

# QUEENSLAND CULTURAL CENTRE CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT PLAN

## Background

In 2015, some of the original buildings of the Queensland Cultural Centre on the Cultural Precinct at South Brisbane were heritage listed clearly demonstrating its historic, rare, cultural, aesthetic, technical and social significance. The nomination for heritage listing received 1254 public submissions – an exceptional result for a single nomination in the history of the Queensland Heritage Act.

The heritage listing includes the original buildings and integrated landscape design by the late Robin Gibson AO for the Queensland Art Gallery, Queensland Museum, Queensland Performing Arts Centre and The Edge at the State Library of Queensland built in stages from 1976.

## Queensland Cultural Centre Conservation Management Plan (CMP)

The CMP, commissioned by Arts Queensland, provides a framework to understand and manage the Cultural Centre's heritage values, guide future infrastructure planning and ensure it thrives and adapts into the future.

The CMP includes a detailed history of the Cultural Centre, its cultural heritage significance and over 100 conservation policies and management mechanisms that are appropriate to enable heritage significance to be retained.

## CMP development and consultation

The CMP was developed by a team of specialist heritage consultants led by Brisbane-based architectural practice Conrad Gargett and in consultation with the Queensland Premier's Cultural Precinct Design and Heritage Roundtable, established to provide independent advice throughout development of the CMP.

Extensive consultation was undertaken in the development of the CMP, including engagement with key industry body the Australian Institute of Architects, other key stakeholders and through a period of public consultation during January and February 2017.

## CMP methodology and key elements

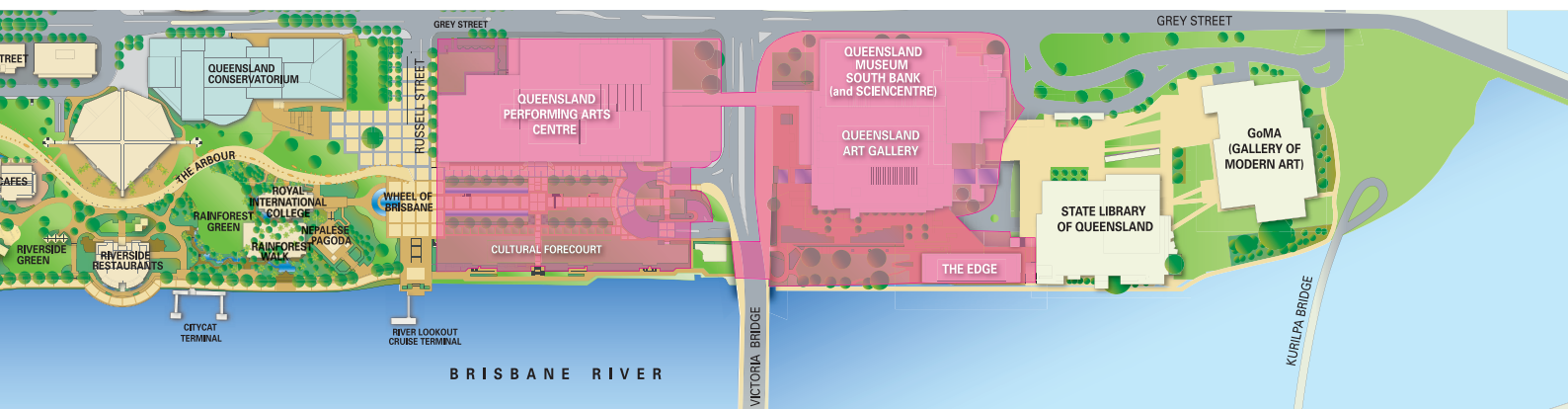
The CMP uses the method of investigation and analysis established by the Burra Charter, an internationally endorsed standard for heritage conservation practice.

The Burra Charter emphasises the importance of a logical and systematic approach to undertaking a plan for conserving heritage places by outlining processes and principles for conservation, rather than rigid rules.

Based upon the Burra Charter methodology, the key elements of the CMP are:

- Understand the place - including the history of the site, its design and construction, use and changes and a description (Chapters

This diagram represents the indicative boundary of the Queensland Cultural Centre heritage listing.



### KEY

Cultural Precinct heritage boundary

For illustrative purposes only.

1–9)

- Cultural heritage significance - defines what makes the place special and the attributes that make it important to Queensland (Chapter 10)
- Policy - principles and guidelines to ensure management of the place conserves its cultural heritage values (Chapter 11).

### **Categorisation of Cultural Centre and conservation policies**

The CMP defines major elements of the Cultural Centre into three categories: significant, not significant and intrusive. Significant elements include such items as public spaces, views to and within the Cultural Centre, its geometric and horizontal form and setting near the Brisbane River and Taylor Range (refer to CMP pages 105 to 115).

The CMP defines conservation policies across four categories:

- Category 1 - Cultural Centre.
- Category 2 - Landscape and external spaces.
- Category 3 - Building and fabric.
- Category 4 - Management.

### **Key themes of the CMP**

The CMP provides a number of key themes, including:

- continue the practice of excellence evident in the original design and construction and maintain original and simple material palette and primary fabric and finishes (Policy 2, 5 and 39)
- the significant relationships, including both

visual and physical, that the Cultural Centre has with its setting should be conserved (Policy 8)

- future planning of the Cultural Centre should be informed by and recognise its cultural heritage significance, and should recognise and acknowledge the statutory obligations of the Queensland Art Gallery, Queensland Performing Arts Trust, Queensland Museum, and State Library of Queensland (Policy 3 and 13)
- specialist advice should be sought when alterations or additions are proposed to the Cultural Centre that would impact on the heritage significance, specifically as they relate to the architectural and landscape attributes (Policy 89).

### **Future planning guided by the CMP**

The Cultural Centre's capacity to serve the arts and cultural interests of Queenslanders and our many visitors, both now and into the future, should be facilitated by the CMP while conserving its cultural heritage values.

Independent experts have been appointed to provide advice to Arts Queensland on key projects or proposed alterations that may impact on the centre's heritage significance. This specialist advice, coordinated through the Queensland Government Architect, will ensure heritage values are respected.

Advice from additional experts will also be sought, when required, to inform discussion and understanding for specific projects.

The ability of the Cultural Centre and broader precinct to accommodate medium to long-term future growth and expansion of the cultural institutions will need to consider the significance of the place as defined by the CMP.

<sup>1</sup> The Cultural Precinct Design and Heritage Roundtable members: Queensland Government Architect Malcolm Middleton OAM (Chair); landscape architect and South Bank Corporation Chair Dr Catherin Bull AM; architects Kristina Gibson (daughter of the late Robin Gibson AO), Professor Kerry Clare and Elizabeth Watson Brown; former Heritage Council Chair and QUT Vice Chancellor Professor Peter Coaldrake AO; and the Honourable Matt Foley, former Queensland Arts Minister and Barrister.

