



Australian Institute
of
Landscape Designers & Managers Ltd.

ACN 065 777 273

Environment Policy

June 11, 1996

Introduction.

The Australian Institute of Landscape Designers & Managers Ltd (AILDM) is a national organisation, officially launched in February 1995.

The AILDM Environment Policy is for the use of:

- Associates of AILDM (to affirm their environmental awareness and promote their expertise).
- Clients (both public and private sector).
- Members of the public (as an educational reference).

It is written in plain English, to be understood by the professional and lay person alike and a glossary is included to explain technical terms.

This Policy encompasses the landscape, both cultural and natural, with the use of specific and perceived concepts. This environmental policy realises the global importance of environmental management and the substantial impact that landscape designers and managers will have on ecological sustainability.

AILDM IS COMMITTED TO THE FOLLOWING PRINCIPLES.

- AILDM members will behave in an environmentally responsible manner, uphold professional standards and be prepared to inform public and government bodies of the importance of considering all impacts, direct and indirect, on the environment . This includes impacts on air and water as well as land.
- AILDM members are encouraged to interact with other professional bodies covering all aspects of the cultural and natural environment .
- AILDM members are committed to continuing education relating to environmental practices.
- AILDM members will design and manage the landscape so as to:
 - * Maintain biodiversity.
 - * Ensure the wisest long-term use of resources.
 - * Minimise the degradation of land, water and air.
 - * Maintain or restore a 'sense of place'.
 - * Raise community awareness and promote ecologically sound attitudes.

Principle One

Maintain biodiversity.

AILDM members will maintain or restore biodiversity by:

- accepting that the many daily decisions and actions of land managers, at a local level, will cumulatively allow for biodiversity to be either maintained, increased or damaged.
- using design principles and management practices which allow for the protection, restoration or environmental enhancement of the site and local ecosystems by:
 - * identifying and evaluating the site and local ecosystems as part of the initial site planning process
 - * taking into consideration the impact of design and management decisions on ecosystems within or away from the site
 - * actively promoting ecologically sustainable construction through the use of environmentally compatible materials
 - * abiding by recognised environmentally responsible soil, water and air conservation practices
 - * following the principles of Integrated Pest Management including, wherever possible, avoiding the use of toxic substances
 - * monitoring the environment for any impact resulting from changes during the construction and maintenance liability period of the works

Principle Two

Ensure the wisest long-term use of resources.

AILDM members will choose appropriate design and materials (raw, recycled, recyclable or renewable) when designing and managing the landscape to minimise waste and ecological damage in the short and long term by:

- not wasting resources.
- designing to minimise total energy consumption, particularly water consumption.
- advocating the use of appropriate raw materials i.e. renewable resources that have originated through environmentally sound practices.
- using renewable resources in preference to finite resources.
- using recycled or recyclable materials or components where feasible.
- substituting second-hand, quarried or even artificial stone for natural rock.
- following environmentally responsible soil, water and air conservation principles and practices.
- encouraging the use of environmentally friendly resources by other 'user' groups.

Principle Three

Minimise the degradation of land, water and air.

AILDM members will promote and share responsibility for environmental planning and management with other organisations, government and non-government by:

- maintaining an awareness of relevant policies, standards and treaties - international, national and local - and supporting their implementation.
- assisting in the restoration of degraded environments.
- encouraging the responsible design and management of land, air and water resources, consistent with the relevant conservation principles so as to reduce nutrient production and nutrient impact on rivers and streams.
- designing to minimise changes in natural hydrology, to curb erosion, siltation and sedimentation and minimise other impacts (including fire hazards) outside of the immediate location.
- protecting existing ecosystems (including terrestrial, aquatic and marine) when developments are planned.
- ensuring that the selection and management of vegetation (including reducing the risk of fire to a minimum) and other materials are appropriate to the site and surrounding environment.
- observing the principles of Total Catchment Management (TCM) and / or similar programs throughout Australia:
 - * co-ordinate policies, programs and activities relating to TCM
 - * identify and rectify natural resource degradation
 - * promote the sustainable use of natural resources
 - * provide stable and productive vegetation cover within water catchments
- following the principles of Integrated Pest Management including, wherever possible, avoiding the use of toxic substances.
- managing the soil so as not to contribute to sodicity, salinity, acidity, acid-sulphate or other soil problems.
- providing information and advice on decisions that may effect the natural environment or the cultural landscape.
- seeking specialist advice when confronted with situations beyond our expertise.

Principle Four

Maintain or restore a 'sense of place'.

AILDM members will endeavour to recognise and maintain a 'sense of place' by:

- advocating the restoration or rehabilitation of neglected, abused or threatened landscapes with special values.
- recognising the identity of cultural landscapes and considering the *genius loci*, identifying the key features of the landscape perceived as being critical to its 'sense of place':
 - * aesthetic
 - * scientific
 - * cultural / social
 - * sacred / spiritual
 - * economic
 - * archaeological
 - * landscape character, physical features
 - * symbolic
 - * historic / links with the past
 - * ecological / conservation
 - * educational / tourism
 - * horticultural

(developed from the Burra Charter, 1981)

- investigating and interpreting historical data to determine cultural elements worthy of preservation or enhancement. By using defined evaluation and assessment criteria appropriate to the site, the validation of cultural values becomes objective. The community should be involved in this process whenever possible.
- recognising 'sense of place' in design and management. In this way, the identity of the landscape is consolidated and its quality enhanced.
- protecting and restoring landscapes and components of landscapes that are of cultural significance.
- determining the natural features that are locally significant and then acknowledging them in design.
- designing and constructing in sympathy with the landform and being aware of the impact (the ecological and aesthetic costs) of altering the soil and site hydrology.
- supporting legislation and the procedures used by heritage organisations to protect landscape heritage.
- encouraging landscape appreciation, designing and managing the site to reveal its inherent beauty while transcending limits to produce a place of true presence.

PRINCIPLE FIVE

Raise community awareness and promote ecologically sound attitudes.

AILDM members are encouraged to use their knowledge, skills and experience to promote environmentally sound practices in the community by:

- participating in public education, campaigns and developing conservation ethics.
- using educational mediums to raise awareness of the natural environment and cultural landscape including:
 - * promoting courses / seminars / public lectures
 - * audio visual displays
 - * written material (books, brochures, journal articles, posters)
 - * non-written forms (story-telling, song-making)
- involving the community, as much as possible, in the evaluation, assessment, design, construction and management of landscapes in order to raise community awareness, develop a sense of responsibility towards the landscape and improve public attitudes and behaviour.
- lobbying those responsible for making decisions that effect the welfare of Australian landscapes.
- effective use of the media.
- supporting environmental education and community awareness campaigns initiated by other organisations.

Glossary

Australia ICOMOS

Australian International Charter for the Conservation and Restoration of Monuments and Sites (Venice 1966 and Moscow 1978)

acid sulphate soils

Soils which contain iron pyrite (naturally found in estuarine sediments) which on exposure to oxygen decomposes to form sulphuric acid. This can result in highly acidic soil and run

off conditions which have detrimental effects on plant growth, fish and aquatic organisms. Acid Sulphate conditions frequently occur when wetlands are drained. There are other, human induced, acidic soil problems.

Ref: Coastal Committee of NSW (1994) Draft Revised Coastal Policy for NSW.

assessment criteria

A statement which provides a documented framework for assessing landscape heritage value. eg. Burra Charter (1981) or Rio De Janerio Agenda 21 (1992).

biodiversity

Is the variety of all life forms including different plants, animals, micro-organisms, the genes they contain and the ecosystems they live in. It is usually considered at three different levels :genetic diversity, species diversity and ecosystem diversity.

Burra Charter

A document produced in 1981 that forms a frame work for assessing landscape heritage value. It details how heritage sites can be conserved, restored or adapted. The document consists of definitions & principles with clearly defined articles for the conservation of places of cultural significance.

conservation

With reference to natural resources, is the provision for future need by the improvement and restoration to an economic balance during the present availability.

conservation ethic

A standard of conduct for the conservation of the environment.

cultural landscape

Landscapes resulting from human intervention.

cultural significance

Aesthetic, historic, scientific or social values for past, present or future generations.

Ref: Australia ICOMOS 1988 p1

degraded environments

The decline in the quality of the environment and natural resources commonly caused by human activities. ie inappropriate land use.

Ref: Houghton P. D & Charman P. E (1986) Glossary of Terms used in Soil Conservation. Soil Conservation Service of NSW

ecologically sustainable

The use of a species or ecosystem within the capacity of that species, ecosystem and bioregion for renewal or regeneration.

Ref: Draft National Strategy for the Conservation of Australia's Biological Diversity

ecosystem

Refers to the complex biological system of plants and animals, their habitats and the processes and relationships that occur within and between them.

erosion

The process by which the surface of the earth is worn away through the action of running water, wind, rainfall, ice or other geological factor.

genius loci

The spirit of a place. The qualities and attributes that make places special.

Integrated Pest Management

A documented control strategy that reduces the need for environmentally harmful spray regimes. This is achieved by:

- avoidance:** design & plant selection, resistant plants, species diversity, eliminate other hosts
- cultural practices:** site preparation, timing of fertilising & watering, crop rotation
- physical/mechanical:** hand removal, correct pruning & care, mechanical barriers
- biological controls:** parasites & predators, microbial products, life cycle disruption
- traps & baits:** pheromone traps, sticky band traps
- chemical sprays:** horticultural oils, insecticidal soaps, synthetic chemical insecticides

landscape

The sum total of the characteristics, both natural and resulting from human occupancy, that distinguish a certain area of the earth's surface from other areas.

Ref: Landscape Australia, 4 /1993 pp 344 347)

landscape heritage

Landscapes which demonstrate a range of natural and cultural factors which are considered to be of sufficient significance for them to be retained for present and future generations.

Ref: Landscape Australia 4 / 1993 pp 344 347)

natural hydrology

The study of water and water movement in relation to land and soil.

Ref: Houghton P. & Charman P.(1986) Glossary of Terms Used in Soil Conservation. Soil Conservation Service. NSW.

raw

Previously unused or changed resources in their natural state.

renewable

Resources that are self replacing. Generally not finite. eg. solar, wind, waves, tides, falling water, geothermal and biomass combustion.

recycled

Transformation of a product from one form to another. eg. timber to mulch, concrete to crushed rubble, asphalt to new paving, organic waste to fertiliser.

recyclable

A product that is capable of being re-used.

rehabilitation

The treatment of degraded or disturbed land to achieve an agreed level of capability and stability, preferably at least equal to that which existed prior to degradation or disturbance.

Ref: Houghton P. D & Charman P. E (1986) Glossary of Terms used in Soil Conservation. Soil Conservation Service NSW

restoration

Returning the existing physical material of a place to a known earlier state by removing accretions or by reassembling existing components without the introduction of new materials.

Ref: Burra Charter Article 1 Section 1.7 1981

salinity

The accumulation of free salts in part of a landscape to an extent which causes

degradation of vegetation and/or soils. Typically caused by hydrological changes as a result of human use of land. Saline conditions can be one of the following:

- * dry land salting (natural or induced)
- * irrigation salting (induced)
- * urban (induced) or
- * estuarine (natural).

Ref: Houghton P. D & Charman P. E (1986) Glossary of Terms used in Soil Conservation.
Soil Conservation Service of NSW

sedimentation

Deposition of sediment. In soil conservation context, sedimentation is an end point in the erosion process, with transported soil material being deposited in locations such as in a channel, along a fence line, on an area of low slope or in a gully, creek, river, sediment trap or dam.

Ref: Houghton P. D & Charman P. E (1986) Glossary of Terms used in Soil Conservation.
Soil Conservation Service NSW

sense of place

Elements of an area's physical environment that contribute to its character. Includes visual diversity and links with the past that are visible in the present. Recognises the identity of cultural landscapes and the human factor in the landscape. Examples of what contributes a sense of place include combinations of landscape features which offer an unfolding visual experience, features of an area that are unique or one of a remaining few, features or an area that are the best of their kind, complexes of outstanding features, a feature or area that if degraded or destroyed could not be recreated, features or areas that exhibit natural or cultural processes.

Ref: Landscape Australia 4 / 1985 pp 300 303

siltation

Refers to the deposition of silt particles, but is more commonly known as sedimentation.

sodicity

In soils, is a high measure of exchangeable sodium & lower amounts of calcium & magnesium. Difficult to manage, infiltration of water is slow, individual soil particles disperse when wet and the soil structure is poor. When it is dry, a crust forms on the surface making plant penetration difficult and on slopes these soils erode easily.

Total Catchment Management (TCM)

The coordinated and sustainable use and management of land, water, vegetation and other natural resources on a water catchment basis. Implementing TCM is necessary to balance resource utilisation and resource conservation through the minimisation of land and soil degradation and the maintenance of water yield and quality.

Ref: TCM Draft Framework for Natural Resource Management in NSW

total energy consumption

Managing energies entering the site from outside: sun, wind, fire and water. Utilising site sourced raw materials, in an ecological manner, in the design when possible. Correct choice and positioning of vegetation is as important as drainage, soil type, mulch, aspect, slope and the construction resources used, as this will dictate the frequency of maintenance & input of further energies eg. watering, fertilising, pruning, mulching or planting.

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