

Australian World Heritage Advisory Committee (AWHAC) Terms of Reference

Purpose

AWHAC serves to inspire, improve and inform (by providing appropriate advice) World Heritage management in Australia. AWHAC provides a single voice that is cross-jurisdictional and supports the collaboration between properties in relation to cross-cutting issues and threats to Australia's World Heritage.

AWHAC's terms of reference outlined below will contribute to Australia meeting its World Heritage Convention obligations. AWHAC's functions will be to:

- i) advise Australian governments on policies, programs and appropriate cultural protocols which benefit World Heritage properties in areas of common interest and on national or cross-cutting issues;
- ii) contribute to, and build upon, the delivery of the Australian Heritage Strategy;
- iii) provide a forum for networking, discussion and shared learnings across World Heritage properties in Australia;
- iv) identify and consider matters that require agreement or a common approach between multiple jurisdictions;
- v) facilitate the sharing of knowledge and experience in the development and implementation of World Heritage property management and the development of planning instruments among World Heritage properties;
- vi) identify priorities and provide advice in relation to the management and restoration of the World Heritage properties;
- vii) advise on research, monitoring, evaluation and reporting and other information requirements for World Heritage properties;
- viii) advise on the presentation, promotion and transmission of Australia's World Heritage at the local, national and international levels; and
- ix) provide an Indigenous perspective on the management of World Heritage properties and advice on how best to incorporate Indigenous traditional knowledge and values into management.

Membership of AWHAC

AWHAC comprises one representative (an Advisory Committee Chair) from each World Heritage property. To ensure that AWHAC includes a representative from each jurisdiction with a World Heritage property, it may be necessary to have more than one representative for a property that covers more than one jurisdiction (e.g. the Australian Fossil Mammal Sites Riversleigh (Qld) and Naracoorte (SA)).

AWHAC also includes two representatives from the Australian World Heritage Indigenous Network (AWHIN). These will provide advice to the Committee on Indigenous perspectives of management of Australia's World Heritage properties, including engagement in policy, planning, programs and operational procedures (regardless of whether the properties are listed for Indigenous cultural values).

Process for selecting and appointing members of AWHAC

Advisory Committee Chairs, who are already jointly appointed to their respective property-specific Advisory Committees by Commonwealth and State or Territory Ministers, will be the AWHAC member for their property for the duration of their appointment as Chair of an Advisory Committee. Where there is a Board, the Board will select an appropriate representative from amongst its members and will advise the Commonwealth of this decision in writing. This representative will be the AWHAC member.

In cases where a property does not have an Advisory Committee or Board, the managing agency will select an appropriate representative to represent the World Heritage property and will advise the AWHAC Chair and Commonwealth of this decision in writing. Properties which do not have an Advisory Committee shall not be required to establish one.

Where an AWHAC member is not able to attend an AWHAC meeting, a member of a World Heritage Advisory Committee for the same property, or a member of AWHIN if the AWHAC member unable to attend is an AWHIN representative, may attend in his or her place.

The Chair of AWHAC

The AWHAC Chair will be nominated and appointed by AWHAC members from AWHAC members and appointed for a three-year term. The AWHAC Chair should not be an employee of an Australian government agency. The position of Chair will be rotated through each jurisdiction.

The AWHAC Deputy Chair will be nominated and appointed by AWHAC members from AWHAC members and appointed for a three-year term. The position of Deputy Chair will also be rotated through each jurisdiction, where possible attempting to encourage a mixture of property types between the Chair and Deputy.

Where the AWHAC Chair is not able to attend a meeting, the Deputy Chair will chair the meeting.

Operation of AWHAC

Secretariat support for the AWHAC meeting will be provided by a World Heritage property with jurisdictions rotating in the position.

AWHAC will meet quarterly, facilitated by the Department. Two meetings will be held face-to-face and two by teleconference. Where possible, face-to-face meetings will be conducted in conjunction with related events to maximise opportunities for networking and participation.

AWHAC's structure, objectives and performance will be reviewed by the Committee within the three-year term to ensure it remains effective and appropriate.