Australian Heritage Strategy Submissions

Heritage Branch

Department of the Environment

GPO Box 787

Canberra ACT 2601

[AusHeritageStrategy@environment.gov.au](mailto:AusHeritageStrategy@environment.gov.au)

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**Subject: Submission to the STRATEGY FOR AUSTRALIA’S HERITAGE (DRAFT) – APRIL 2014 in support of inclusion on the World Heritage listing of the Budj Bim Cultural Landscape.**

To whom it may concern

For many years Gunditjmara traditional owners and their supporters and partners have indicated to the Commonwealth government that they are actively pursuing a World Heritage nomination for the Budj Bim lava flow.

To that end it was extremely disappointing to learn of its omission in Section 1 (c) of the draft Strategy that aims to “pursue greater recognition and protection of our natural and cultural history, particularly our Indigenous cultural heritage”.

As an active participant in the Gunditjmara Lake Condah Sustainability project meetings I firmly believe that the proposed actions in the Heritage Strategy should also include the Budj Bim Cultural Landscape and must list the following;

* Identify priority sites for assessment for potential World Heritage listing, including significant elements of Cape York Peninsula with Indigenous support, Sydney’s Royal National Park and the Budj Bim Cultural Landscape.
* Work with the Victorian Government to pursue World Heritage listing for the Budj Bim Cultural Landscape.

In Sardinia the Su Nuraxi Barumini is the best known Nuraghic site in the world. Erected in 1470 B.C it was listed in 1997 on the UNESCO World Heritage Register. The Nuraghe consists of a complex dry stone structure with four angular towers connected by a curtain wall around the main tower.

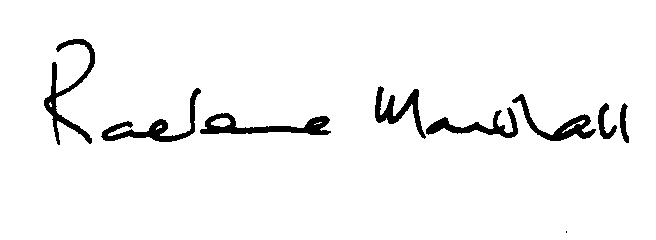
The dry stone structures and sophisticated aquaculture system of Budj Bim lava flow are also worthy of World Heritage Register inclusion. This was evidenced by discussions regarding the uniqueness of the dry stone fish traps in response to the paper I presented on the topic at the Société Scientifique Internationale pour l’étude pluridisciplinaire de la Pierre Sèche [SPS] Congress in the Province of Ogliastra, Sardinia in 2012.

The Congress is held every two years in a European country. It includes lectures, exhibitions and workshops and brings together dry stone experts from Europe, Asia, Africa, Great Britain and Australia to exchange ideas and experiences and advocate for the preservation of world-wide dry stone structures.

The Justification for ‘the Su Nuraxi Barumini UNESCO Inscription was on the basis of cultural criteria (i), (iii) and (iv), considering that the Nuraghe of Sardinia, of which Su Nuraxi is the pre-eminent example and represents an exceptional response to political and social conditions, making an imaginative and innovative use of the materials and techniques available to a prehistoric island community.’

Therefore, to support Gunditjmara’s pursuit for World Heritage nomination for the Budj Bim lava flow, I urge consideration for its inclusion in Section 1 (c) of the draft Strategy that aims to ‘pursue greater recognition and protection of our natural and cultural history, particularly our Indigenous cultural heritage’.

Yours truly



Raelene Marshall

Director Culture in Action

Developer and Curator of *A Stone* *Upon* *A Stone* Visions of Australia Touring Exhibition.1999-2004

Foundation Member of the Dry Stone Walls Association of Australia 2002