# 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:** |  |
| **Name of Author:** |  |
| **Date:** | **6 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? | |
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| 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? | |
| Governments and peak heritage organisations have a role and responsibility in creating a demand for skilled heritage trades by ensuring appropriate standards are required across the industry. Without appropriately qualified and accredited heritage professionals and standards for conservation there will not be sufficient demand for skilled trades. At present only those educated in the need to use appropriate materials and methods will seek traditional skills and craftsmen. Skills training in traditional methods and materials will only be successful if the demand exists for the trades. ICOMOS already has a form of accreditation for its members and this could be a start to ensure all heritage professionals have a baseline accreditation, which could be extended to heritage trades. Governments and grant funding bodies could make this affiliation a condition of their incentives and creation and adoption of national standards in conservation would further support this.  A successful example of stimulating heritage skills has been demonstrated in the UK rural development grants run by DEFRA that encouraged landowners to adopt traditional farming methods such as hedgelaying, drystone walling and traditional farm building conservation to restore landscapes and environmental diversity. Grants were paid conditional on entering a management agreement and the work being completed to an appropriate standard. The grants acted as a catalyst to subsidise and stimulate demand for traditional skills and materials which in turn encouraged new trainees into the trades allowing important skills to be transferred and an economic price to be charged for the work. After 10 years of the scheme natural market forces of supply and demand created by greater awareness by owners of the traditional skills and materials required and available, resulted in sustainable businesses delivering traditional trades and materials.  The stock of heritage places is obviously less in Australia compared to Europe yet valuable lessons can be learnt and successes implemented. Viability of traditional skills is more likely if “tradies” can still qualify in and deliver general skills but have specialist trades and knowledge in addition. | |
| 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** | |
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