



Australian Government

AUSTRALIA'S

National Heritage



## Managing Australia's Heritage Places

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### Why are heritage places managed?

Once Minister for the Environment and Water Resources (the Minister) includes a place in the National or Commonwealth Heritage List, special requirements come into force to ensure that its values will be protected and conserved for the benefit of future generations. One of the ways to undertake good management and planning is through the development and implementation of a management plan.

### What is a management plan?

Based on the heritage values of a place, a management plan details the appropriate policies to manage the place, so that its heritage values are retained for future use and appreciation.

While management arrangements should be tailored to the place, generally, a management plan will:

- identify the property's heritage values
- identify the constraints and opportunities that its heritage values place on future use including the owner's or occupier's operational requirements and needs
- balance this information and make policies and strategies to achieve compatible outcomes.

All Commonwealth Heritage listed places must have a management plan that details how the heritage values of the place will be conserved.

For National Heritage listed places which are not on Australian Government land, the Commonwealth must use its best endeavours to ensure that a management plan is prepared and implemented in cooperation with the relevant state or territory.

Management plans are developed by those responsible for the property and are able to be accredited or endorsed under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (the EPBC Act) by the Minister. Management plans for National Heritage places must not be inconsistent with the National Heritage management principles and management plans for Commonwealth Heritage places must not be inconsistent with Commonwealth Heritage management principles as set out in the Regulations to the EPBC Act.

### **What should a management plan do?**

The main purpose of managing heritage places in the National and Commonwealth Heritage Lists is to identify, protect, conserve and present the heritage values for the benefit of future generations.

Management plans must address specific requirements such as access and security issues, protocols to ensure Indigenous and other community members are consulted, and descriptions of a place's heritage values.

A management plan should also allow for ongoing technical and community input to decisions and actions that may have a significant impact on a place's heritage values. National and Commonwealth Heritage place management should make continuing use of the best available knowledge, skills and standards for the place.

The management of National and Commonwealth Heritage places should integrate Australian, state, territory and local government responsibilities. A management plan should provide for appropriate use and presentation of the place and its National or Commonwealth Heritage values.

### **Who does a management plan affect?**

By its nature, a management plan is likely to affect the use of and activities permitted in a listed heritage place because it seeks to protect the heritage values of a place. Management plans can affect members of the community, managers of the place, local, state, territory and federal governments and any other relevant stakeholders.

### **Who manages heritage places?**

Responsibility for managing these places lies with their owners or managers. These can range from a private individual to a government department.

### **What support may be available for managing listed places?**

The Australian Government may provide technical and/or financial assistance for the identification, promotion, protection or conservation of places with National or Commonwealth Heritage values, including preparation of management plans.

### **How will the public know about the management of listed values?**

The Minister is required to table a report in Parliament on the state of the National Heritage List. The report includes the number of places on the list, their values and threats to them, progress on the preparation of management plans, changes in tenure, allotted resources and, where applicable, the operation of any accredited management arrangements.

### **Where can I get more detailed information about management plans?**

For more detailed information and assistance about requirements for National Heritage List and Commonwealth Heritage List management plans, contact the Heritage Division at the address below. The following best practice guidelines will assist in preparation of management plans:

- The *Australian Natural Heritage Charter*
- *Ask First: A guide to respecting Indigenous heritage places and values*, available online at [www.heritage.gov.au](http://www.heritage.gov.au)
- The Australia ICOMOS 1999 *Burra Charter*, available through the ICOMOS website at [www.icomos.org](http://www.icomos.org)
- *Conservation Plan* (Fifth Edition) by James Semple Kerr, the National Trust, (2000), which is often used in conjunction with the *Burra Charter*.