# 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:** | Glenelg Shire Council |
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| **Date:** | **5 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? | |
| The Glenelg Shire Council was disappointed to see that there was no mention of the Budj Bim lava flow in Section 1 (c) of the draft Strategy. For many years the Gunditjmara traditional owners, supporters and partners have indicated to the Commonwealth government that they are actively pursuing a World Heritage nomination for **Budj Bim**.  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** | |
| 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 aim of the Australian Heritage Strategy is to provide a framework for leadership, partnerships and community engagement. The **Budj Bim** Sustainable Development Partnership (and previously the Lake Condah Sustainable Development Program) is an excellent example of all three components of this aim. | |
| 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** | |
| A Comparative Analysis that was commissioned by the State Government in 2013 (Budj Bim National Heritage Landscape Australian and International Desktop Comparative Analysis, Nov 2013) recommends the following;   * The Budj Bim cultural landscape is not defined simply by aquaculture but through the interrelationship of eels and other resources, the stones and lava flow and surrounding wetlands that have been managed by Gunditjmara for at least the last 6000 years. **These attributes make Budj Bim a unique expression of the values described above.** * Given the very limited number of comparable cultural landscapes identified in Australia and globally all these sites are argued to be of international significance. Most are already recognised as such but only a very few are included on the World Heritage List. **Budj Bim is a representative example of this group of sites and therefore has the potential to demonstrate Outstanding Universal Value (OUV).** * As well, no other site investigated in the Comparative Analysis has cultural processes demonstrated to be of the longevity and continuity of the Budj Bim aquaculture system. This does not necessarily mean that the Gunditjmara aquaculture system is older (or better) than the systems reflected in other sites but that **it is extremely rare that a cultural practice can be demonstrated to have the longevity and continuity of the Budj Bim aquaculture system.** * Last, the Budj Bim cultural landscape has a high level of conservation and this has been enhanced through restoration of Lake Condah’s hydrology. The use of stone (being a robust material) and the lack of major development on the lava flow has meant that the components of the aquaculture system have survived and can be read in the landscape. **Budj Bim has a high level or integrity and authenticity.** * Based on the work done in this Comparative Analysis, the Budj Bim Cultural Landscape clearly **ranks highly when compared with similar properties** and can fill a critical gap on the World Heritage List, and the State Party (the Commonwealth) should go ahead with its nomination process. | |