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CONFERENCE PAPER ABSTRACT

NAME OF PRESENTER:	Sarah Ward
TITLE OF PAPER:	Not if, but when... managing underwater cultural heritage in the face of coastal change
THEME:	<i>Specific Session 1: Underwater Cultural Heritage</i>
<p>PAPER ABSTRACT:</p> <p>Accelerated erosion, sea-level rise, receding coastlines and anthropogenically-altered weather patterns present a challenge for the conservation of coastal Underwater Cultural Heritage (UCH) in the Pacific. Since 2011, at least five reef islands in the remote Solomon Islands have been inundated and a further six severely eroded (Albert 2016). Given the Pacific has experienced sea-level rise at almost three times the global average since 1993 and the rate of coastal change is predicted to escalate in coming decades (NOAA 2017), many UCH assets will be destroyed and others radically transformed.</p> <p>There is an urgent need to develop new methods for managing change. As such, this paper will consider the growing body of work focused on strategies that look 'beyond saving' to the productive potential of change and transformation. It will examine:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • risk, vulnerability and endangerment frameworks for UCH; • monitoring and management challenges arising from the identification of risk; and • consider new legislative, policy and program approaches that frame risk as an opportunity for engagement and acknowledge the productive and transformative aspects of loss, particularly within the context of the UNESCO 2001 <i>Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage</i> and the obligation it places on States Parties to protect UCH and in doing so, consider <i>in situ</i> protection as the first option. <p>Finally the paper will explore the relationship between affected sites and associated communities, considering how the impending transformation of coastal UCH may provide opportunities for community engagement, capacity building and international cooperation.</p>	
<p>BRIEF BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE PRESENTER:</p> <p>Sarah Ward is a professional Maritime Archaeologist and Postgraduate Researcher in Underwater Cultural Heritage Law at the University of Sydney. A Nautical Archaeology Society Senior Tutor, she has 16-years' experience in the cultural heritage sector, focused primarily on underwater cultural heritage, impact assessment, heritage interpretation and capacity building through outreach, education and stakeholder engagement. A 2017-18 Telstra Women's Awards nominee, Sarah has managed</p>	



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maritime archaeological projects from the Bronze Age to the Modern in over 30 countries and across a range of sectors including: energy, resources, transport infrastructure, urban renewal, international development, government, not-for-profit, museums and cultural institutions.