

# ***Submission to Perth Hearings on the Conservation of Australia's Historic Heritage Places***

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## ***Introduction***

This submission proposes a comprehensive policy framework for the investigation, recognition and conservation of Australia's Heritage assets. This approach aims to coordinate and integrate the contributions of National, State and Local Governments, as well as the Private Business, Not for Profit and Voluntary Sectors.

Development of an expanded Heritage Topology and a supporting Policy Framework are proposed to integrate the public sector, as additional encouragement for private and not-for-profit sectors.

## ***Aims of this submission- expanded heritage topology and cultural significance***

The limited topology of "Precinct" and "Place" are provided for in the Heritage of Western Australia Act 1990 (as amended). Additional classifications, "Conservation Area" and "Heritage Schedule", may be included in Statutory Planning Scheme, as approved by the Minister for Planning in Western Australia.

Thus the traditional heritage categories of: *Precinct, Place, Conservation Area and Heritage Schedule*, currently provided for in Western Australian Planning and Heritage legislation, are proposed to be expanded to provide the opportunity for "Townscape", "Landscape", "Streetscape", and "Element" to be included in an expanded Heritage topology (See Figure 1).

Particular contributions to the "Archival Research" and "Fieldwork", are proposed to expand the current capacity of the *International Council of Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS)* categories and the *Burra Charter*, to confirm "Cultural Significance" of the Heritage influences. Thus the additional categories of "Historic Subdivision" and "Survival Rate" including the "Rate of Altered Building", are proposed to provide an expanded, quantitative understanding, which can be included in the *Statement of Cultural Significance* (See Figure 2).

## ***Expected Benefits***

Benefits expected to flow from the expansion of the heritage topology and the quantitative understanding of that heritage, include the early recognition of heritage or the potential heritage influences and their quantitative indicators to assess the degree of cultural significance, in advance of pressure for development or redevelopment.

Two additional benefits of this expanded and quantified identification of significance, add value to the early recognition and classification of cultural heritage significance. First, is the recognition of cultural heritage significance early in the strategic and statutory planning processes, would enable heritage to be given more equitable and efficient consideration in advance of development pressure. This can be contrasted

with the current practice of undertaking detailed, expensive and time consuming investigations of individual building(s) (or worse not undertaking any investigation), when the building(s) is (are) already under pressure for demolition.

Secondly, it is believed that heritage “Places” already identified as significant have a better chance of longer term survival if these places and their context are identified as significant in advance of redevelopment pressures. This is believed to be particularly true for *Places* in confirmed *Conservation Areas*. Another dimension of this view is to ensure the individual *Places* do not become isolated jewels, out of context, which will only increase the pressure for redevelopment in the future.

### ***Facilitation***

The broader and quantitative approach presented here would facilitate more useful and representative identification, recognition and quantification of heritage. This in turn would facilitate the consolidation and amplification of heritage significance for areas, which provide a context for the individual *Places*; and add weight to the heritage classification. Similarly, under current heritage assessment, a simple terrace house may not be seen as significant as a mansion. However, the individual terrace is believed to be a significant contribution to our cultural heritage, even without the grouping of these individual houses as a row of terrace houses, is considered. Our heritage is made up of many achievements, both grand and not so grand. We need to accommodate these not so grand achievements, so we do not finish up with a distorted view of our heritage, represented only by the preserved grand mansions.

### ***Example***

It is believed the broader heritage typology and quantification of survival rate can contribute to the early recognition of potential heritage significance, as well as the recognition and confirmation of *Precinct* and *Place*. An example, of this early identification of cultural heritage significance using the contributions advocated in this paper, is the identification of the Worker’s Homes in the City of Fremantle, Western Australia (See Figure 3). These modest Worker’s Homes were the first built under the Worker’s Homes Act 1912; and opened by Premier Scaddan, in July 1913 (See Figure 4). A study of the sequence of historic subdivision and development, as well as an awareness of the resulting townscape, landscape and streetscapes, contributed to the identification of the built form responses to a diverse range social, economic, physical and political influences.

**Figure 1 Methodology**

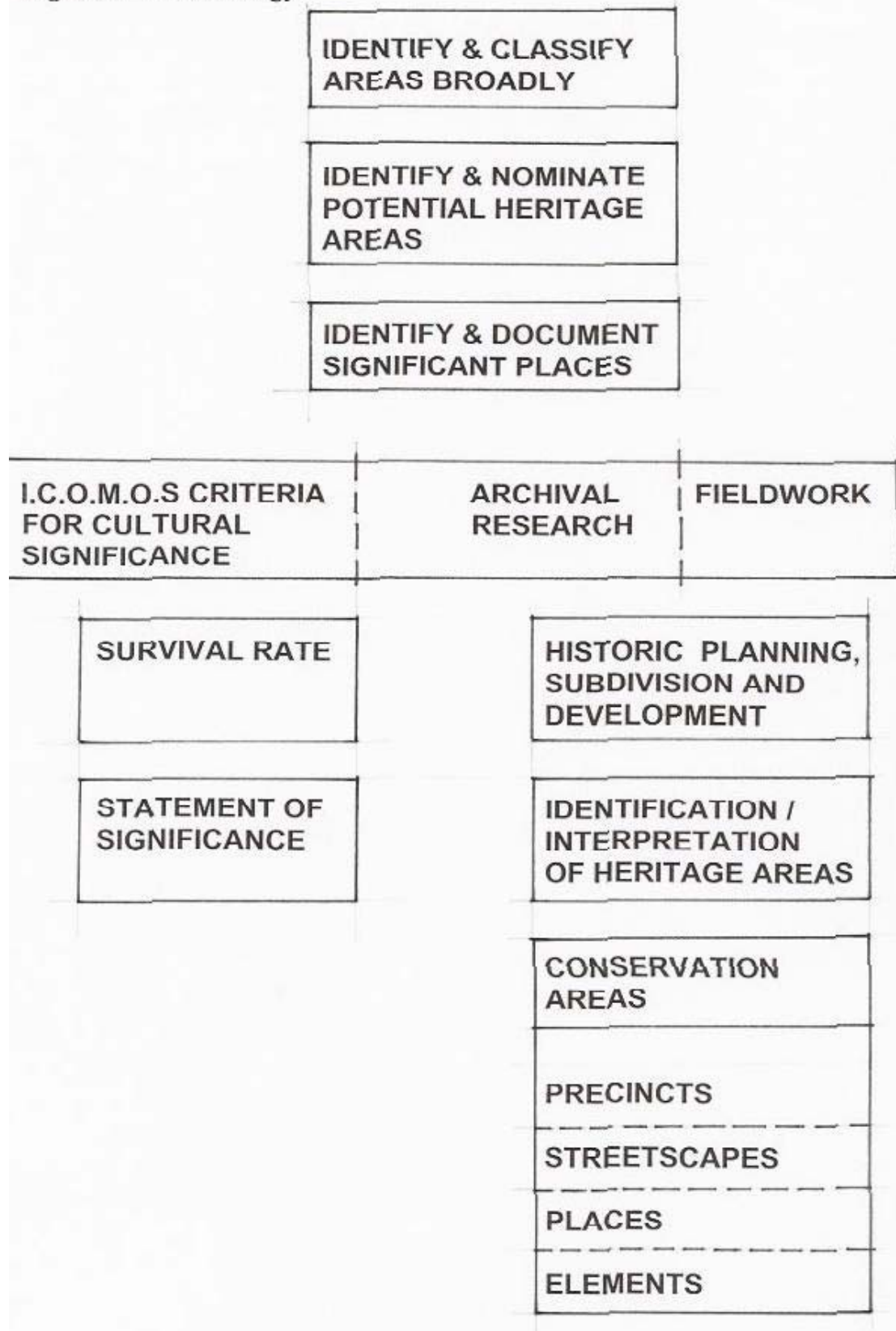


Figure 2 Scope of Fieldwork

TOWNSCAPE	LANDSCAPE	STREETSCAPE	BUILDING PERIOD
<p>PATTERN</p> <p>Street pattern Public spaces Squares Broad Vistas Landmarks</p>	<p>CHARACTER</p> <p>Vegetation Quarries Physical changes/ levels Intra vistas</p>	<p>VISTAS</p> <p>Buildings Landscape Sea / Port activities Streetscape Terraces</p>	<p>PLACE</p> <p>Style Construction Roof line Chimneys Materials Colours</p>
<p>TYPOLOGY</p> <p>Form Type</p>	<p>MATERIALS</p> <p>Atmosphere character Public areas Micro climate Building silhouette Access</p>	<p>BUILT FORM</p> <p>Wallscape Floorscape Spaces between buildings Ovals Squares</p>	<p>ELEMENTS</p> <p>Walls/Fences Heights and openings Roof pitch &amp; material Verandahs, entrances</p>
<p>LAND and BUILDINGS</p> <p>Residential Retail Commercial Industrial Home occupation Port uses Transport</p>	<p>PATTERN</p> <p>Developed areas Undeveloped areas Space between built areas Setback Street Planting</p>	<p>STREET LAYOUT</p> <p>Public space Grid Cul-de-sac Corners Street furniture Private access</p>	<p>DETAILS</p> <p>Barge boards Finials Friezes Gutters Rainwater heads &amp; downpipes Gardens Planting</p>

