



# Commonwealth Heritage List

## NOMINATION GUIDE

This guide will help you complete the Commonwealth Heritage List nomination form. Before starting a nomination, consider the threshold questions below.

### Is the Commonwealth Heritage List the right list for your place?

There are a number heritage lists in Australia which impose varying levels of protection and responsibilities for managers: the World Heritage List, National Heritage List, Commonwealth Heritage List, State and Territory Heritage lists, Local Government Environment Plans or heritage lists, and non-statutory lists like those maintained by the National Trusts of Australia.

The Commonwealth Heritage List is a list of Indigenous, historic and natural heritage places owned or controlled by the Australian Government. For the Minister for the Environment to include a place in the Commonwealth Heritage List, the place must be entirely within a Commonwealth area or, if outside Australia, owned or leased by the Commonwealth or a Commonwealth agency.

Consider these additional questions:

- Is the place already in the Commonwealth Heritage List or within a listed area? (Go to [Commonwealth Heritage List](#) )
- Is the place already under assessment for potential inclusion in the Commonwealth Heritage List? (Search for at [www.environment.gov.au/heritage/places/priority-assessment](http://www.environment.gov.au/heritage/places/priority-assessment))
- Has the place been assessed and found not to have Commonwealth Heritage values? (Search for "Commonwealth Heritage List" "Place not included in the NHL" at [www.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/ahdb/search.pl](http://www.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/ahdb/search.pl).)

### Supporting materials:

Attach additional pages if there is insufficient space on the form. When adding extra materials, such as maps, clearly mark the questions they apply to. Nominations and supporting material will not be returned, so you may prefer to send copies rather than originals.

### Further information:

- State and Territory heritage agencies: [www.environment.gov.au/heritage/organisations](http://www.environment.gov.au/heritage/organisations)
- Nomination process: [www.environment.gov.au/heritage/places/nominating-heritage-place](http://www.environment.gov.au/heritage/places/nominating-heritage-place)
- Native title holders and claimants can be contacted via the representative native title body, such as a land council or service provider <https://nativetitle.org.au/find/pbc>
- There are State land rights regimes across Australia and the statutory land ownership system under the *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976*.
- *Engage early – guidance for proponents on best practice Indigenous engagement for environmental assessments under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act)*: a guide to respecting Indigenous heritage places and values [www.environment.gov.au/system/files/resources/3201a986-88e8-40f3-8c15-6e659ed04006/files/engage-early-indigenous-engagement-guidelines.pdf](http://www.environment.gov.au/system/files/resources/3201a986-88e8-40f3-8c15-6e659ed04006/files/engage-early-indigenous-engagement-guidelines.pdf)
- *Working together: Managing Commonwealth Heritage Places* [www.environment.gov.au/heritage/publications/working-together-managing-commonwealth-heritage-places](http://www.environment.gov.au/heritage/publications/working-together-managing-commonwealth-heritage-places)



- *Dhawura Ngilan: a vision for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander heritage in Australia and the Best Practice Standards in Indigenous cultural heritage management and legislation:*  
[www.environment.gov.au/heritage/publications/dhawura-ngilan-vision-atsi-heritage](http://www.environment.gov.au/heritage/publications/dhawura-ngilan-vision-atsi-heritage)

## Sample answers

Examples of the type of information and level of detail is provided below for questions 11 and 12 of the application form. These are examples only – not all places with a particular attribute will be entered in the Commonwealth Heritage List.

### **Question 11. Why is this place of significant heritage value?**

Extract from the [Royal Australian Mint](#), Commonwealth Heritage Listing:

The Royal Australian Mint in Canberra is significant as Australia's sole production facility of circulating coinage and the only Australian Mint to be established independently of the London Royal Mint. Historically, the Royal Australian Mint played a crucial role in Australia's conversion to decimal currency on 14 February 1966 by producing vast quantities of new dollars and cents to replace the imperial denominations of pounds, shillings and pence. This conversion was not only an important monetary step, but also contributed to the development of a distinct Australian identity following the ending of the British Empire, highlighted by the contemporary controversy over the original proposed name of the new coinage, "Royals". The Royal Australian Mint is constructed in the 'stripped classical' architectural style which demonstrates its important public institutional role beyond its functional purpose as a factory. Today, the Royal Australian Mint has a special association with coin collectors/numismatists as the place where commemorative coins are produced, reflecting a worldwide passion and the role that coinage has played in human culture for more than two millennia.

### **Question 12. Which criteria does the place meet?**

There are nine Commonwealth heritage criteria. Some places may meet multiple criteria. However, it is only necessary for a place to meet one criterion to be considered for the Commonwealth Heritage List.

The nine criteria are:

#### **a. The place has significant heritage value because of the place's importance in the course, or pattern, of Australia's natural or cultural history.**

Extract from [Adelaide General Post Office](#), Commonwealth Heritage Listing:

The Adelaide General Post Office, built in 1867-1872 and extended in 1891-1892, is significant as one of South Australia's most important public buildings.

Adelaide GPO forms an important part of Adelaide's central civic and administrative precinct, playing a critical role since 1872 in the delivery and development of postal services in Adelaide.

With its substantial dual frontage to King William and Franklin streets and landmark tower, the GPO has a well-established relationship with the nearby Adelaide Town Hall, former Bank of South Australia, Supreme Court and Victoria Square. The building, and broader precinct, are well-known images and are often used to demonstrate the historical nature and prosperity of the city.

The GPO was the most expensive building constructed to that time by the Colonial Government in South Australia. This emphasises its importance to the colony and the city of Adelaide, further underscored by the involvement of the Duke of Edinburgh in laying the foundation stone.

The Adelaide GPO also received the first international telegraph message in Australia in October 1872 via the overland telegraph line, completed between Darwin and Adelaide in August 1872; the Darwin end of the line connected with the undersea cable from Indonesia. This technological leap made communication with the rest of the world possible in hours rather than weeks.



**b. The place has significant heritage value because of the place's possession of uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of Australia's natural or cultural history.**

Extract from the [Orchard Hills Cumberland Plain Woodland](#), Commonwealth Heritage Listing:

Orchard Hills is almost entirely vegetated with remnants and regenerating areas of Cumberland Plain Woodland and Sydney Coastal River Flat Forest. (NSW NPWS 2000). Cumberland Plain Woodland is regarded as an endangered ecological community at both state and Commonwealth level. Sydney Coastal River Flat Forest is regarded as an endangered ecological community at state level that is poorly represented in reserves. Orchard Hills is regarded as a core biodiversity area for conservation of Grey Box Woodland (Cumberland Plain Woodland) and River Flat Forest (NSW NPWS 1997).

The bush thickknee (*Burhinus grallarius*), which is listed as endangered in NSW and has been recorded from Orchard Hills is regarded as a species of the greatest conservation concern in the Cumberland region (NSW NPWS 1997).

Orchard Hills has one plant listed as vulnerable in NSW, prickly spider-flower (*Grevillea juniperina*). Six other plant species are found in the place which are regarded as being of regional conservation significance (NSW NPWS 1997). These are spreading bush-pea (*Pultenaea microphylla*), fuzzweed (*Vittadinia pustulata*), water-milfoil (*Myriophyllum simulans*), dwarf skull-cap (*Scutellaria humilis*), early nancy (*Wurmbea biglandulosa*) and the grass (*Panicum obseptum*). An additional 32 plant species are found at Orchard Hills which are regarded as inadequately conserved in western Sydney (NSW NPWS 1997).

The tributaries of Blaxland Creek are regarded as having regional conservation significance for invertebrate species dependant on low levels of agricultural and urban development (NSW NPWS 1997).

**c. The place has significant heritage value because of the place's potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of Australia's natural or cultural history.**

Extract from the [Brisbane General Post Office](#), Commonwealth Heritage Listing:

The Brisbane GPO site contains a potential archaeological resource which may explain aspects of the Female Factory/Police Court complex dating from 1828, demolished in 1876. Although disturbance of part of the site may have occurred during the 1870s construction of the GPO complex, any remains relating to this phase of occupation of the site are of sufficient age to be of importance in explaining Brisbane's early history. Map overlays suggest that archaeological features relating to the 1828 Female Factory include a well, a kitchen, part of the outer boundary wall, and the single storey building which originally housed the female convicts.

**d. The place has significant heritage value because of the place's importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of:**

- i. a class of Australia's natural or cultural places, or**
- ii. a class of Australia's natural or cultural environments.**

Extract from the [Old Parliament House and Curtilage](#), Commonwealth Heritage Listing:

The Old Parliament House is an important landmark in Canberra, Australia's national capital. It is part of the significant cultural landscape of the Parliamentary Triangle, partly reflecting Griffin's design which placed the Government Group of buildings in this corner of the Triangle. This scheme represents in physical form on the ground the conception of the principal components of parliamentary government - the legislative, executive and judicial - the strict separation of these components and the hierarchical relationship between them. Old Parliament House is highly significant as an integral part of this scheme and, standing near the apex of the Triangle, symbolises the primacy of parliament or the legislature over the other two components.

The building also occupies a prominent and strategic location at the southern end of the main Land Axis of Griffin's city design, and contributes to the planned aesthetic qualities of the Parliamentary Triangle. The axis is arguably the pivotal feature of the design. The Old Parliament House is one of four buildings



sited on the axis. The other buildings being the Australian War Memorial, Anzac Hall and the current Parliament House. Accordingly, the Old Parliament House makes a major contribution as a viewpoint towards the Australian War Memorial which, together with the reverse view, are some of the most important views in the planned city. Its landmark status was recognised and enhanced by the design and siting of New Parliament House which integrated the building as part of the terminal feature of the North South vista along the Land Axis.

The success of the building in fulfilling this landmark role is due in part to its stark white colour and symmetry, its privileged siting on the Land Axis and the open landscaping between the building and the lake. The role of the Old Parliament House as a national icon is reinforced by its central location in the nation's capital. Its stark white colour and symmetry, its siting on the Land Axis, its visual relationship with Parliament House in the north-south vista, and the open landscape between the building and the lake.

**e. The place has outstanding heritage value to the nation because of the place's importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics valued by a community or cultural group.**

Extract from the [Australian Maritime College Commonwealth](#), Heritage Listing:

The Newnham Estate, in particular the placement of Newnham Hall and the Riverside Cottage and Riverside Cottage Avenue, and the alignment of boundaries and plantings, are visually linked to the Tamar River. The pastoral landscape, views and open spaces, are of enduring value and aesthetic significance.

The proportions and siting of the Newnham Hall reflect the original intention that the estate be viewed and approached from the Tamar River. Other significant views from Newnham Hall and adjacent areas extend over a landfall to the Tamar River and to the landscape beyond.

Internal views within and between historical elements of the Newnham Estate are aesthetically significant and reinforce the spatial relationships between architectural and landscape elements.

The heritage precincts of Newnham Hall demonstrate the aesthetic and technical improvements made to a colonial estate in the 1840s and 50s including the construction of the riverside front to the Hall complete with a rich interior decoration to the principal rooms; the sweeping entrance driveway; the landscaped gardens; the provision of a compact but picturesque Riverside Cottage and The Early Cottage or Lodge (demolished); and the functionally designed stableyard and associated yards and equipment designed on the central axis of the Hall. The aesthetic characteristics of the individual buildings, plus their location relative to one another and the Tamar River, the pastoral landscape, views (particularly of the Hall from the river) plus open spaces.

**f. The place has outstanding heritage value to the nation because of the place's importance in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement at a particular period.**

Extract from the [Sydney Air Traffic Control Tower](#), Commonwealth Heritage Listing:

Sydney Air Traffic Control tower embodies a number of new ideas, both architectural and technical. It is the only cable-stayed control tower in Australia, and one of very few internationally. The cabin roof, carried on a single central column, was another Australian 'first' – the central column avoids interruption to sightlines by external columns. It was the first Australian tower with a circular cabin, and first to be fitted with a peripheral console, an established format internationally and the preferred future form in Australia. The requirement for unimpeded sightlines over the expanded airport dictated the use of peripheral consoles, which in turn informed the requirement for a central column to support the cabin roof. These design features, practically resolved at Sydney 5 Air Traffic Control tower, were requirements of the brief.

Sydney 5 was also the first tower in Australia to employ computer screen-based technology for its control consoles, derived from the 'fly-by-wire' concept used in modern aircraft. The touch-screen consoles give controllers ready access to radar, communication and meteorological data displays. The use of touch-



screen technology is consistent with on-going international developments in air traffic management. However, it is the formal appearance of Sydney 5 ATC tower that is considered to be of greatest interest.

The external expression of the tower was an innovative and highly creative interpretation of the standard brief for control towers, adapting conventional control tower forms to explore the potential presented by its prominent site. An assured and resolved design by a prominent award-winning architect, Sydney 5 ATC tower stands as the first (and to date, the only) control tower in Australia consciously designed as a landmark, and displaying such distinctive and flamboyant architectural qualities. Its predecessors in the Australian context were either utilitarian structures based on standardised models (1950s-1980s), or imposing but comparatively restrained forms comprised of slender concrete columns surmounted by amenities/services with cabins above (late-1960s to present). By way of comparison, the towers at Perth Airport (commissioned 1986) and Brisbane Airport (1988) are taller but far more restrained architecturally; both are faceted concrete columns flaring at c. 45m to accommodate amenities/services and control cabins.

Australian towers built subsequent to Sydney 5 (commissioned in 1996) have been variations on the column-and-pod model, while a number of towers built overseas since Sydney 5 have been designed as civic markers.

**g. The place has significant heritage value because of the place's strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons.**

Extract from the [Edward Braddon Commonwealth Law Court](#), Commonwealth Heritage Listing:

The Trades Hall component of the Hobart Commonwealth Law Courts includes the importance of the building to the wider community, particularly to groups like The National Trust, for the townscape and architectural values which contribute to the community's sense of place. The place has special association with to the National Trust as indicated by the Trust's involvement in retaining the building through redevelopment of the site. The scale and aesthetic merit of Perth GPO reflects the senses of importance and civic pride in Perth at the time of the building's design and construction. The role of postal and telegraph services from this site for 90 years has been integral to the history of the State and the process of changes in communication technology. These aspects are valued by the community.

The use of the Perth GPO since 1923 as the State's principal postal facility is of considerable social significance. The use of the GPO to accommodate other Commonwealth departments and activities for part of its history is of some importance, particularly as this provided the motivation for the addition of the attic storey to the original building. The recent adaptation of the building retains the building in a contemporary use and provides a community service providing access from Forrest Place to a public transport node. The social significance is represented by the postal, telegraphic and adapted use of the building for civic and community purposes.

**h. The place has significant heritage value because of the place's special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in Australia's natural or cultural history.**

Extract from the [Reserve Bank, 65 Martin Place Sydney](#), Commonwealth Heritage Listing:

The artworks by Bim Hilder and Margel Hinder are significant examples of Australian modernist sculpture of this period by two significant artists, who were selected as the winners of design competitions by the Reserve Bank. The furnishings by Fred Ward are of historical and aesthetic significance. Designed for the building by Ward, who was one of the leaders in modern Australian industrial design at this time, the furnishings are of a simple and functional design which are now considered to be pieces of art in themselves

The Reserve Bank head office building is associated with successive governors of the Reserve Bank: Dr. H. C. Coombs; J.G. Phillips (KBE); H.M. Knight (KBE DSC); R.A. Johnston (AC); B.W. Fraser and I.J. Macfarlane. The building is also associated with personnel of the Commonwealth Department of Works, Banks and Special Projects branch, responsible for the building's design in particular: C. McGrowther;



Profesor H. I Ashworth; C.D. Osborne; R.M. Ure; F.C. Crocker; G. A. Rowe; as well as E.A. Watts (builders for both stages of construction) and Frederick Ward (furniture designer).The artworks of Bim and Marget Hinder, evidence of use by successive Governors of the Reserve Bank, and remaining Fred Ward furniture.

**i. The place has outstanding heritage value to the nation because of the place’s importance as part of Indigenous tradition.**

Extract from the [Jervis Bay Territory](#), Commowealth Heritage Listing:

Ceremonial BUNAN or BORA grounds, used for initiation, are known only from the immediate hinterland of Wreck Bay, and nearly all known grinding groove sites are in the catchments of Mary and Summercloud Bays (Booderee National Park Board of Management, 2002). These sites demonstrate past cultural practices and the BUNAN are spiritually important to the Wreck Bay community.