# 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 | |
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| **Date:** | **1 June 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? | |
| 1. Put heritage back in the name of the Federal department so there is a focal point for the public; make sure every Commonwealth MP knows what is listed in their electorate –World, National, State and Local levels –otherwise they cannot expect their electorate to respect and protect heritage if they do not know it. 2. Revisit and confirm the 12 principles agreed to at the National Heritage Convention, Old Parliament House, Canberra, 8 August 1998. 3. Rural heritage that is abandoned and not recorded in any archive. 4. Reclaim national leadership as a Commonwealth obligation with a Ministerial Council and its related departments –tourism, arts, regional development, education –and reinstate adequate funding for the work of the Federal department and in protecting and managing government heritage places –rather than leaving it to the community as in Minister Hunt’s foreword. The community will only care if government does by showing actual hands on action and dollar inputs. | |
| 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? | |
| The most important partnership is with the taxpaying ordinary citizen who wants continuity of funding for protective measures and not new superdooper ‘givings’ at election time as it takes time to build up knowledge and techniques for protection and convincing heritage place owners and managers to use them.  The next most important group protecting Australia’s heritageislocal government, especially by funding heritage advisors to assist communities and planning applications through development approvals processes.  Many current programs for regional development, maintenance, literacy, community health and social wellbeing could also consider the heritage values of the places they are funding, not just take a narrow approach to expenditure and speedy outcomes without encouraging community participation and appreciation of their heritage. | |
| 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? | |
| Every radio show could have a morning and evening –‘do you know about this or that heritage place’ based on the statements of significance for the place, object etc. [ This was very successful in Victoria throughout 1985, the State’s sesi-centenary year.] This could also be supplemented by longer programs of stories based on local heritage.  Heritage festivals help but they are for the already ‘converted’. Shared heritage and interesting new migrants is also important if they are to understand Australian identity. | |
| **Other comments** | |
| World Heritage places in Australia all need better management as State authorities play the game of ‘passing the buck’ to Canberra. We need to also add deep time significant places like a serial rock art site covering millennia of Aboriginal cultural expression.  The National List cannot be advanced without proper theme studies then sent out to all local governments etc for 12 months consideration, then a sieving process for the AHC to decide on the most representative examples with outstanding value to the nation. | |