EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This conservation plan documents the various aspects of heritage significance of the University of Sydney Grounds, develops policies to guide the conservation and management of the grounds, and proposes strategies to implement those policies.

The University of Sydney Grounds are of heritage significance because, among other values:

- they retain evidence of the continuous human occupation of the place from Aboriginal time, through the earliest period of European settlement of Australia, to the current day;
- the University is the oldest in Australia, and has a distinctive pattern of planned features that reflect its continuous use for over 150 years;
- there are a number of individual precincts, buildings and features are significant in their own right;
- the Main Building Group, Anderson Stewart Building, Gate Lodges, and St Paul’s, St. Johns and St. Andrews Colleges comprise what is arguably the most important group of Gothic and Tudor revival architecture in Australia;
- the layout and development of the Camperdown campus reflects directly changes in tertiary education, landscape design, institutional design, economic development and social attitudes over a 150 year period;
- the student union and sports facilities reflect the history, and changes in, recreational and social activities over a long period of time;
- Darlington campus retains important evidence reflecting the former residential suburb, and was the site of a major expansion of the University, reflecting major changes in tertiary education in Australia; and
- the University grounds are of social significance because of strong and special associations with particular communities and cultural groups.

The University continues to operate as a teaching and research institution, and there are obligations, opportunities and constraints on its management that have been taken into account in the development of policies for the conservation of the place. The policies establish a broad framework within which heritage values can be conserved, while at the same time acknowledging the demands for change and development necessary in a modern and expanding university.
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Appendix A: University of Sydney Overview History ..............................................

Appendix B: Legislation for the protection and management of Aboriginal cultural heritage in New South Wales .............................................................
1. **INTRODUCTION**

1.1 **BACKGROUND AND PLANNING CONTEXT**

This conservation plan is for the grounds of the University of Sydney. It is developed in the context of the obligations of the University under section 170 of the *Heritage Act 1977* to develop a register of heritage places it manages. A separate program has identified buildings with heritage significance (Otto Cserhalmi & Partners, 2000). The University, recognising that the heritage values of the university extended beyond the buildings to the setting, landscaping, plantings, views and vistas of the campus, commissioned this plan to define the heritage significance of the grounds, and to propose management policies for the conservation of that significance. A map of the campus is at Figure 1.1.

This plan was used in draft form for one year, during which time it was tested in the context of ongoing planning and day-to-day management. At the end of that period the draft was reviewed and amended resulting in this final plan.

1.2 **THE CONSERVATION PLANNING PROCESS**

The process of planning for heritage places in Australia has developed over the last twenty years based largely on the concepts and principles embodied in the Australia ICOMOS (International Council on Monuments and Sites) *Burra Charter*. The process is logical and simple:

1. gather enough information to understand and clearly state why the place is important;
2. understand the condition of the place and what legal, economic and administrative requirements, constraints and opportunities apply to its management;
3. develop policies for the management of the place that as far as possible conserve the place’s heritage significance and allow its ongoing use and change;
4. formulate strategies that implement the policies, and carry them out;
5. monitor the success of policies and strategies, and revise the plan as necessary over time.

The process is outlined in the flow chart at Figure 1.2.

This conservation plan is for the grounds of Sydney University. Other plans are being prepared over time for individual significant buildings within the campus, to give more specific guidance for their conservation.

1.3 **HOW THE CONSERVATION PLAN IS ORGANISED.**

The organisation of the conservation plan echoes the conservation planning process. It provides:

- a brief historical outline which summarises a more lengthy historical analysis included as Appendix A in Volume 2;
• a brief description of the grounds and its component features;
• an assessment of the grounds in terms of its potential heritage values;
• a statement of significance that summarises why the place is of heritage importance;
• a brief discussion of the various matters involved in the ongoing management of the place and its future development;
• policies and strategies for the ongoing conservation of heritage significance.

1.4 AUTHORSHIP

The Conservation Plan has been developed through the combined work of the following team members:
• Dr Michael Pearson of Heritage Management Consultants Pty Ltd — oversight of the development of the Conservation Plan, analysis of evidence, assessment of significance, and development of policies and implementation strategies;
• Duncan Marshall — physical description, analysis and assessment, and policy development;
• Dr Val Attenbrow, of the Australian Museum, and Cheryl Stanborough — pre-colonial history and land use;
• Sue Rosen and Rosemary Kerr, of Sue Rosen & Associates — research and writing of the history (Chapter 2);
• Dr Donald Ellsmore, of Donald Ellsmore Pty Ltd — physical description, historical and planning analysis, and development of policies and implementation strategies; and
• Chris Betteridge, of Musecape Pty Ltd — landscape development history and description.

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• Alan Tracy, Director of Facilities, Facilities Management Office, University of Sydney
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• Richard Morrison
• Brendan O'Keefe
• Kyle Oliver
• Marilyn Truscott
• Debbi White
FIGURE 1.2

**STEPS IN PLANNING FOR CULTURAL HERITAGE PLACES**

1. Obtain and study evidence about the place
2. Identify and consult people with an interest in the place
3. Determine significance and write a statement of significance
4. Assess management situation — condition, constraints and opportunities, responsibilities for management
5. Develop conservation policy
6. Develop strategies to implement Policy.
   - Determine conservation processes
   - Management practices
   - Operational procedures
7. Document significance, policy and strategies as a conservation plan
8. Implement conservation plan
9. Monitor the results
10. Revise plan to meet changed circumstances, and implement

REVIEW

REVIEW
The University of Sydney - Camperdown and Darlington Campuses

PRIMARY AND RELATED AREAS

- PRIMARY AREAS
- RELATED AREAS