



Image: Sydney Terrace Houses

Developing best Conservation Management Practices in NSW

> THE CONTEXT

Conservation Management Plans (CMPs) are valuable tools for the preservation and care of heritage assets. They guide their maintenance and preservation in the context of their significance. Normally prepared by heritage consultants, architects or other specialists, CMPs have tended to become increasingly complex and lengthy documents. Heritage Council NSW, which has responsibility for overseeing compliance with the Heritage Act, was concerned and sought a review of the preparation and use of CMPs in light of this trend, as well as the increasing scrutiny of CMPs within development approval processes.

> THE BRIEF

Positive Solutions, with the support of The Maytrix Group, was engaged by the Heritage Council of NSW to undertake a review of the purpose and practice of CMPs in NSW and make recommendations to improve efficiency and guide best practice. This required a contextual understanding of CMPs, including their purpose and how they relate to other heritage management tools. Positive Solutions was asked to suggest improvements to current NSW CMP tools and processes, and consider more practical and accessible tools and processes for a range of government and non-government end users and asset types.

> OUR APPROACH

Positive Solutions reviewed relevant documentation, Government policies and legislation. Benchmark research was undertaken nationally and internationally to compare CMPs' development and use elsewhere. This research was complimented with wide-ranging consultation through interviews with internal stakeholders, facilitated discussion groups and a sector-wide survey. Positive Solutions developed options for improved processes based on the consultation and research findings and used feedback on the options to inform final recommendations.

> THE RESULTS

Positive Solutions provided a findings paper and an options paper highlighting key themes and approaches for the future. The project continues to mid-2020, by when a preferred approach and a suite of tools and resources will have been developed

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- > [Creative New Zealand Multi-Year Investment Programmes Review](#)
- > [Arts NSW Review of Arts and Cultural Development Program](#)
- > [Sunshine Coast Heritage Plan Review](#)
- > [City of Perth Arts, Culture and Heritage Strategy](#)