

**ROBE CONSERVATION STUDY 1979
PRESENTATION TO THE STATE HISTORY CONFERENCE
OCTOBER 25, 2015 ROBE SA**

PRESENTATION RUNNING SHEET

A study in the values of the time, for our time:

- history: how have we got here; what have we learn.ed.
- the nature of Robe community and place in 1979.
- the way in which people, natural environment, and town can come together in sustainable development.
- intersection in one place of the great regional, national and international themes of our time: how to live together sustainably.

Commissioned by the Department of Housing, Urban and Regional Affairs; The Department for the Environment; and the District Council of Robe:

from the **Urban & Environmental Planning Group 1979, Hackney Road—**

1979 Mannum waterfront development (SA Dept of Housing, Urban & Regional Affairs)

1980 Hallett Cove development (Thebarton Council)

1982 South East Coast Protection study (SA Coastal Protection Board)

1985 Lower Lakes and Lower Murray (E & WS SA) alternative operational strategies, sensitivity analysis

1986 Moonta town development (Northern Yorke Peninsula District Council, State Heritage, DoE)

| Slides | Docs |
|---|---------------------|
| 1 The Robe Conservation Study | 1. Main aims |
| <p>2 Australia 1979 3 The Federal Government</p> <p>Whitlam era Fraser government Major national parks—Uluru and Katajuta; Kakadu; Kosiuszko; Munga-Thirri</p> <p><i>Environment Protection (Impact of Proposals) Act 1974, the National Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act 1975, the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975 and the Australian Heritage Commission Act 1975.</i></p> <p>4 The South Australian government</p> | |

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| <p>Dunstan government Tonkin government National Trust 1895 founds, devolved to regions in 1968; 24 items listed at Robe in 1979 Planning & Development Act; Coast Protection Act; Negotiations on the APY Lands (Tonkin 1981)</p> <p>5 Non-government action: Environmental and heritage activism</p> <p>Individual national figures: Vincent Serventy, Warren Bonython, Harry Butler The Great Barrier reef campaign The Franklin River campaign The Daintree</p> <p>Robe in transition End of the port Fishing industry reaching the limits Emergence of summer tourists Town and infrastructure</p> | |
| <p>6 The Structure of the Study</p> <p>Two parts:</p> <p>7 Baseline Study Historical context Social & Economic trends The Natural Environment The Built Environment Community Perceptions & Attitudes Townscape</p> <p>8 Recommendations and Policy Guidelines The Legislative Mandate Broad Objectives and Policies Specific Objectives Policy Area Guidelines</p> | |
| <p>9 The Baseline Study</p> <p>10 Introduction The historical background: Boom and bust The second boom period The meaning of conservation The achievement of conservation</p> | <p>2. Introduction</p> |

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| <p>11 The Study</p> <p>12 History</p> <p>13 Natural environment</p> <p>14 Built environment</p> <p>15 Community perceptions & attitudes</p> <p>16 Townscape</p> | <p>3. Baseline study</p> |
| <p>17 The Objectives</p> <p>18 Broad Objectives</p> <p>19 Planning and development</p> <p>Orderly development: living, working, recreation</p> <p>Scenic preservation and enhancement</p> <p>Preservation of amenity and landscape</p> <p>Building conservation: architecture, history, significance</p> <p>Land for public purposes</p> <p>20 Development in coastal zones</p> <p>Recreation and use</p> <p>Natural processes, visual amenity, variety, contrast</p> <p>Biological integrity of coastal waters</p> <p>Beach and fore-dune development strictly controlled</p> <p>Mining and extraction minimal</p> <p>21 Specific objectives</p> <p>22 Town setting, town character</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Development compact and compatible with the natural landscape elements, systems and forms which define the town. ▪ Conserve and enhance the environmental and built form elements which give Robe its unique character <p>23 Scenic amenity, environmental conservation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Preserve and enhance the broad scale scenic amenity of Robe, development careful sited in and compatible with the landscape. ▪ Maintain and conserve the physical and biological integrity of the unique nature systems around Robe. <p>24 Urban conservation, urban development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Protect heritage value—sense of time, place, meaning and continuity from past to present. ▪ Historical integrity of key areas; integration of new with old; alternative kinds of development. <p>25 Recreational development, educational development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Recreation use, diversity and potential of natural landscape, fragility of natural systems. | <p>4. The Policy Guideline document</p> |

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Community awareness of historical, physical, social significance; town as a learning/teaching resource; talents and interests of the local community. <p>26 Economic development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sustained economic growth, commercial development, fishing, tourist related activities (incl Karatta House). | |
| <p>The Aftermath</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Community support ▪ Lack of adoption at the local Council level ▪ Signs of the times: the 1980s and the ascension of the free market ▪ Recurrence of themes | |

Reflections on Sustainable Development: of its time, in our time

Aldo Leopold (1948)

“The individual is a member of a community of interdependent parts. . .The land ethic simply enlarges the boundaries of the community to include the soils, waters, plants and animals, or collectively: the land. . . A land ethic changes the role of Homo sapiens from conqueror of the land-community to plain member and citizen of it. It implies respect for his fellow-members, and also respect for the community as such.” (1948)

Wendell Berry (1980)

The state of health is that whole which more than the sum of the parts, which are themselves healthy (and of which, as systems in their own right, the small parts are healthy, both individually and in their relationships to other smaller parts.) The system Wendell Berry has in mind spans land, soil, communities, knowledge, species and natural systems, in place. As he remarks, “nothing less will do”: inclusion is non-negotiable.

Mick Smith (2001)

A sense of community that can be inclusive of humans and non-humans. This requires a practical “ecological” sense that can only come from an awareness, a feeling, for what is fitting with respect to natural places and our nonhuman fellows, and this feeling can, in turn, only come about through practicing and experiencing the desire and wonder that natural others can produce in our lives.

Tim Winton (2015)

In my own lifetime the environment has started to make the kinds of claims on us that perhaps only family can. From the geographical ignorance and perfectly reasonable dismay of our settler forebears, we are coming, haltingly and haphazardly, to a new communal understanding . . . Activists did not conjure collapsing fisheries, soil erosion, curdling wetlands and species extinctions. They did not invent Australia’s environmental challenges. They just noticed. They paid attention to their surroundings. They acted on evidence that everyone else around them was carefully failing to recognize.

From Our Common Future (1989) through the Rio Earth Summit (1992), the Millenium Goals (2000) to

The 2015 UN Sustainable Development Goals (adopted September 25)

- Goal 1. End **poverty** in all its forms everywhere
- Goal 2. End hunger, achieve **food security** and improved nutrition and promote **sustainable agriculture**
- Goal 3. Ensure **healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages**
- Goal 4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality **education** and promote **lifelong learning** opportunities for all
- Goal 5. Achieve **gender equality** and empower all women and girls
- Goal 6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of **water** and sanitation for all
- Goal 7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern **energy** for all
- Goal 8. Promote sustained, inclusive and **sustainable economic growth**, full and productive employment and decent work for all
- Goal 9. Build **resilient infrastructure**, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation
- Goal 10. Reduce **inequality** within and among countries
- Goal 11. Make **cities and human settlements** inclusive, safe, resilient and **sustainable**
- Goal 12. Ensure **sustainable consumption** and production patterns
- Goal 13. Take urgent action to combat **climate change** and its impacts*
- Goal 14. Conserve and **sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources** for sustainable development
- Goal 15. Protect, restore and promote **sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems**, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss
- Goal 16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to **justice** for all and build effective, accountable and **inclusive** institutions at all levels
- Goal 17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the **global partnership** for sustainable development

Last paragraph of the Introduction to the Study

“However this system will not work as truly intended unless there is a substantial re-awakening of the community and the development of an appreciated of the special physical and cultural assets of Robe. If Robe is to be appreciated by persons other than architectural historians, the intertwined relationships between physical, historical,

economic, social and cultural elements must be acknowledged by the community so that the integrity of the town and its environs is maintained and enhanced for future generations.”

This is the vision towards which this prescient study pointed, in this one place of Robe, and it remains as persuasive and as urgent now as it ever was.