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Extent

Managing Indigenous Cultural Heritage within a Development Context

Although corporations in the resources sector are accustomed to managing Indigenous heritage values, it is commonly the case that town planners who represent developers in the urban and peri-urban environment are unfamiliar with the relevant laws and systems, or struggle with the complex interplay between the highly variable local, State and national legislation.

Further, where it is recognised that Indigenous heritage may exist at a site, it is often the case that Indigenous world views are stereotyped, and the motivations of Indigenous stakeholders misunderstood. The costs in time and resources can be enormous.

This paper considers the nature of Indigenous cultural heritage and the means by which different governments have sought to manage it through town planning and other processes. It asks: Who do we consult? How do we identify an Indigenous heritage place? How do we manage places that have been identified? And how do we know whether a 'heritage place' has its foundations in tradition or whether claims of significance are strategically motivated?