# Template FOR INPUT INTO THE

**AUSTRALIAN HERITAGE STRATEGY**

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| Overview  This template should be used to provide comments on the content of the Australian Heritage Strategy. | |
| Contact Details | |
| **Name of Organisation:** |  |
| **Name of Author:** | **Mr Robert Crofts** |
| **Date:** | **30th May 2014** |
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| 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? | |
| A clear pathway should be easily available where interested community members who have identified a potential heritage item can be directed to Government agencies to ensure that the item can be considered for listing as either a local council, state or national heritage item.  An example follows:  My wife and I have completed a self-funded project recording and photographing historic sandstone and concrete milestones in NSW, Victoria and Tasmania. We contacted numerous government agencies to determine which government agencies have taken responsibility for the management of these items. We found that these historic monuments, which are rapidly being lost from the Australian streetscape, are not the responsibility of one organisation. We found extreme variation in the condition of the milestones. Some were the responsibility of the Roads and Maritime Services, while some were the responsibility of local councils.  Unfortunately, in some instances, we were unable to determine the recognised agency in which to report the poor state of the milestones.  We also found difficulty in determining where missing milestones had been taken. We remain unsure if these missing monuments had been removed for repair, souvenired or inadvertently disposed.  We know that some milestones have been listed on local council LEP’s but as our book has now been self-published it would be helpful to have all the milestones we’ve identified as officially listed on a heritage plan. As indicated at the beginning of this submission, we have had difficulty in finding a Government agency willing to take responsibility for the milestones as a single heritage item. | |
| 1. **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? | |
| Currently the National Trust sponsors the Heritage Festival that is held over a number of weeks in April – May while the History Council of NSW has History Week each September. Better co-ordination between the two organisations may be helpful. | |
| 1. **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? | |
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| **Other comments** | |
| Reference: Robert and Sandra Crofts (2013) ‘Discovering Australia’s historical milemarkers and boundary stones’, Xlibris, USA. Available at: Robertandsandracrofts.com. | |