# 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:** | N/A |
| **Name of Author:** |  |
| **Date:** | **9 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 call for public comment on the proposed strategy is most welcome. National leadership in heritage matters by the Australian Government with the assistance of public input is greatly commended and encouraged. Australia’s heritage is everyone’s heritage, so everyone should be involved.  The Department’s definition of heritage in the strategy concentrates on World Heritage and National Heritage – this is not the same as everyone’s heritage. Heritage also includes locally important places, which are frequently more important to their local communities than iconic National or World heritage places. It is part of pride in local Australian identity.  A larger National Heritage list is not what is needed to show leadership. Leadership is needed to identify and protect all heritage places that are important to Australia’s diverse peoples. Thinking local and acting local will result in overall greater appreciation and conservation of heritage places and a true national ground roots change in the perception that heritage is important to the Australian nation. This can spill over to the strategy’s desire to stimulate tourism and pride in our identity.  To change public perception of heritage from the ground, so it is universally valued and protected by the whole Australian community, would be showing real national leadership. This can only be achieved with communities and their appreciation of their own local heritage.  What about Commonwealth heritage? It is not mentioned in the strategy. The Australian government is responsible for conserving Commonwealth heritage places and should be setting best practice example of how it sets about this. Fund Commonwealth heritage conservation as one of your priorities in the strategy. You cannot tell people to do something you are not doing yourself without drawing criticism for lack of leadership. | |
| 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? | |
| As a historian in the heritage industry I applaud funding to strengthen engagement of historical societies with local community heritage groups as this ties in with my belief that local heritage is what is important to most people and is the means to convert the majority of Australians to the heritage cause. | |
| 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? | |
| Local heritage places not only National/World Heritage list places.  Encourage and reward the linking of local heritage places into the teaching of the national history curriculum so you catch/convert them when they are young by allowing them to experience their local heritage places as ‘real’ places worth keeping. | |
| **Other comments** | |
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