Dear Amanda

Thank you for that information. Regrettably I do not appear to be able to attend any of those locations at those times.

My colleagues David Young will attend the meeting in Melbourne today and represent our principal view, which focuses on the Quality Framework proposal, although he and I are both actively involved in education and training at several levels (local, tertiary, and international inc. SE Asia) and share a strong interest in heritage education and training at all levels. Ian Wight will represent Australia ICOMOS today.

You are probably aware that I have committed my whole working career to heritage conservation including substantial periods with the NSW and Australian Governments. I do not mean to be provocative when I say that I have never seen heritage at a lower ebb than it is now - in terms of the quality of outcomes. It is for this reason that I have proposed and developed a concept for a National Quality Framework to overcome the shortcomings in our proesent system. I see the main benefits as being self regulation, fast-tracking of approvals, incentives for training and, most importantly, better care of our heritage. This proposal has the formal support of the Australia ICOMOS, NSW Heritage Coulcil, Heritage Victoria and (to some extent) the Australian Heritage Council. The proposal has been discussed by HOCANZ as recently as two weeks ago and has in principal support, although, as you would know and expect in the current political climate, it has no material support other than from Heritage Victoria, APT and Australia ICOMOS.

The Quality Framework is recognised in the Draft Strategy in the use of terms such as 'benchmarks' and 'quality measures'. I suspect these have crept into the policy via the Australian Heritage Council, revealed by the linking of quality measures to the Green Army.

I wish to do everything possible to ensure that quality measures (benchmarks) are indeed developed and used to ensure high quality outcomes and I wish to pledge my support to ensure that outcome. I do not wish to spend more time drafting or re-drafting submission that has now been before the the Heritage Councils. I hope we can move to the next stage - the full development and implementation of quality measures. For this I will need your help.

Please keep APT and the Quality Framework proposal at the forefront of your considerations - it is realistic, forward-looking and much needed at this time if we are to successfully negotiate this bleak period in heritage conservation. I will make myself available to discuss and describe the Quality Framework proposal subject to reasonable notice.

regards

Donald Ellsmore  
Convenor, Australasia Chapter