**GOAL: Australia is committed to giving its World Heritage properties a function in the life of the community; to establish services for the protection, conservation and presentation of natural and cultural heritage; to develop scientific and technical studies; to take appropriate legal, scientific, technical and financial measures in support of heritage; and to foster the establishment of centres of excellence.**

* The Commonwealth as the State Party to the World Heritage Convention, and States and Territories should co-operate in the management of most World Heritage properties. There is recognition of the respective roles and commitments of the Australian and State and Territory governments in relation to governance, management and funding arrangements and guiding principles in relation to these roles and commitments.
* The primary goal for the management of World Heritage properties is to implement Australia’s duty for the identification, protection, conservation, presentation, rehabilitation and transmission to future generations of the place within the meaning of the World Heritage Convention. This includes acknowledging and protecting all the values of a property, not just Outstanding Universal Value.
* The Australian Government in close collaboration with State governments and communities should continue to assess the natural and cultural heritage of Australia which may be of potential Outstanding Universal Value and to prepare nominations (and where appropriate re-nominations) for consideration by the World Heritage Committee.
* The Australian Government, in collaboration with the States, should expand the tentative list of prospective World Heritage nominations to provide for an orderly process and a focus for expert and community engagement in relation to listing priorities. In developing this list, the Government should engage with Australia ICOMOS and Australian Committee for IUCN as the relevant expert Advisory Bodies.
* Noting that, for Traditional Owners, natural and cultural values cannot be separated, in identifying, assessing and developing potential World Heritage nominations, particular care should be taken to obtain the free, prior and informed consent of Traditional Owners having regard to Indigenous cultural heritage values and continuing traditional ecological knowledge and practices within Indigenous communities before submitting a nomination.
* The process of identifying, assessing and nominating places for consideration by the World Heritage Committee should be carried out through a collaborative process that aims to engage fully with governments, scientists, heritage professionals, site managers and Australian communities and stakeholders.
* In its role as a State Party to the World Heritage Convention, Australia should provide leadership in adherence to the agreed procedures of the Convention, including ensuring that appropriate weight is given to the advice of IUCN and ICOMOS as Advisory Bodies under the World Heritage Convention.
* Implementation of the EPBC Act in respect of World Heritage properties should be improved through greater use of strategic assessment processes, carried out in collaboration with the States, which address the cumulative impacts of development. State Governments should ensure effective complementary recognition and protection of World Heritage in relevant environmental, heritage and planning legislation.
* Recognising the very important role that statutory regional planning can play in protecting the Outstanding Universal Value of World Heritage properties, governments and communities should support and encourage local government and other statutory entities including Native Title prescribed body corporate, to protect and support World Heritage values through the development and implementation of planning controls and other mechanisms.
* All World Heritage properties should have a current strategic plan. The preparation of such plans should be a priority. At a minimum they should include sections on values, threats, management, monitoring/evaluating the status of the property and its Outstanding Universal Value and a communication strategy.
* The process of developing and implementing management plans or other management arrangements for World Heritage places should be inclusive, responsive and transparent, adopting international best practice for engaging communities and stakeholders in decision making, noting in particular the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* objectives relating to the role of Indigenous peoples.
* Conservation strategies and planning for World Heritage should address wider geographic, policy and legal contextual issues, so as to ensure that appropriate attention is given to threats, risks and opportunities.
* The Commonwealth and State governments and others with responsibility for World Heritage should ensure that sufficient resources are allocated to guarantee protection of the Outstanding Universal Value of World Heritage properties and to respond to any threats to those values.
* Where past or proposed actions or activities outside of World Heritage properties create significant adverse impacts to the World Heritage values of the properties, World Heritage property managers should work in collaboration with neighbouring landholders, Traditional Owners, natural resource and heritage management bodies and governments to implement landscape rehabilitation programs and consider appropriate mitigation actions that will benefit the World Heritage property.
* The Outstanding Universal Value of World Heritage properties should have a prominent place in the promotion, interpretation and other presentation activities associated with each property.
* The Commonwealth in close collaboration with the States and other World Heritage property managers should establish and implement nationally consistent standards for recognition and branding of World Heritage properties.
* To ensure World Heritage properties are a vibrant and essential part of the life of local communities, World Heritage property managers should establish and implement effective, place-specific systems of engagement with communities and stakeholders.
* The rights, needs and aspirations of Traditional Owners of World Heritage properties should be recognised and respected in all aspects of assessment, nomination and management of World Heritage properties. This is relevant whether or not the place is specifically listed for its Indigenous cultural values and whether or not Native Title settlement has been achieved.
* Systems of engagement with Traditional Owners should be developed having regard to cultural heritage values, continuing cultural knowledge and practices and any diversity of views within Indigenous communities.
* The Commonwealth and State Governments should establish, and where successful, continue programs and projects to achieve social and economic benefits for Traditional Owners associated with all World Heritage properties whether they have cultural values listed or not, as a contribution to national ‘Closing the Gap’ goals.
* World Heritage property managers should actively encourage and facilitate research within World Heritage properties, as a means of generating knowledge for application in both the place itself and for wider application in environmental and cultural conservation. Funding opportunities should be pursued through programs such as Caring for our Country or by strengthening links to the National Environmental Research Program.
* An advisory committee (or some other effective partnership or and communication mechanism, relevant to specific properties) should be established for each World Heritage property.
* The Commonwealth, in collaboration with the States, Territories and other World Heritage property managers, should periodically arrange for the preparation and publication of independent reports on the state of conservation of World Heritage properties and on other matters relevant to the World Heritage Convention. These reports should provide information relevant to the periodic reports on the state of conservation of World Heritage properties prepared for the World Heritage Committee by the Commonwealth and property managers.
* The Commonwealth, in partnership with the States and others as appropriate should establish a national World Heritage Centre of Excellence.
* Australian schools and universities, in consultation with World Heritage property managers are encouraged to develop programs of teaching and research in support of World Heritage management to ensure Australia maintains adequate knowledge, skills and capacity in relation to World Heritage.
* The Australian Government, through its environment agencies and AusAid, in collaboration with World Heritage property managers, should actively pursue opportunities to build international capacity for World Heritage management through training, staff exchange, twinning and other arrangements that meet the mutual needs of the partners.
* Recognising that under the Intergovernmental Agreement on World Heritage, the Australian World Heritage Advisory Committee (AWHAC) and Australian World Heritage Indigenous Network fulfil an important role, providing advice on cross-cutting matters relating to World Heritage property conservation and management and Australia’s obligations under the World Heritage Convention the Australian Government should ensure that both AWHAC and AWHIN are properly supported, tasked and resourced.