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	EHA Practice Notes Policy.	

1. Introduction and background

Engineering Heritage Australia (*EHA*) is the body within Engineers Australia (*EA*) responsible for Engineering Heritage. Its vision is to be recognised as the expert group for the practice of Heritage and Conservation Engineering for all aspects of Australian engineering heritage and history.

1.1 Engineering Heritage.

Using science to develop ideas, concepts, processes and construction techniques is the common approach in all branches of engineering and involves buildings, artefacts, infrastructure, communication, energy, chemical and industrial processes with outcomes of benefits to mankind. The approach extends knowledge of the past and establishes a record of the development, its outcomes and people involved. It includes tangible items which are physical (both fixed in place, as in the Burra Charter³, or movable) and intangible items (no physical presence).

The community has recognised the value of recording and preserving important items and classed them as Cultural Heritage. The recognition has involved developing principles to identify, classify and establish criteria which are used to determine the cultural significance of the item. Items of Engineering Heritage may include ideas, concepts, processes or new technology but assessment of their heritage value must always include their basic science, their evolution, their social impact and the people involved and extends to where the technology used fits into the evolution of technique, design and construction

EHA has prepared *An Engineer's Guide to the Conservation of Australia's Engineering Heritage* to assist engineers (and others) when working on a built item or its intangible heritage, in assessing the Engineering Heritage Significance of the item and its components and devising a course of action to achieve the conservation of the significance of the item. The guide directs how to identify, assess and recognise Engineering Heritage - that is those items of universal cultural heritage that owe their existence to the theory and practice of engineering.

Appendix B of the guide provides a list of useful definitions used in the EHA Practice Notes.


1.2 Heritage and Conservation Engineering

The practice of Heritage and Conservation Engineering assists in preserving this record of the development of engineering, its outcomes and the people involved.

Appropriate and successful assessment and subsequent conservation often require specific expertise which can only be adequately provided by Heritage and Conservation Engineers with engineering expertise in heritage works. Conservation of heritage buildings or items requires knowledge of the basic science of materials and their performance is dependent on knowledge of their attributes, their weaknesses, their strengths and how best to use and protect them and a broad application of the principles of the Burra Charter. The process additionally requires, for example, knowledge of structures, of the environment, of geology, of chemistry, of hydraulics and of construction techniques as well as the disintegrating processes of weathering, corrosion, chemical and electrolytic reactions. Public safety is an important consideration.

1.3 EHA practice notes

EHA Practice Notes have been developed in response to many requests from engineers and others for advice and help on conserving items and works which are of heritage significance and provide advice and guidance on assessment and conservation best practice for Heritage and Conservation Engineering. The scope of relevant heritage engineering knowledge is broad and applicable to all heritage related works and covers buildings, machines, both fixed and movable, constructions such as dams and reservoirs, electricity generation and applications, communications, treatment and manufacturing plants and equipment, bridges, railways etc.

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2. Purpose of the Practice Notes.

The intent of the Practice Note is to be short, readable and cross referenced to best relevant information from other publications and organisations.

As a collective the EHA Practice Notes will:

- Provide general guidance on heritage engineering principles and practices for practising Heritage Engineering and those who may not be involved in Heritage Engineering practice on a regular basis.
- Provide guidance for other heritage professionals and highlight the role(s) and contribution of heritage engineering practitioners within the heritage community.
- Be a suitable resource for EHA run training and education courses.

3. Scope and applicability of the Practice Notes.

Practice notes on specific topics will fall under the following categories –

- I. Buildings and structures
- II. Museum artefact preservation
- III. Operating object, Operating Equipment
- IV. Material specific – (eg iron, mortars, stonework, masonry, timber etc)
- or Operations Specific (eg boilers, restoration of machinery to operating conditions, etc)
- V. Intangible heritage
- VI. Sustainability. (eg embodied carbon assessment of heritage buildings)

4. Content of the Practice Notes.

The technical content of each Practice Note will be prepared by experienced practising Heritage engineers under the direction of, and approval by, EHA. EHA shall be responsible for updating the Practice notes in line with current practice and preferably support a risk management assessment approach and performance solutions.

Practice Notes shall provide direction on current best practice within Australia and Internationally where relevant. As a guide, each Practice Note should

- Ideally be 2 pages long and a maximum of 3 pages.
- Follow the proforma format-
 - I. Introduction and background
 - II. Purpose
 - III. Scope and applicability
 - IV. Technical Content
 - V. References and Resources- listing all references and relevant resources

5. References and Resources

1. *An Engineer's Guide to the Conservation of Australia's Engineering Heritage*, Prepared by Engineering Heritage Australia, August 2023.
2. Engineering Heritage Recognition Program, 2024 GUIDELINES, Prepared by Engineering Heritage Australia, August 2023.
3. The Burra Charter: the Australia ICOMOS Charter for Places of Cultural Significance, 2013.