

AUSTRALIA ICOMOS
International Council on Monuments and Sites



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Louise Gell
Secretary, Senate Finance & Public Administration Committee
Department of the Senate
Parliament House
Canberra, ACT 2600
[sent by email: fpa.sen@aph.gov.au]

Dear Ms Gell,

Gallipoli Inquiry

I write on behalf of Australia ICOMOS (the Australian National Committee of the International Council on Monuments and Sites).

About Australia ICOMOS

Australia ICOMOS is the peak national body of cultural heritage practitioners and professionals who are expert in the conservation of heritage places. The *Burra Charter: The Australia ICOMOS Charter for Places of Cultural Significance* is widely established as the 'industry standard' for heritage conservation in Australia, and is also highly regarded and used internationally.

Internationally, ICOMOS has an advisory role to UNESCO, particularly in relation to the World Heritage Convention. Through our international structures, we therefore have expert and highly respected professional colleagues in Turkey, and in other nations with heritage interests in Gallipoli (including New Zealand, United Kingdom and France).

We therefore strongly support a cooperative multi-party approach to the management of Gallipoli, based on accepted best practice in heritage conservation.

The Gallipoli Inquiry

We note the terms of reference established for this inquiry by the Senate Finance and Public Administration Committee.

While sharing the concerns expressed by many Australians about the recent press reports of works at Gallipoli and the possible disturbance to historic sites and human remains, we are particularly interested in item (c) in the terms of reference: *the heritage protection of ANZAC Cove...*

In other words, we are most concerned to identify and actively participate in a way forward for the management of the heritage values of Gallipoli which will enable good decision making to occur.

Two Practical Suggestions

We welcome the opportunity to forward several practical suggestions to the Senate Finance and Public Administration Committee which we believe will achieve the improved conservation of the heritage of Gallipoli.

These are to:

- Undertake/update conservation management planning for Gallipoli; and
- Establish a task force to coordinate Australian stakeholders and expertise in the future of Gallipoli.

Irrespective of whether Anzac Cove is able to be included in the National Heritage List or the World Heritage List in the future, we believe that a joint conservation management planning process, involving the Turkish and the Australian and New Zealand Governments should be an urgent priority.

Reports that the Australian Prime Minister, together with his Turkish counterpart, Mr Recep Tayipp Erdogan have agreed to carry out a joint historical survey (including archaeological values) and an engineering study are not unwelcome. We have yet to learn of the process for these studies, and sincerely hope that researchers and professional organisations with knowledge of Gallipoli will be invited to contribute to these studies, and that there will be an adequate and inclusive process for public involvement and comment.

However, as outlined below, *these studies will not in themselves achieve the essential formulation of effective conservation management strategies for Gallipoli.*

In addition, we have been advised by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet that Australian Government engagement in the joint historical survey will be coordinated through the Department of Veterans' Affairs. While indisputably a pivotal player in these processes, we question whether that Department has sufficient knowledge and expertise regarding best practice heritage management, and suggest that the Australian Heritage Council (and Department of the Environment & Heritage) should have a stronger role.

Conservation Management Planning for Gallipoli

Conservation management planning is the basis for protecting and managing every major historic site in Australia and many lesser sites as well. Old Parliament House has a conservation management plan and so does the modest historic store building in Coolamon, NSW.

Conservation management planning is nationally (and increasingly internationally) recognised as the fundamental tool for protecting and managing cultural heritage places. It is the ideal process for engaging disparate interests in a productive dialogue, and for addressing complex issues such as physical conservation, visitor pressure and the provision of appropriate infrastructure.

Conservation management planning is an approach that has been particularly well developed and refined in Australia. We are recognised as *world leaders* in this field, and we understand that the Australian Heritage Council supports and promotes this approach.

Regrettably, despite the obvious heritage significance of Gallipoli, and the considerable heritage expertise available, it does not appear that conservation management planning has been undertaken for Gallipoli. From the recent reports we have seen, it does not appear that this has been discussed with the Turkish Government.

Australia ICOMOS strongly urges the Australian Government to offer Australian expertise in conservation management planning as a means of cooperatively working toward the long term protection and management of the heritage of Gallipoli.

These outcomes might also provide a path to National Heritage listing in the longer term, although in our view, this must be a secondary goal.

It may be of interest to note that, in the aftermath of the Port Arthur tragedy, a Conservation Report for the Broad Arrow Café was undertaken to determine the most appropriate conservation outcome for this site of national tragedy. The planning process resulted in the preparation of clear and practical policies for the site's ongoing management, and the presentation of a moving tribute there.

On a larger scale, this process could be similar for Gallipoli – the conservation planning process allows for all parties to be involved in the decision making process and to contribute to the formulation of appropriate conservation management strategies.

Coordination of Australian stakeholders and expertise

There are many Australian stakeholders with interests in Gallipoli, and many Australians with relevant expertise to contribute, but there is very little coordination between them.

In the interests of achieving the best conservation outcomes for Gallipoli, which takes into account the views of all the key stakeholders, Australia ICOMOS recommends that the Australian Heritage Council be requested to coordinate Australian efforts, stakeholder views and expertise. This mechanism should involve the RSL, the Australian War Memorial, Department of Veterans' Affairs, National Maritime Museum, the Office of War Graves, individuals and professional associations of historians and archaeologists with specialist knowledge of Gallipoli (including its underwater heritage), and heritage conservation management experts.

Obviously, achieving a coordinated conservation management planning approach would be an urgent matter for this group to address.

We wish the Committee success in conducting this Inquiry with a view to ensuring the excellent management of the multiple heritage values of Gallipoli. We are happy to provide further information to the Committee if required.

Yours sincerely,



Kristal Buckley
President, Australia ICOMOS