



# MEDIA RELEASE

**The Hon Peter Garrett MP**

*Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts*

ENV03

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## **\$74.9 MILLION FOR HERITAGE PROJECTS TO SUPPORT LOCAL JOBS**

The Rudd Government's investment of \$74.9 million over five years in Australia's incredible historic, Indigenous and natural heritage will protect and restore some of our most important places while boosting employment in this sector.

Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts, Peter Garrett, said today's Budget included an additional \$14.9 million over three years for projects to protect and conserve historic built heritage places included in the National and Commonwealth Heritage Lists.

"The new \$14.9 million package for historic built heritage complements the Government's existing \$60.0 million one-off investment in heritage projects to deliver immediate benefits including local jobs, improved heritage infrastructure and better protection of heritage places across the country.

"This ongoing funding will commence in 2010-11, providing longer term funding through a competitive grants process for high priority protection and conservation activities. Assistance will also be available to develop and improve management arrangements, which are fundamental to conserving heritage places for future generations," Mr Garrett said.

"Australia's unique heritage is part of our national identity and is a source of national and local community pride and well-being.

"Our heritage places are also a major tourism asset, generating significant economic and employment benefits for the community."

Mr Garrett said the \$60.0 million funding component, part of the Government's \$650 million *Jobs Fund*, would support high priority heritage projects while generating jobs and providing economic stimulus, particularly in regional areas.

"\$6.2 million of the total \$60.0 million for heritage is to be utilised in the current financial year, providing an immediate benefit to communities," Mr Garrett said.

This new funding will benefit sites on both the National Heritage List, which has 82 sites, and the Commonwealth Heritage List, which has 339 places, around the country.

Places on the National and Commonwealth Heritage Lists are protected through the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.