

The Australian World Heritage Advisory Committee (AWHAC) Terms of Reference

The AWHAC terms of reference outlined below will contribute to Australia meeting its World Heritage Convention obligations.

AWHAC's functions will be to:

- i) advise Environment Protection and Heritage Council (EPHC) through the EPH Standing Committee, on policies, programs and appropriate cultural protocols which benefit World Heritage properties in areas of common interest and on national or cross-cutting issues;
- ii) advise on research, monitoring and other information requirements for World Heritage properties;
- iii) identify and consider matters that require agreement or a common approach between multiple jurisdictions;
- iv) facilitate the sharing of knowledge and experience in the development and implementation of World Heritage property management and the development of planning instruments among World Heritage properties;
- v) identify priorities and provide advice in relation to the management of the World Heritage properties;
- vi) advise on the promotion of Australia's World Heritage at the local, national and international levels;
- vii) report annually to EPHC, through the EPH Standing Committee, on AWHAC activities; and
- viii) provide an Indigenous perspective on management of World Heritage properties and advice on how best to incorporate Indigenous traditional knowledge into management.

Membership of AWHAC

AWHAC comprises one representative (an Advisory Committee Chair) from each World Heritage property. To ensure that AWHAC includes a representative from each jurisdiction with a World Heritage property it may be necessary to have more than one representative for a property that covers more than one jurisdiction (eg the Australian Fossil Mammal Sites Riversleigh (Qld) and Naracoorte (SA)).

AWHAC also includes two representatives from the Australian World Heritage Indigenous Network (AWHIN). This will provide direct and ongoing advice to EPHC on Indigenous perspectives of management of Australia's World Heritage properties, including engagement in policy, planning, programs and operational procedures (regardless of whether the properties are listed for Indigenous cultural values).

Process for selecting and appointing members of AWHAC

Advisory Committee Chairs, who are already jointly appointed to their respective property-specific Advisory Committees by Commonwealth and State or Territory Ministers, will be the AWHAC member for their property for the duration of their appointment as Chair of an Advisory Committee. Where

there is a Board, the Board will select an appropriate representative from amongst its members and will advise the Commonwealth of this decision in writing. This representative will be the AWHAC member.

In cases where a property does not have an Advisory Committee or Board, the managing agency will select an appropriate representative to represent the World Heritage property and will advise the Commonwealth of this decision in writing. Properties which do not have an Advisory Committee shall not be required to establish one.

Where an AWHAC member is not able to attend the annual meeting, a member of a World Heritage Advisory Committee for the same property, or a member of AWHIN if the AWHAC member unable to attend is an AWHIN representative, may attend in his or her place.

The Chair of AWHAC

The appointment of the AWHAC Chair will be recommended to EPHC by the EPH Standing Committee, following advice from the Working Group of Officials. The AWHAC Chair will be selected from AWHAC members and appointed by EPHC for a three year term. The position of Chair will be rotated through each jurisdiction.

The AWHAC Deputy Chair will be nominated and appointed by AWHAC members. The AWHAC Deputy Chair will be selected from AWHAC members and appointed for a three year term. The position of Deputy Chair will be rotated through each jurisdiction.

Where the AWHAC Chair is not able to attend a meeting, the Deputy Chair will chair the meeting.

Operation of AWHAC

Following the annual AWHAC meeting, a joint meeting between AWHAC and the Working Group of Officials will be conducted to progress AWHAC advice to the EPH Standing Committee and Council.

The Commonwealth will pay AWHAC members a sitting fee and cover their travel and accommodation costs to attend the annual meeting.

Secretariat support for the AWHAC meeting and the Working Group of Officials will be provided by the Commonwealth.

AWHAC's structure, objectives and performance will be reviewed by EPH Standing Committee within five years to ensure it remains effective and appropriate.