



Threads of Conservation

Social fabric • Fabric and place • Conserving fabric

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A former book publisher turned urban planner I am interested in how planning can harness and enhance the 'core drivers' of a city – culture and commerce. These interests are reflected in my appointment as Project Manager of the Mount Lofty Ranges World Heritage Bid, and appointments to the Adelaide Park Lands Authority, and the City of Charles Sturt, Town of Walkerville, Adelaide City Council and City of Burnside Development Assessment Panels. I publish regularly in specialist and generalist media including Historic Environment, Citiscope, a+u, The Adelaide Review, SA Life and Fleurieu Living Magazine.

I have a degree in Architectural Studies and a Master's degree in Urban and Regional Planning. My thesis explored the history of planning for an expanding population in South Australia since the early 1960s, with Willunga Basin landscape policy as a case study. In 2008 I advocated the creation of legislation to protect the Willunga Basin, (modelled on the Swan Valley Planning Act 1995), which resulted in Character Preservation legislation being introduced by the South Australian government in 2013 for the Barossa and McLaren Vale.

Pursuing World Heritage Nomination as an Integrated Landscape Planning Tool and Regional Development Tool

Paper Abstract

Rebanks (2010) identified four kinds of motivation for World Heritage listing: (i) 'Celebration' of heritage value, (ii) 'SOS' saving of heritage, (iii) 'Quality Logo/Branding' and (iv) 'Place Making' tool. The critical lesson that emerged was that how stakeholders perceive heritage status matters. This paper explores the implications for a proposed World Heritage nomination of the Mount Lofty Ranges Agricultural Landscape in South Australia, which has a core ambition to underpin the working, evolving (agri)cultural landscape values by delivering real and lasting socioeconomic and environmental benefits, regardless of the ultimate outcome of the nomination. The case for Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the landscape is based on the landscape's association with a ground-breaking 19th century model of colonisation developed by Edward Gibbon Wakefield, John Stuart Mill, Jeremy Bentham and members of the British-based National Colonization Society.

The bid is using best practice models to pursue listing as (i) an integrated landscape planning tool, and (ii) a stimulus for socioeconomic development. Firstly the bid is taking a 'landscape approach' to integrate the management of agricultural production with environmental conservation and to bring together numerous partners, agencies and land owners who are facing similar challenges. The bid is seen as a "no regrets" policy as the mere prospect of nomination is already influencing the way the area is promoted, managed and protected. Secondly, by setting clear socioeconomic and environmental objectives, the Mount Lofty Ranges nomination is putting in place the tools to monitor and evaluate achievement of those objectives in the context of a future strategic management framework involving local communities. The proposed nomination thus aims to develop an enhanced identity for the region and to engender a program of research, actions and investment to fundamentally influence its future socioeconomic trajectory.