

AUSTRALIA'S WORLD HERITAGE PLACES

THE SYDNEY OPERA HOUSE INFORMATION SHEET



Quick Facts

- The Sydney Opera House is one of the most famous 20th century buildings.
- Its unique design is recognised throughout the world and loved by many Australians.
- The design and construction of the shell structure took eight years to complete and the development of the special ceramic tiles for the shells took over three years
- Each of Australia's 17 World Heritage Places are also on Australia's National Heritage List.

Why is the Sydney Opera House of World Heritage value?

The Sydney Opera House was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 2002 for its cultural values.

- **It is an iconic building that combines both creativity in design and engineering**
In 1956, the New South Wales Government announced an international design competition. Denmark's Jørn Utzon's winning design was bold and unusual for its time. The architectural concept, pushed the limits of engineering and construction. The building was opened by Queen Elizabeth II in 1973.

Challenges and Management

The Sydney Opera House is owned by the New South Wales Government and is managed by the Sydney Opera House Trust.

Challenges	Management
Change or development	Any change or development to the Sydney Opera House, its harbour setting, or its interiors must not detract from its design significance, or its visual prominence. Views to and from the Sydney Opera House are also protected. All proposals which plan to alter or develop the Sydney Opera House, its site and setting, must be in accordance with an accredited management plan. It must also go through a rigorous application process and be formally approved by the New South Wales Government. All proposals need to be accompanied by a statement of heritage impact to ensure its World Heritage values are protected and conserved.
Function	To continue to function as a world class performing arts centre the Sydney Opera House must utilise the latest presentation techniques and services. However, care needs to be taken to ensure the character and integrity of the building is conserved and unsustainable impacts avoided.



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Maintenance The busy performance program and the large number of visitors cause considerable wear and tear on the building fabric.

The Sydney Opera House Trust uses sophisticated management programs and procedures to maintain the building, its services and its site.

Read more

www.environment.gov.au/heritage/places/world/sydney-opera-house/index.html



Australian Government
**Department of the Environment,
Water, Heritage and the Arts**

