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## AUSTRALIA WINS WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE SEAT

Australia has won a seat on the prestigious 21-member UNESCO World Heritage Committee, on the heels of Australia's 25<sup>th</sup> world heritage anniversary celebrations.

Australia is one of nine successful candidates announced at the 16<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of States Parties currently underway in Paris, France.

With 17 properties of its own, from the ancient Kakadu National Park landscape – managed jointly with its traditional owners - to the modern architecture of the newly-listed Sydney Opera House Australia has been a leader in World Heritage management and promotion.

During its four-year term Australia will work to advance the principles and integrity of the World Heritage Convention.

Under the Convention nations have a duty to protect places with outstanding universal value to all mankind – because once lost, they are lost forever.

For over 20 years Australia has set high standards as a State Party, promoting diversity in listings, supporting Asia-Pacific managers and championing best practice property management at home.

With a strong track record and a keen interest in building a sustainable future for all sites, this broader role in world heritage matters will enhance Australia's ability to be a leading world heritage property manager and an active partner in the Asia-Pacific region.

And as the Asia-Pacific Focal Point for world heritage matters, Australia continues to provide technical support and practical advice to more than 20 countries in our region.

Today the nation is honoured to join a team that is helping care for the world's priceless natural and cultural legacy.

Australia's Committee team will be lead by Dr Greg Terrill, Department of the Environment and Water Resources, with Dr Anita Smith, Heritage Victoria and Deakin University, and Mr Jon Day of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority.

For more information visit [www.heritage.gov.au](http://www.heritage.gov.au)

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