



TEMPLATE FOR INPUT INTO THE AUSTRALIAN HERITAGE STRATEGY

Overview

This template should be used to provide comments on the content of the Australian Heritage Strategy.

Contact Details

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Date:	27 May 2014

Questions

Please add your comments for some or all of the questions provided with the Strategy's three high level themes below. If you have other information you wish to provide, please add this in the "Other comments" field.

1. Improve National Leadership

What are the most important things the Australian Government should be doing to offer leadership in heritage?

How can the Australian Government provide guidance and support for our national heritage—while still empowering other government, industry and community members to take responsibility and get involved?

What priority areas are important to you, your organisation or group?

What practical actions would you suggest to improve national heritage leadership?

First and foremost the Australian Government should have a consistent long term strategy to protect heritage, hopefully that transcends political change and is supported by a funding commitment to match the rhetoric.

Of course the commitment to proceed with some sites to the World Heritage level is honourable however the commitment needs to be followed through so that these sites can be presented to the public in the best way. This also applies to National Sites that often have limited resources.

Grants programs are valued highly by individual sites and we have been helped to maintain our site with Commonwealth funds. However the need for 50/50 contributions is not helpful to poorer sites with limited to no resources therefore a more flexible funding arrangement would be helpful.

Brickendon is part of the Australian Convict Sites Property and while some Commonwealth funding has been forthcoming for the management of the Property I feel it has been under stress, has lacked planning and staffing has constantly changed. I can not support further World Heritage nominations while funding for existing sites appears to be under such pressure.



A coordinated Federal , State and Local Government policy should be to encourage private owners of heritage to maintain their assets by tax and rate breaks, planning and environmental report rebates and some funding for emergency works.

2. Pursue Innovative Partnerships

What partnerships are most needed within the heritage sector?

What heritage roles and responsibilities should be led by governments, peak heritage organisations or community groups in the 21st century?

How should resources be shared through heritage partnerships to ensure the greatest return on agreed priorities?

Can you provide examples of successful innovative partnerships you or your organisation have established?

Inputs in some form from all partners is ideal and sometimes these will be substantial and others very much in the background. Regulators may simply observe or interfere in a heritage project, owners may approach Government for funding or a private company may wish to spend a lot of money in a heritage precinct. The key to all partnerships is that all sides are educated in heritage legislation, heritage practice, commercial reality, community desires and expectations, funding options and the practicality of the project.

Governments should match their legislative roles with funding responsibilities, and peak heritage bodies while carrying out Government policy should be flexible enough to respond to community or individual situations and maybe suggest exemptions, change in laws or compromised solutions.

Scarce resources are considered by many individuals to be wasted on bureaucracy, planning and works and the first priority of any partnership should be to protect our heritage at a reasonable cost. A one sided partnership can lead to under or over regulation, under or over funding and maybe not the best outcome for the site and /or the owner/taxpayer/ funder.

Some heritage sites seem to be over managed while others appear neglected as a result.



3. Enable encourage communities to understand and care for their heritage

What should the Australian heritage sector be doing to help the Australian community better engage in heritage activities?

How can a shared understanding of our national heritage be developed and best celebrated together?

Do you have any examples of activities that have been successful in promoting local heritage to a broader audience?

What is the role of technology and new media in providing greater community access to heritage?

Education, financial incentives, community funding (eg old building for mens shed), awards to groups and individuals.

Assignment Project in Northern Midlands of Tasmania was helpful in educating the community about the convict system and therefore encouraging owners to value their often simple heritage assets.

Other comments

A strategy is only as strong as the commitment to achieve the goal. The words are always the easiest part.



Australian Government

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