# 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:** | Tharawal Local Aboriginal Land Council |
| **Name of Author:** | **Megan Ely** |
| **Date:** | **4.6.14** |
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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 Australian Government needs to provide funding and support for Indigenous Organisations particularly Local Aboriginal Land Council’s to develop local Indigenous leadership in Indigenous history, culture, heritage and protection.  By adequately resourcing Aboriginal Land Councils, they will become empowered and take ownership as an industry group and as community members of Australia’s Indigenous heritage.  The Australian Government need to be the lead in bringing together all levels of Government, industry and community to take responsibility and get involved.  Tharawal Local Aboriginal Land Council would like to see greater recognition and protection of Indigenous culture and heritage of NSW as a lot of our significant sites are being destroyed by vandalism and erosion and we fear that in few generations there will be very little left due to the expansion of NSW population and urban development. | |
| 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? | |
| There is a definite need for partnerships between Indigenous Organisations, all levels of Government and the peak heritage bodies to assist with building sustainable culture and heritage options that can be marketed to the wider tourist market to develop viable business with reliable income streams for Indigenous Organisations.  The Australian Government needs to look at the equality of their funded programs particularly the funding invested into Indigenous culture and heritage preservation and protection. Far more resources are given to mainstream projects and/or project that involve the Northern Territory, Western Australia and Far North Queensland, where the Commonwealth Government thinks ‘the real Aborigines live’.  Tharawal Local Aboriginal Land Council have partnerships with all the Local Council’s and historical societies within our local area and we are regularly consulted with regarding culture, heritage and protection, this partnership is a two way partnership. | |
| 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? | |
| Australian heritage sector is different to the environmental sector and the historical sector and the heritage sector need to better educate the Australian community on the difference all three sectors and the general public do tend to put all three in the same basket.  Australia needs to educate our community on what is national heritage and advertise our national heritage within Australia in order to develop and celebrate together. Australia needs to embrace technology and new media to provide greater community access to our national heritage. | |
| **Other comments** | |
| There needs to be more of a focus on Indigenous cultural heritage, protection and preservation before a lot of our significant sites and areas are lost and Indigenous Organisations and communities need to be included the whole process.  You should just be talking about training Aboriginal people through Green Army Programme especially when there are very few paid positions on offer within the heritage sector to provide ongoing sustainable employment for these people. | |