

Protecting Australia's National Heritage



The Australian Heritage Council

The Australian Heritage Council is an independent body of heritage experts established through the *Australian Heritage Council Act 2003*.

The Council's role is to assess the values of places nominated for the National Heritage List and the Commonwealth Heritage List, and to advise the Australian Government Minister for the Environment and Water Resources on conserving and protecting places included, or being considered for inclusion, in the National Heritage List and Commonwealth Heritage List.

The Council's functions include the identification, assessment and monitoring of heritage and to advise the Minister on a range of matters relating to heritage. It also engages in research and promotional activities.

The National Heritage List helps protect our special places

When a place is included in the National Heritage List it is officially recognised as an outstanding part of our heritage. While listed places are protected by law, they may also add value to local communities by drawing visitors who are eager to learn more about Australia and Australians. Protection by law means we can sustain these places for future generations by paying better attention to them.

It is the National Heritage values of a place that are recorded in the list and it is these values, and not necessarily the entire place itself, that are protected through listing.

This means that a person cannot take an action that has, will have or is likely to have, a significant impact on the National Heritage values of a listed place without the approval of the Minister. It is a criminal offence not to comply with this legislation.

The Australian Government also works with state and territory governments to protect National Heritage values under state and territory legislation and with private owners through conservation agreements.

These values are protected by the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act).

Choosing the places

Only places with outstanding natural, historic and Indigenous heritage values that contribute to Australia's national story are added to the National Heritage List.

Anyone can nominate a place to the National Heritage List.

The Australian Heritage Council assesses whether or not a nominated place has heritage values against the relevant criteria and makes a recommendation to the Minister on that basis. In making its assessment, the Council must only consider whether the place has outstanding heritage value to our nation.

The Minister must also publish a notice inviting comments from the public in relation to a proposed listing. The Minister makes the final decision on listing.

Nominations must set out the qualities or values of the place that make it significant to the nation and must meet one or more of the National Heritage significance criteria. The Minister may also call for nominations against selected themes which he or she will announce.

Grants and funding

Communities that have National Heritage List places benefit from promotional activities and increasing numbers of visitors. Site managers may also apply for funding and grants available from the Australian Government.

In order to help communities with the financial costs of managing their heritage places the Government has established the *National Heritage Investment Initiative*. Between 2005–06 and 2008–09 \$10.5 million will be provided for financial incentives to restore and conserve Australia's most important historic heritage.

Application information can be found at www.heritage.gov.au or by contacting the Community Information Unit via email ciu@environment.gov.au or phone 1800 803 772.

Further information

This book will be revised regularly to include information on the new listings and will be available from the Department of the Environment and Water Resources either by visiting www.heritage.gov.au or by contacting the Community Information Unit by email ciu@environment.gov.au or telephone 1800 803 772.

Australia's heritage lists

Throughout Australia there are places with varying degrees of heritage significance, which are included in a number of lists or registers of natural and cultural heritage places. These are not comprehensive lists of heritage places, but lists of the places that have been identified and recorded up to the present time.

The World Heritage List – Places that are important to all the peoples of the world in that they possess outstanding universal values above and beyond the values they hold for a particular nation. Australia currently has 16 properties on the World Heritage List.

The National Heritage List – Australia's list of places with outstanding heritage value to our nation. A place may be listed for its natural, Indigenous or historic values, or a combination of all three.

The Commonwealth Heritage List – Places owned or controlled by the Australian Government that have natural, Indigenous or historic values, or a combination of all three, with significance to Australia, such as lighthouses, memorials, customs houses, and marine parks.

The Register of the National Estate – A list of important natural, Indigenous and historic places throughout Australia.

State and territory heritage lists – States and territories maintain statutory lists or registers of heritage places that have particular importance to the people of a particular state or territory.

Local government lists – In most states and territories local government authorities keep heritage registers or lists often attached to the local or municipal planning scheme.

The National Trust list – The National Trust of Australia is a community-based organisation with independently constituted Trusts in each state and territory. The National Trust maintains its own list of heritage places.

Indigenous site registers – Lists of recorded Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander places which include religious or 'dreaming' sites, burial sites, rock art places, traditional camping sites and historic sites such as Aboriginal missions and massacre sites.

Historic shipwrecks register – This is a register of historic shipwrecks in Australian waters, which is administered by the Department of the Environment and Water Resources.

Other lists – Some specialist organisations, such as the Royal Australian Institute of Architects and Engineers Australia, keep lists of important historic places, for example, Art Deco buildings, gardens and bridges.



Image credits

All images are © The Department of the Environment and Water Resources and associated photographers, unless otherwise noted below.

Page ii	National Library of Australia
Page iv	National Library of Australia
Page vi	National Library of Australia
Page 11	National Library of Australia
Page 14	National Archives of Australia
Page 16	Amy Gordon, Bre Images, National Library of Australia
Page 20	Courtesy of the Nolan Gallery
Page 23	Australian Scenics
Page 27	National Library of Australia
Page 30, 31	Victorian Arts Centre
Page 32	National Library of Australia
Page 33	National Library of Australia
Page 35	Australian Scenics
Page 45	Western Australian Museum
Page 51	Australian War Memorial
Page 51	Courtesy of the National Capital Authority
Page 53	Australian War Memorial
Page 61	Australian Information Service
Page 76	David J Holloway, Museum Victoria
Page 79	Jim Gehling, SAM
Page 80	Sydney Roads and Traffic Authority