



## 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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### 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?

Foster understanding, recognition and support of heritage assets.

Facilitate consistent and complementary framework of heritage legislation, policies and procedures for all levels of heritage recognition (Commonwealth, State and Local).

Autonomy for appropriate level of Government to address corresponding level of heritage status.



## 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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?

See above.

Heritage buildings (and other appreciated interesting and older buildings) need to be put to productive use to best assist with their preservation. This is particularly critical for those in commercial areas or use and for public access.

Tourism or public services can offer one option for use. Many heritage buildings, particularly local ones, are in the form of traditional main street shops or are in commercial areas and need to be converted to modern commercial use.

Planning parameters usually are flexible enough to facilitate such adaptation and modern re-use but the Building Code of Australia parameters are generally the more problematic and costly to achieve. This can prevent or challenge many buildings from a useful re-use.

The need for building fire safety, emergency egress and universal access is appreciated but the heritage nature of buildings should be better recognised and more flexible parameters and assessment incorporated into the Building Code to facilitate adaptation and upgrade.

The Building Code of Australia is a Commonwealth code and requires concerted national attention, together with State cooperation, to explore better and more flexible ways to support the productive modern use of heritage and older buildings.

The City of Unley Local Heritage Advisory Scheme (originally partly funded by the State) is a very valuable and appreciated advice and assistance resource for heritage building owners.

The City of Unley Conservation Fund grants offer a clear and tangible level of support to building owners and the appropriate maintenance of heritage buildings.



**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?

See above.

**Other comments**