



Australian Government

Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts

# Indigenous heritage

## Law reform process

On 3 August 2009 the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts invited written submissions on proposed reforms to the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act 1984*. The Australian Government is proposing to reform this Act to improve Indigenous heritage protection laws nationally. The Act could be substantially amended or replaced. The government has released a discussion paper that contains the proposed reforms.

### Information sessions

You can find out more about the proposed reforms by attending an information session. The department is sending officers to each city and town where there is an Indigenous Coordination Centre to meet representative bodies and to host information sessions for members of the public.

People will not be asked to state their views about the government's proposals at these meetings. The aim is to encourage anyone who is interested in the reforms to make a written submission or, where appropriate, to ask a representative body to make a submission on their behalf.

The times and locations of information sessions will be advertised in local newspapers. A timetable for the information sessions is available on the reform website at [www.heritage.gov.au/indigenous/lawreform](http://www.heritage.gov.au/indigenous/lawreform). Alternatively you can contact your nearest Indigenous Coordination Centre.

### Have your say

The government would like to receive feedback on the reforms proposed in the discussion paper from anyone who has an interest in this legislation. To make a comment on the proposals for reform, please send us your written submission. To save time you may wish use the government's submission form. This summarises the proposals and lists the questions that appear in the discussion paper. Alternatively you may wish to write a longer submission that contains more detail.

The submission form can be downloaded from [www.heritage.gov.au/indigenous/lawreform](http://www.heritage.gov.au/indigenous/lawreform). If you want the discussion paper or the submission form to be sent to you by post please contact us via the addresses on this page.

**The deadline for submissions is Friday, 6 November 2009.**

### Where to send your submission

You can either email or post your submission or letter to one of the addresses at the bottom of this page.

### What happens next?

As explained in the submission form, we intend to publish all the submissions we receive on the reform website, where anyone will be able to view them. That way everyone who has an interest will be able to see what other people think about reforming this legislation. The submission form has additional information about this. If you would prefer us to conceal your address when we post your submission on our website, please let us know by saying so in your submission.

The next step will be to consider your feedback. The government's decisions and the timing of possible new legislation will depend on the results of consultation.

### Contact us

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