

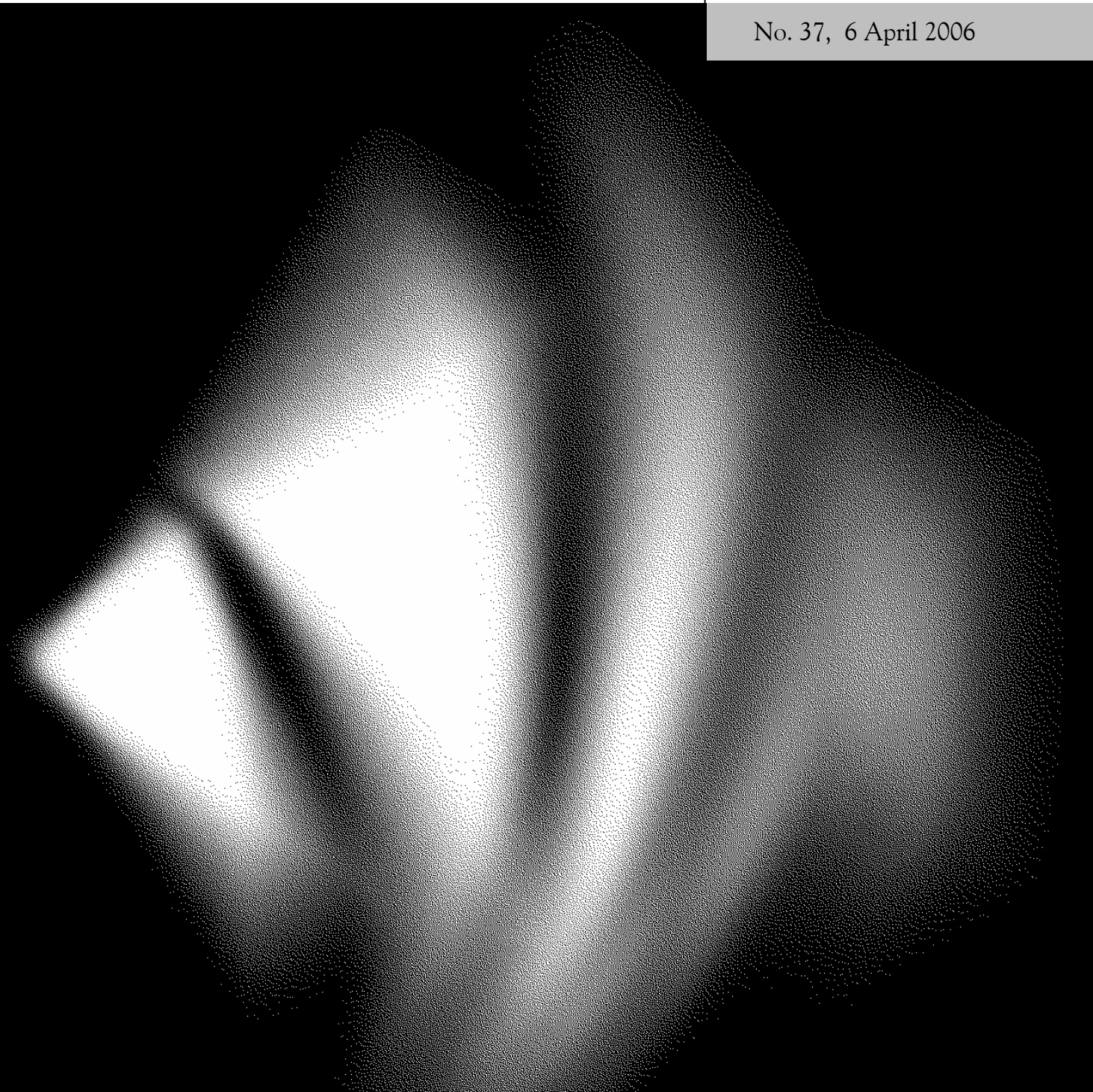


Australian Government
Productivity Commission

Conservation of Australia's Historic Heritage Places

Productivity
Commission
Inquiry Report

No. 37, 6 April 2006



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The Productivity Commission, an independent agency, is the Australian Government's principal review and advisory body on microeconomic policy and regulation. It conducts public inquiries and research into a broad range of economic and social issues affecting the welfare of Australians.

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6 April 2006

The Honourable Peter Costello MP
Treasurer
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Treasurer

In accordance with Section 11 of the *Productivity Commission Act 1998*, we have pleasure in submitting to you the Commission's report on the *Conservation of Australia's Historic Heritage Places*.

Yours sincerely

Neil Byron
Presiding Commissioner

Tony Hinton
Commissioner

Terms of reference

I, PETER COSTELLO, Treasurer, pursuant to Parts 2 and 3 of the *Productivity Commission Act 1998*, hereby request that the Productivity Commission undertake an inquiry into the policy framework and incentives for the conservation of Australia's historic built heritage places and report within 12 months of receipt of this reference. The Commission is to hold hearings for the purpose of the inquiry.

Background

With the commencement of amendments to the Commonwealth's *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* on January 1 2004, which provide greater protection of our national heritage values, it is timely to review the current pressures and issues associated with historic heritage conservation. Although there has been significant research into the policy framework and incentives for the conservation of our natural heritage, there has been less work undertaken on historic heritage places and their social and economic value in the context of Australia's overall natural, indigenous and historic heritage. The conservation of our built historic heritage is important. Places of historic significance reflect the diversity of our communities. They provide a sense of identity and a connection to our past and to our nation. There is a need for research to underpin how best to manage the conservation and use of our historic heritage places.

Scope of the Inquiry

The Commission is to examine:

1. the main pressures on the conservation of historic heritage places,
2. the economic, social and environmental benefits and costs of the conservation of historic heritage places in Australia,
3. the current relative roles and contributions to the conservation of historic heritage places of the Commonwealth and the state and territory governments, heritage owners (private, corporate and government), community groups and any other relevant stakeholders,
4. the positive and/or negative impacts of regulatory, taxation and institutional arrangements on the conservation of historic heritage places, and other impediments and incentives that affect outcomes,

5. emerging technological, economic, demographic, environmental and social trends that offer potential new approaches to the conservation of historic heritage places, and

6. possible policy and programme approaches for managing the conservation of Australia's historic heritage places and competing objectives and interests.

The Government will consider the Commission's recommendations, and its response will be announced as soon as possible after the receipt of the Commission's report.

PETER COSTELLO

Date 6 April 2005

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Abbreviations and explanations

Abbreviations

ACNT	Australian Council of National Trusts
AHC	Australian Heritage Council
CFMEU	Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Union
CHCANZ	Chairs of the Heritage Councils of Australia and New Zealand
CMP	Conservation Management Plan
COAG	Council of Australian Governments
DDA	Disability Discrimination Act (Cwth)
DEH	Department of Environment and Heritage (Cwth)
DSE	Department of Sustainability and Environment (Vic)
EPHC	Environment Protection and Heritage Council
HCWA	Heritage Council Western Australia
HIS	Heritage Impact Statement
IAC	Industries Assistance Commission
IC	Industry Commission
ICOMOS	International Council on Monuments and Sites
LEP	Local Environment Plan
OECD	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
ORR	Office of Regulation Review
PC	Productivity Commission
RAIA	Royal Australian Institute of Architects
RNE	Register of the National Estate

UNESCO United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural
Organization

Explanations

Billion The convention used for a billion is a thousand million (10⁹).

Findings *Findings in the body of the report are paragraphs highlighted using italics, as this is.*

Recommendations ***Recommendations in the body of the report are highlighted using bold italics, as this is.***

