

# ENGINEERING HERITAGE AUSTRALIA

## ENGINEERING HERITAGE PRACTICE NOTES

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ENGINEERS  
AUSTRALIA

### PRACTICE NOTE No. 3

## Conservation of Engineering Heritage Items

### Purpose

The purpose of this practice note is to provide engineers and others with essential background information on the conservation of a significant engineering heritage item.

### Preamble

Items of engineering heritage are those that have been designed, constructed and operated by engineers, tradesman and other technicians that may be significant for historic, aesthetic, scientific or social reasons.

The significance of the Item is established by the procedures set out in Practice Notes 1 and 2.

### Principles and Techniques

The principles and techniques are those of the Australian Burra Charter set out in Practice Note 1.

### Procedure

Conservation of the item involves a number of ordered steps as follows:-

1. Determine the significance of the item as a whole.
2. Determine the significance of the individual components of the item.
3. Determine if there are individual components so significant that they cannot be altered in any way. This leaves preservation in its existing state as the only option and will almost certainly rule out continued use unless acceptable maintenance can be achieved.
4. Determine if there are individual components which require restoration or reconstruction or adaptation and assess whether the impact of the alterations diminishes the significance of the item.
5. Assess public safety issues, structural and fabric considerations and their impact on conservation options.
6. Evaluate whether a significance alteration is acceptable.
7. Determine acceptable end uses of the item based on the above.
8. Assess the practicality of carrying out the conservation works decided upon. This includes considering the impact of introducing new materials.
9. Carry out the conservation works to the above.