



HERITAGE
COUNCIL

Working with Western Australians to recognise, conserve, adapt and celebrate our State's unique cultural heritage

30 May 2014

The Hon Greg Hunt MP
Minister for the Environment
Australian Heritage Strategy Submissions
Heritage Branch
Department of the Environment
GPO Box 787
CANBERRA ACT 2601

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RECEIVED 05 JUN 2014 Environment Minister	
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Dear Minister

AUSTRALIAN HERITAGE STRATEGY

The Heritage Council of Western Australia commends the Minister for his commitment to preparing the Australian Heritage Strategy which breaks new ground in taking a national perspective on heritage issues.

The Council supports the central vision for our natural and cultural heritage being valued by all Australians, protected for future generations and cared for by the community. This is consistent with the *Western Australian Cultural Heritage Policy* (2011) and aligns with the Council's philosophy and approach to heritage management.

The Council believes this strategy is a once in a generation opportunity to encourage genuine engagement of heritage stakeholders across traditional boundaries and interests.

The commitment to certain elements of the strategy with supporting funding is applauded. However, a lack of clear pathways for heritage stakeholders to practically engage, support and contribute to the proposed actions presents a risk that good intentions may not be realised into real outcomes.

In order to move beyond "exploring, encouraging, fostering and pursuing" the other elements of the strategy, the Council strongly believes that national leadership and a clear role on the part of the Commonwealth is needed. In this regard the strategy needs to identify the Commonwealth's ownership of the implementation of the proposed actions, and ways in which partners and stakeholders can get involved. This, inevitably, will require a commitment to resources by the Commonwealth to catalyse the sector and coordinate work that is consistent with the strategy.

The Council appreciates the opportunity to provide feedback and wishes you well in the finalisation and implementation of the Australian Heritage Strategy.

Yours sincerely



Marion Fulker
CHAIR

