



Heritage Management Principles

- ▶ **What are heritage management principles?**
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The *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) establishes the National Heritage List, which includes natural, Indigenous and historic places that are of outstanding heritage value to the Australian nation. The Act also establishes the Commonwealth Heritage List, which comprises natural, Indigenous and historic places on Commonwealth lands and waters or under Australian Government control, and determined by the Minister as having Commonwealth Heritage values.

Under the Act, the Australian Heritage Council is the Australian Government's expert advisory body on heritage matters. The Council assesses whether places nominated to either List have the appropriate heritage values, and makes recommendations to the Minister for the Environment and Water Resources on what places should be listed. It is the Minister who makes the final decision on whether to include a place or not in the National or Commonwealth Heritage Lists.

What are heritage management principles?

Heritage management principles provide a guiding framework for excellence in managing heritage properties. They set the standard and the scope for the way places should be managed in order to best protect heritage values for the generations ahead.

When should heritage management principles be used?

These principles should be used when preparing and implementing management plans and programs. In the absence of a management plan, they guide the management of heritage values of a property.

Most places in the National and Commonwealth Heritage Lists are required to have management plans setting out how their heritage values will be managed and protected over time.

National Heritage management principles

1. The objective in managing National Heritage places is to identify, protect, conserve, present and transmit, to all generations, their National Heritage values.
2. The management of National Heritage places should use the best available knowledge, skills and standards for those places, and include ongoing technical and community input to decisions and actions that may have a significant impact on their National Heritage values.

3. The management of National Heritage places should respect all heritage values and seek to integrate, where appropriate, any Commonwealth, state, territory and local government responsibilities for those places.
4. The management of National Heritage places should ensure that their use and presentation is consistent with the conservation of their National Heritage values.
5. The management of National Heritage places should make timely and appropriate provision for community involvement, especially by people who:
 - (a) have a particular interest in, or associations with, the place, and
 - (b) may be affected by the management of the place.
6. Indigenous people are the primary source of information on the value of their heritage and the active participation of Indigenous people in identification, assessment and management is integral to the effective protection of Indigenous heritage values.
7. The management of National Heritage places should provide for regular monitoring, review and reporting on the conservation of National Heritage values.

Commonwealth Heritage management principles

1. The objective in managing Commonwealth Heritage places is to identify, protect, conserve, present and transmit, to all generations, their Commonwealth Heritage values.
2. The management of Commonwealth Heritage places should use the best available knowledge, skills and standards for those places, and include ongoing technical and community input to decisions and actions that may have a significant impact on Commonwealth Heritage values.
3. The management of Commonwealth Heritage places should respect all heritage values of the place and seek to integrate, where appropriate, any Commonwealth, state and territory and local government responsibilities for those places.
4. The management of Commonwealth heritage places should ensure that their use and presentation is consistent with the conservation of their Commonwealth Heritage values.
5. The management of Commonwealth Heritage places should make timely and appropriate provision for community involvement, especially by people who:
 - (a) have a particular interest in, or associations with, the place, and
 - (b) may be affected by the management of the place.
6. Indigenous people are the primary source of information on the value of their heritage and the active participation of Indigenous people in identification, assessment and management is integral to the effective protection of Indigenous heritage values.
7. The management of Commonwealth Heritage places should provide for regular monitoring, review and reporting on the conservation of Commonwealth Heritage values.

The Heritage Division is available to provide advice and assistance on the way the National and Commonwealth Heritage management principles can be satisfied and when they apply.

Further information:

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