of native shrubs have been planted around the small copse of Jarrah trees in the north-eastern corner of the park. If these were plant species indigenous to the site they would help interpret the place. However, the use of species from other parts of the state or from other areas in Australia may confuse visitors as to the nature of the original landscape. When these native but non-indigenous shrubs and bushes die or need to be replaced, they should be replaced with plants indigenous to the Swan River Coastal Plain Lake System to the north of Perth. Also if there are surviving examples of suitable plants on site they should be used as a source of seed otherwise seed should be collected from wetlands in the same chain of lakes.

Policy 53 Where possible original uses or similar uses for landscapes or buildings should be maintained to aid interpretation.

The Use of and Activities at the Place

The use of the spaces and elements within the park can be used to interpret the place. Maintaining the original use of a place is a good way to demonstrate its purpose while avoiding adaptive works that may make its cultural significance less apparent. Where possible, original uses or uses similar to the original should be maintained.

³⁵ These examples are not listed in order of importance.

Introduced Explanatory Material

Policy 54 Permanent interpretation should be fixed in selected locations, to explain significant elements of the place and important aspects such as its origins, uses, construction and conservation.

Introduced explanatory material gives the opportunity for additional passive or interactive interpretation in relevant locations. At its simplest this may take the form of basic information and historic photographs, or it may include revealing former finishes and details in selected locations. Introduced explanatory material usually takes the form of signage located in appropriate positions. Where possible all interpretative signage should be of a uniform type and size. There are already several sign types in *Hyde Park* and before any new work is undertaken an interpretation plan should be commissioned.

Interpretative materials such as brochures or flyers that explain the significance of *Hyde Park*, and the conservation processes, should also be provided for visitors and users of the place. Interpretative material should be professionally designed and manufactured, based on the documentary and physical evidence. The Town of Vincent has already produced an interpretative brochure, *The Trees of Hyde Park (March 2001)*, which contains a map of the park with the names of each tree and the location of public amenities plus a very brief history of the place. This brochure is available at the offices of the Town of Vincent. When the brochure is reprinted next it could be updated, as some of the plantings have been modified, and the history could be extended. Reference could also be made to the ongoing measures to maintain and conserve the place.

Retaining associations and meanings

Policy 55 Significant associations between people and Hyde Park should be retained and not obscured. Opportunities for the interpretation, commemoration and celebration of these associations should be investigated and implemented.³⁶

There are a number of significant associations between *Hyde Park* and the staff who worked there and created the place, the various community groups and visitors who have used it for regular passive recreation, activities and celebrations and the descendants of the traditional aboriginal occupants of the place. Generally these associations can not be seen in the fabric of the place, and would need to be revealed by appropriate interpretation. Where associations with particular groups of people are to be interpreted there should be some consultation with the relevant groups to gather information and involve them in the project.

³⁶

ibid. Article 24.

8.3. POLICIES ARISING FROM THE PHYSICAL CONDITION OF THE PLACE

Generally *Hyde Park* is in fair condition but during the collection of physical evidence on site a number of issues were noted. These issues were mostly associated with the lakes and islands but there were some minor concerns with paths being lifted by tree roots.

Policy 56 All works identified as urgent in the Recommended Conservation Works section of this report should be attended to as a matter of priority and certainly within a two year time frame from the date of inspection.

All mature trees require some degree of arboricultural works, which should be dealt with in the near future to prevent further and possibly costly deterioration of the plant. These works should include dealing with problems of soil compaction under the drip line of mature trees.

In the 1990s an Arboriculturist was commissioned to prepare a report on the significance and condition of the trees in the park. It would appear that the recommendations of this report have largely been followed and it is the practice of the horticultural staff to obtain further advice as necessary. However, given that some of the mature plantings need ongoing maintenance and because of the need to plan for replacement plantings of senescent trees, it is recommended that this report be updated every three years. This updated and expanded report should identify each tree on site not just those currently in poor physical condition.

Policy 57 An updated Arboricultural report should be commissioned and all works identified in it should be attended to in the manner and the timeframe suggested.

Works of this nature should be scheduled and priced by a quantity surveyor with experience in arboricultural and conservation work. At the same time a works programme should be drawn up to allow prioritised application of capital works funding.

Policy 58 A well considered programme of regular arboricultural maintenance for each mature tree should be devised and implemented by a qualified Arboriculturist.

This maintenance regime should be based upon the recommendations of the updated Arboriculturists report and be integrated with the current regime of the Parks and Garden Staff of the Town of Vincent.

Policy 59 Pest control inspections should be implemented on a regular basis and any treatment required should be executed within the recommended periods.

Pest control inspections are required to maintain the fabric of the mature plants and the various buildings and structures within *Hyde Park* and they should be undertaken annually, or more regularly if infestation becomes apparent and the effectiveness of eradication is in doubt. Particular attention should be paid to ensuring that termites or other wood boring insects are not present in timber and to checking for infestations of Fig Psyllid in the Port Jackson Figs and other *Ficus* sp. in the park. Expert inspection should be part of the maintenance and conservation regime.

Policy 60 *All hazardous materials (e.g. asbestos) must be handled with due care and attention and in accordance with Government Standards and Worksafe regulations.*

No hazardous materials were identified during our inspection of the site but if such materials were discovered particular care should be taken with the handling of these materials. This is necessary to comply with legal requirements and general good practice standards for the health and safety of employees and tradesmen.

Policy 61 *Regular maintenance and repair of the built elements of Hyde Park should be carried out having due regard for the significance of the fabric and this conservation policy. Refer also to policy 16.*

Regular maintenance is an essential part of conserving built fabric and retaining the significance of a place. Lack of maintenance can lead to the loss of significant fabric and the need for more extensive conservation projects. Arboriculturists and horticulturists with skill in the care of historic places should direct all works to significant plantings. Current maintenance regimes should be continued and upgraded as becomes necessary.

A maintenance plan should be devised that sets out a programme of regular inspections, maintenance and repair works. The plan should include specific direction on the manner in which work is to be undertaken particularly where replacement work is involved. Large maintenance programmes that are likely to involve works that may impinge on the heritage values of the place should be undertaken by a suitably qualified and experienced Conservation Professional, who may engage specialist conservators as required.

Apart from the retaining walls to the lakes and the path network, there are no other significant buildings or elements within the park. Currently *Hyde Park* has a regular maintenance programme that inspects and manages the built elements in the park such as the retaining walls to the lakes, the paths, signage, park furniture, lighting etc. An Architect who has skill in the care of historic places should direct all works to significant built elements.

Compaction

Policy 63 *The compaction of the ground around the root zones of significant trees must be regularly monitored and vehicle and pedestrian access controlled to prevent damaging the health and longevity of significant trees.*

The compaction of the ground surrounding the root zones of trees is potentially one of the most destructive, but the least obvious, results of heavy public use of a park. The compaction of the soil around tree roots can damage the roots and lead to the decline and death of a tree. Soil compaction needs to be regularly monitored to safeguard the health of the trees.

In particular vehicle access to the park must be limited and its impact carefully monitored. Generally the only vehicles allowed to access to the park are staff vehicles and equipment. This practice should be continued. Several times a year large numbers of semi-trailers and trucks have access to *Hyde Park* to position and erect heavy equipment for annual festivals held in the park. The side shows, trailers and other heavy equipment are generally set up

over the root plate zone of existing significant trees to take advantage of the shade. Following concerns about compaction the Town of Vincent restricted fairs and festivals to the north-east corner of the park and instituted controls on the number of vehicles entering the park and their weight. In 1999 the Town of Vincent commissioned an arboricultural report to further investigate the issue of compaction caused by community fairs in the park. This report recommended that it would be advantageous for the future health and retention of the significant trees in *Hyde Park* to restrict fairs and festivals to the open areas within the park (away from the root plate zones of significant trees) or to propose an alternative venue for the events. Holding community fairs in *Hyde Park* must be reassessed to comply with this advice.

Pedestrian traffic can also cause significant problems with compaction. The recent practice of planting ground covers under shady tree canopies where the grass can not grow may not be a traditional practice but it helps control pedestrian access across the root zones of significant trees. During the 2003 Hyde Park Festival the sunny weather led many people to seek shelter under the trees and the ground covers beneath them were trampled. Therefore during large public activities consideration should be given to roping off the root zones of significant trees to protect against compaction and also to providing temporary sun shelters for participants.

Islands

The West Island has collapsed in places leading to the inundation and death of certain trees and shrubs. Structurally the East Island would appear to be in fair condition but the planting is in poor condition because it has been overgrown by Spanish Reed or Bamboo. If the opportunity arises it would enhance the cultural significance of *Hyde Park* if the West Island could be reconstructed and stabilised and the overgrown Spanish Reed (Bamboo) on the West Island could be considerably thinned out.

8.4. EXTERNAL REQUIREMENTS

8.4.1. Current Heritage Listings/Registrations

The cultural heritage significance of *Hyde Park* has been recognised by a number of heritage bodies and this recognition has created certain constraints upon the future use, development and conservation of the place.

Register of Heritage Places of the Heritage Council of Western Australia

Hyde Park was entered on the Register of Heritage Places on the 30 October 1998.

Policy 64 *As Hyde Park has been placed on the Register of Heritage Places, any development, as defined by the Heritage of Western Australia Act 1990, has to be referred to the Heritage Council for its advice. The local planning authority must not give an approval for works or development that is in conflict with this advice.*

Because of its registration, the Heritage Council in respect of the place:

- (a) Has the power to enter into, implement and enforce Heritage Agreements. (S.8.b)
- (b) May arrange assistance for the conservation of the place. (S.8.c)
- (c) May assist in negotiation with authorities. (S.8.d)
- (d) May enforce orders made under Part 6 of the Act. (S.8.k)
- (e) May waive certain decisions. (S.34)
- (f) May use its power for remission of certain payments or recover remitted monies under certain circumstances. (S.36 and S.37)
- (g) May obtain waivers in respect of written laws that might impede proper conservation. (S.38)
- (h) May issue conservation orders to protect the place, or issue restoration orders. (S.59 and S.62)
- (i) May institute proceedings for contravention of the Act under Part 4 of the Act. (S.66 - 70)
- (j) May inspect the premises or place under Part 6. (S.71 - 72)
- (k) Will require all applications made under the Town Planning and Development Act, Local Government Act, Strata Titles Act or their prescribed applications to be referred to the Council for its advice prior to reaching a decision on that approval (Part 8).

Town of Vincent Municipal Heritage Inventory

On 27 November 1995 *Hyde Park* was included on the municipal inventory of the Town of Vincent. The inventory recommended that the place be afforded the highest level of protection and that it be recommended for inclusion on the Heritage Council of Western Australia's Register of Heritage Places.

Any constraints on the future development of the place that may be imposed by its listing on a Municipal Inventory are subsumed by its inclusion on the Heritage Council of Western Australia's Register of Heritage Places.

National Trust of Australia [WA]

Hyde Park is not classified by The National Trust of Australia (WA).

Policy 65 *The place should be classified by the National Trust.*

The National Trust does not have any legal powers to enforce preservation and conservation. However, the Trust plays an important role in developing public opinion as well as in supporting and encouraging the conservation of our heritage places and is a valuable advocate in that role. The identification or classification of places by the National Trust or local history societies does not constitute legal recognition of their significance.

Australian Heritage Commission

The Australian Heritage Commission has not included *Hyde Park* on its register of heritage places. The Federal Act that governs the Australian Heritage Commission is currently under review and may change the way heritage places are listed.

8.4.2. Statutory Requirements

Policy 66 *The provisions of the Town Planning Scheme, Building Code of Australia and Health Act apply, as with any public place. However the Heritage Council may support the waiving or easing of requirements where important conservation objectives might be achieved providing health and safety will not be compromised. This assistance should be sought where appropriate.*

Unlike other acts and regulatory devices, the Heritage of Western Australia Act 1990 binds the Crown. Where compliance with a regulation or by-law would compromise the heritage value of the building the Heritage Council's advice should be sought. The Heritage Council may be able to assist in relaxing conditions where heritage values might otherwise be compromised.

As the Heritage Act is under review, the processes described in this section may be subject to change and the implication of the new act will need to be taken into account when it comes into effect.

Policy 67 *Attention is drawn to the requirements of the Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972-80 and the need for notification of materials that are discovered that come under the control of the Act.*

8.5. REQUIREMENTS AND RESOURCES OF THE CLIENT, OWNER, OCCUPANTS AND OR USERS

8.5.1. Constraints and Opportunities Arising from the Requirements, Resources and Expectations of the Owner and Occupant.

Recognising the cultural heritage significance of *Hyde Park*, the Town of Vincent has commissioned this report to guide the future development of the place. This report was required to expand upon a number of earlier reports, including a heritage assessment, and to recommend appropriate conservation and management policies for the elements within the park and the place as a whole.

Policy 68 *The Town of Vincent needs to acknowledge the identified cultural heritage significance of the place and commit itself to the conservation of that significance, in accordance with the policies in this report.*

Memorandum of Understanding

Hyde Park is a substantial designed landscape of exotic trees that requires ongoing maintenance and repair. As the place is included on the Register of Heritage Places of the Heritage Council, all change should be referred to them for advice. To assist with managing future change and maintenance of the place it would be helpful to establish a Memorandum of Understanding with the Heritage Council. This Memorandum of Understanding could establish the level of change that would necessitate reference to the Heritage Council and set out acceptable maintenance regimes and work practices.

Policy 69 *A Memorandum of Understanding should be established between the Town of Vincent and the Heritage Council of Western Australia to assist in the future management of this heritage site.*

8.5.2. Possible Community Attitudes and Expectations Regarding the Place

Policy 70 *The community has a high regard for Hyde Park and therefore it must continue to be maintained as an important heritage place in Western Australia.*

Policy 71 *Hyde Park must continue to maintain its horticultural and arboricultural presentation to meet the community's expectations of its city parks.*

The community has a high regard for *Hyde Park* as can be demonstrated by the degree of public concern expressed over the redevelopment scheme that was proposed for the park in 1989. At a public meeting held later that year it was found that while the community agreed that the park needed attention and maintenance, they did not favour many of the larger concepts contained in the plan. Following this meeting the council formed the community group, the Patrons of *Hyde Park*, to assist with the upgrading the park. Over the following two years the Patrons of *Hyde Park* helped discuss and resolve a number of issues which were then discussed further in the document *Hyde Park Plan of Management, 1993*. Most of the recommendations of the management plan have been carried out since.

The Town of Vincent also consults *Hyde Park* and the Norfolk Street Precinct Groups for their opinions on any proposed development within the park. A precinct group is a forum for local residents to express their views on the development and management of their particular local area. These two groups were consulted as a part of this Conservation Plan. During these consultations a wide variety of issues were discussed.

The Hyde Park Precinct Group considered that the diverse range of exotic trees in *Hyde Park* was seen as important as a botanic collection and as a contrast to other parks and reserves planted with native trees. In particular the Figs, Planes and Jacarandas were seen as making a special contribution to the quality of the park. The remnant indigenous trees were seen as important and while there was some debate as to whether more indigenous trees should be planted in the park it was agreed that any further plantings should only be used to reinforce the existing Jarrah copse in the north-eastern corner of the park. The condition of the lakes and the danger of botulism killing wildlife was a major concern but the idea of letting the lakes dry out was unacceptable. The repair of the West Island was also seen as important and some fondly remembered when the island was planted with roses and shrubs. Also of concern was the intrusive nature of the new concrete path on William Street. Interpretation of the place was considered important, the existing historical plaques needed to be repaired and information on the wetlands and the aboriginal history of the place needed to be provided. Most people wanted the fairs to continue but were concerned that they were too big and required too much heavy equipment and could damage the park. The survival of the park and its significant trees was considered to be more important than continuing to hold large community festivals.

8.5.3. Social, Religious or Other Cultural Constraints.

Policy 72 *While documentary evidence does not suggest that there are particular social, religious or other constraints, any new evidence that may come to light through further documentary or physical evidence should be treated on its merits and balanced with the Statements of Significance.*

8.5.4. Opportunities for Investigation

Policy 73 *Opportunities for investigation of the place should be realised, when possible so as to gain a better understanding of the place, its development and construction. The information gained can be used for the purposes of diagnosis and conservation.*

When investigations of the fabric of the place are required it is important that they should be relevant to the conservation and interpretation of the place, and that speculative or unsupervised investigations of significant fabric should not be permitted.

Investigative works should be carried out in locations where there is little possibility of having an adverse impact on conspicuous and/ or significant locations. They should not be carried out without a well-founded purpose or by inexperienced people. The results should be professionally documented and recorded. Specific budget allocations should be made at planning stages to create opportunities for investigation. These costs should be considered part of the project cost.

8.5.5. Compatible Use

Hyde Park is currently vested in the Town of Vincent for recreation and it is their intention to continue to use the place as a public park for the foreseeable future. It is therefore unlikely that the question regarding a compatible use for the park will arise in the near future. However, it is likely that new uses will be proposed for particular areas within the park, for example cafes, private business selling food or hiring equipment, permanent grounds for sporting activities etc.

Policy 74 *Any new uses within Hyde Park must be compatible with the park, its plantings and the current uses of the place for unstructured passive recreation. Compatibility will be determined by the significance of the areas and elements which will be affected and the amount of change required to suit the place to a new use.*

Some zones or elements of significance are of such a high level of cultural heritage significance that the only compatible uses that are acceptable are those that require no physical change to the place.

Zones and elements of lesser significance are more flexible but still require that adaptive changes are limited to those that are substantially reversible or which will result in minimal impact.

Refer to Burra Charter Article 1 definition 1.10 and the Graded Zones of Significance.

No new uses should be considered for any area of the park that would require new areas of paving, underground services or excavation around the root zones of significant trees. Also new uses should not require regular vehicle access for servicing, storage areas or new buildings and they should not prevent the traditional uses of the place occurring. New uses should not lead to the compaction of soil in the root plate zones of significant trees.

It should be noted that when the Returned Soldiers League applied in 1920 to erect a Memorial Hall in the south-western corner of *Hyde Park* they were refused permission. At this time it was pointed out that the Crown Grant of *Hyde Park* vested the reserve in the Perth City Council in trust for recreational purposes only and no portion of the park should be used for building purposes. For this reason it will not be possible for a building to be erected in the park for a café, sporting club or any other private business.

Also while there have been playing fields in the park in the past, mainly cricket pitches, none have been full size fields as the staff did not want to remove or relocate trees to accommodate such a facility. Over the years a large number of applications have been refused including those for a football oval, a hockey field, a quoit ground, an area for children to race trolleys and a roller-skating rink. The construction of sporting fields or other areas for active recreation will generally not be acceptable due to the changes or effects that they will have on significant plants and fabric.

The preferred uses for *Hyde Park* are those that maintain its traditional uses as a place for passive public recreation and relaxation.

8.6. RECORDS

It is essential that those responsible for planning and conservation works have access to all available material pertaining to the development and evolution of the place so that informed decisions may be made consistent with the cultural heritage values of the place. The material should be used in tandem with this Conservation Plan. Refer to policies 24 & 25.

8.7. RECOMMENDED CONSERVATION WORKS

8.7.1. List of Works

The following list of works is recommended to ensure the physical stability of the fabric of *Hyde Park* is maintained and its significance conserved. To assist with future planning and fund raising the list is prioritised into urgent, medium, long term and desirable works, phased over a recommended optimum period of time. The works must be considered within the context of any relevant individual policies outlined in the preceding policy sections.

8.7.2. Recommended Conservation works

With *Hyde Park* it is recommended that all elements of considerable significance are conserved and that intrusive items are removed to maintain and enhance the cultural significance of the place. Regular maintenance of the place is an important part of conservation.

8.7.3. Urgent Works

Urgent works are those items that should be completed within the short term so as to protect significant fabric from deterioration or destruction.

- Remove self-seeded trees and plants which may be damaging or altering significant landscapes (e.g. thin out Spanish Reed or Bamboo on East Island)
- Update arboricultural report and carry out any works noted as urgent
- Memorandum of understanding.
- Repair bitumen paths lifted by tree roots

8.7.4. Medium Works

Medium works are those items that should be completed in the long term to maintain the significance of the place and prevent the deterioration of significant fabric.

- Repair and reconstruct the West Island.
- Carry out non-structural repair of cracks to retaining walls surrounding the lakes.
- Carry out a programme of replacement planting for significant trees (if possible new trees to be grown from seeds or cuttings taken on site).
- Collect and store all records.
- Develop and implement an interpretation plan.
- Continue to improve water quality of lakes.

8.7.5. Desirable Works

Works that are listed as being desirable are those that are not essential to the survival of significant fabric or building but which would help enhance the significance of the place. This would include items such as the reconstruction of lost fabric or buildings.

- Gradually replace brick and concrete pathways with bitumen paths
- Remove high voltage power lines from west end of park

8.8. TIMEFRAME FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF POLICIES

The following classes of priority should be achieved within the time frames specified below:

- Carry out urgent maintenance and conservation works, within 2 years.
- Carry out medium term conservation action within 2-5 years.
- Carry out long term conservation action within 10 years.
- Carry out desirable works when the opportunity arises.
- Review this Conservation Plan in the year 2008 after the expiry of 5 years from its publication.

9. POLICY IMPLEMENTATION

9.1. INTRODUCTION

This section is concerned with the implementation of the conservation policies set out in Section 8. It is intended to identify those who should be responsible for the implementation of the various policies, when the policies should be implemented and also suggests how this might best be achieved. The aim is to ensure the maintenance, and where applicable, the enhancement of the cultural significance of the place. This includes ensuring that the fabric of the place is properly cared for, that adequate financial provision is made for its care and maintenance, and that adequate interpretation for the understanding of the place is put in place and then maintained.

9.2. RESPONSIBILITIES FOR IMPLEMENTING POLICIES

9.2.1. Primary Responsibility

As the responsible Local Government Authority for the suburb of North Perth, the Town of Vincent should play the primary role in the conservation and management of *Hyde Park*. The Town of Vincent should retain responsibility for the adoption and implementation of the conservation plan. The Conservation Plan should be reviewed every five years as set out below in 9.3.

When decisions are being made that affect the cultural significance of the place, it is important to draw on appropriate skills. It is therefore desirable that the party responsible for the place is guided by expert advice, when necessary. A broad range of skills is necessary to ensure that management is effective, and that the plan is realised and periodically reviewed in the light of experience and developments. Also a specialist consultant should be appointed to assist with annual inspections and with the implementation of works. Architects, arboriculturists, archaeologists and other professional disciplines skilled in conservation are well placed to offer specialised advice.

Hyde Park is included on the Heritage Council of Western Australia's Register of Heritage Places. The Town of Vincent must ensure that before any work is undertaken all development is referred to the Heritage Council for its advice. It is advisable that any proposed changes be discussed with HCWA at the earliest possible stage, which should ensure that change is managed properly in terms of the conservation of heritage values and expeditiously for the proponent.

9.2.2. Responsible Person

The Town of Vincent should nominate responsible persons within their staff through whom all management and works decisions pass. All major decisions must be resolved by reference to the Conservation Plan and with appropriate professional conservation advice. The responsible persons should seek to acquire sufficient heritage skills to recognise when conservation issues are involved, seek appropriate professional heritage advice in a timely

manner, ensure that the Conservation Plan regimes are being observed and obtain appropriate approvals.

9.3. RESPONSIBILITIES IN RELATION TO POLICIES

The responsible persons should carry out the implementation of policies on a day by day basis. This will include, where necessary, liaison with government agencies such as the Department of Transport, Western Power etc. These responsibilities are set out below and their clause numbers are bracketed.

- Procedural constraints arising out of the Burra Charter (8.2.2, 8.2.3, 8.2.4)
- Procedural constraints arising out of the Statement of Significance (8.2.5)
- Policies arising out from the graded elements of significance (8.2.6)
- Opportunities arising out of the Statement of Significance (8.2.5)
- Policies related to the physical setting (8.2.7)
- Interpretation (8.2.9)
- Policies arising from the physical condition of the place (8.3).
- Policies relating to external requirements (8.4).
- Policies which arise as a result of current and future heritage listings (8.4.1).
- Policies relating to community attitudes, expectations, social or other cultural constraints (8.5.2).
- Policies relating to compatible use (8.5.5).

9.4. PROVISIONAL PERIODIC INSPECTION SCHEDULE

The following schedule should be regarded as provisional. It can be adapted to suit the current inspection schedules and augmented by experience. It should also be regarded as a minimum standard. The owners should maintain a record of maintenance regimes and actions.

Every Quarter	<p>Paths Monitor for lifting by tree roots, especially in areas adjacent to mature <i>Ficus sp.</i> and Camphor Laurels.</p> <p>Lakes Monitor quality of water</p> <p>Buildings Gutters and downpipes – clear debris and check that water runoff from downpipes flows away from buildings Roofs - Monitor water penetration and attend to immediately.</p>
Annually	<p>Trees Inspect for termites and identify treatment Inspect for Fig Physid and other pests Monitor senescent trees</p>

Lakes

Monitor retaining walls to edges of lakes

Buildings

Timberwork - Inspect for termites and identify treatment

Roof waterproofing - check and repair

Joinery and hardware - monitor condition and operation and repair

Paintwork - check externally, especially timber work

9.5. SPECIFIC PROCESSES TO BE FOLLOWED IN IMPLEMENTING EACH POLICY

This conservation plan will provide a guide to the treatment of the landscape of *Hyde Park*, but it will be relatively ineffective without a clear and co-ordinated decision making process. It is recommended that the owners adopt the following decision making structure.

9.5.1. Problem requiring possible adaptation of the place identified by owner/occupier

- 1 Problem requiring possible adaptation of the place identified by owner/occupier.
- 2 Adaptation proposed by owner/occupier.
- 3 Proposed adaptation referred to conservation specialist or HCWA for advice.
- 4 If deemed necessary, conservation specialist contracted to assess situation, and check against the conservation plan. If appropriate contact made with the Heritage Council and specialist conservation consultants sub-contracted as required (e.g. archaeologist, landscape specialist, materials conservator, engineer, etc).
- 5 Consultants make site inspection.
- 6 Consultants write to owner with any recommendations for adaptation.
- 7 Proposed works forwarded to HCWA for advice.
- 8 Contractor and conservation practitioner engaged, as required.

9.5.2. Arboricultural problem identified in month/quarter/annual inspection of fabric

- 1 Arboricultural problem identified in month/quarter/annual inspection of fabric.
- 2 Remedial work proposal made by arboricultural specialist - this may include the removal of a tree if arboricultural works are not going to save the plant. If a tree is to be removed the potential for replacement plantings should be investigated.
- 3 Owner contacted to discuss implications of proposal and to define available resources.
- 4 Discussions with statutory bodies (including HCWA) to determine suitability of proposal.
- 5 Consultants write description of work.
- 6 Proposed works forwarded to HCWA for advice.
- 7 Contractor engaged, with inspection by a conservation practitioner as required.

9.5.3. Building fabric problem identified in month/quarter/annual inspection of fabric

- 1 Building fabric problem identified in month/quarter/annual inspection of fabric.
- 2 Conservation work proposal made by conservation specialist.
- 3 Owner contacted to discuss implications of proposal and to define available resources.
- 4 Discussions with statutory bodies (including HCWA) to determine suitability of proposal.
- 5 Consultants write schedule of works to conserve building.
- 6 Proposed works forwarded to HCWA for advice.
- 7 Contractor engaged, with inspection by a conservation practitioner as required.

9.5.4. Summary of recommended process of implementation

The following strategy summarises the recommended process of implementation.

- 1 Adopt and Implement the Conservation Plan.
- 2 Follow the recommended management structure and processes.
- 3 Ensure any proposed future changes in uses or proposed lease agreements recognise the need to conserve the place, and are referred to the Heritage Council for advice.
- 4 Prepare a maintenance and physical inspection schedule, based on the provisional Periodic Inspection Schedule outlined in section 9.4. Other documents that should be referred to in the process of devising a Periodic Inspection Schedule include 'Check It! - Or how to prepare a logbook for the maintenance and housekeeping of historic places', (Heritage Council of Western Australia Heritage Practice Notes).
- 5 Prepare a financial projection to assist in management and annual budgeting, considering: normal outgoings, routine day-to-day maintenance, cyclical maintenance, conservation works, consultancy costs, capital improvements, interpretation, landscape improvements, and insurances. If adaptation is required, costs for legal fees, adaptive works and promotion should also be included.
- 6 Develop annual conservation programmes with regard to the maintenance and works recommended in this Conservation Plan, and seek out relevant funding programmes to achieve each programme.
- 7 Undertake 'Urgent' conservation works as a priority, and other medium and long term works in accordance with the recommended time frame (see 8.7.2).
- 8 Review this Conservation Plan in five years after the publication date, or by 2007.

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