



National Heritage List

NOMINATION GUIDE

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

Is the National Heritage List the right list for your place?

There are many heritage lists in Australia: 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.

For the Minister to include a place in the National Heritage List, the place must have "outstanding heritage value to the nation", not just significance for a state, territory or local community. This is a high threshold.

The National Heritage List contains iconic places as the Australian War Memorial, the Ningaloo Coast and the Hermannsburg Historic Precinct. Due to the National Heritage List's high threshold of significance, it may be more appropriate to nominate the place for a State or local heritage list.

Consider these additional questions:

- Is the place already in the National Heritage List or within a listed area? Go to www.environment.gov.au/heritage/national/index.html.
- Is the place already under assessment for potential inclusion in the National Heritage List? www.environment.gov.au/heritage/places/priority-assessment.
- Has the place been assessed and found not to have National Heritage values? Search for "National Heritage List" "Place not included in the NHL" at www.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/ahdb/search.pl.
- Have you consulted and obtained written support of Indigenous people who have rights and interests in the place? Contact your local Native Title Representative Body or local Aboriginal Land Council. The Australian Heritage Council and the Department place a high value on the engagement of Traditional Owners, Custodians and Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people with rights or interests in National Heritage listing.

Nomination Theme: Indigenous Cultural Heritage

This year the Minister has called for nominations related to the following theme; **Indigenous Cultural Heritage**. Question 11 asks if your nomination falls within the nomination theme of *Indigenous Cultural Heritage*. Nominations on this theme are geared towards the recognition and protection of places of cultural significance to Indigenous people. For example; rock art sites and cultural sites may be nominated if you can demonstrate that the area represents outstanding heritage value to the nation. To discuss this further, please email heritage@awe.gov.au

Nominations not directly related to the theme are still eligible for consideration.

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
Nomination process: 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/psc>
- 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
- *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



Sample answers

Examples of the type of information and level of detail is provided below for questions 12 and 13 of the application form. These are examples only – not all places with a particular attribute will be entered in the National Heritage List.

Question 12. Why is this place of outstanding heritage significance to Australia?

Extract from the [Sydney Harbour Bridge](#), National Heritage Listing:

The Sydney Harbour Bridge is the most outstanding and immediately recognised engineering structure in Australia, which has symbolised Sydney and Australia to the world. Its significance has been recognised in National, State and Local Government registers and included in a nomination for World Heritage listing. It is of great importance to the people of Australia as part of the landscape in the most famous view of Australia, portrayed in many paintings, photographs and historical records as well as the focus for national celebration at times like the 1988 Bicentenary and the 2000 Olympic Games.

Some of the recognition accorded the Bridge is highlighted through the extracts below:

The Sydney Harbour Bridge is an Australian icon - and is immediately recognised by Australians and by people internationally. It is a very important landmark in a spectacular location which is strongly linked to its harbour setting and to the Sydney Opera House. The bridge was a feat of world class engineering when it was completed in 1932. (Hazel Hawke, Chair Heritage Council of NSW, in Statement from the Chair, RTA CMP 1998.)

The bridge is one of the most remarkable feats of bridge construction. At the time of its construction, it was the longest single span arch bridge in the world. It has been an important factor in the growth of Metropolitan Sydney, particularly since World War Two. The bridge, its pylons and approaches are all important elements in the townscape of areas both near and distant from it. The curved northern approach gives a grand sweeping entrance to the bridge with continually changing views of the bridge and harbour (Walker and Kerr 1974) (Register of the National Estate 1978) (NSW State Heritage Register updated 2003).

Sydney Harbour is one of the finest natural harbours in the world and has a setting of outstanding natural beauty. Two outstanding artifacts, the Sydney Opera House and the Sydney Harbour Bridge, make an extraordinary contribution to this natural and man-made setting. The Sydney Harbour Bridge is an engineering work of great significance. It was the largest single span steel arch bridge in the world when designed and continues to have a dominating presence in the harbour landscape. It has a structural and symbolic significance comparable to the Eiffel Tower in Paris. For many decades it has symbolised Sydney and Australia to the world.

Extract from the [Dampier Archipelago \(including Burrup Peninsula\)](#), National Heritage Listing:

The Dampier Archipelago (including the Burrup Peninsula) contains one of the densest concentrations of rock engravings in Australia with some sites containing thousands or tens of thousands of images. The rock engravings comprise images of avian, marine and terrestrial fauna, schematised human figures, figures with mixed human and animal characteristics and geometric designs. At a national level it has an exceptionally diverse and dynamic range of schematised human figures some of which are arranged in complex scenes. The fine execution and dynamic nature of the engravings, particularly some of the composite panels, exhibit a degree of creativity that is unusual in Australian rock engravings.

The range of human images found in the Dampier Archipelago include forms characteristic of all the major style provinces in the Pilbara, an area that has been described as the richest and most exciting region of rock engravings in Australia. The different degrees of weathering and the large number of super-positioned engravings provide an outstanding opportunity to establish a relative chronology for motifs characteristic of the major style provinces in the Pilbara. The combination of archaeological sites



and high densities of engraved images provides an outstanding opportunity to develop a scientific understanding of the social functions of motifs.

The different degrees of weathering of particular types of faunal engravings on the Dampier Archipelago provide, in the national context, an unusual and outstanding visual record of the Aboriginal responses to the rise of sea levels at the end of the last Ice Age. The different degrees of weathering of some complex scenes provide exceptional visual evidence for the antiquity of depictions of complex scenes of human activity. The deeply weathered 'archaic faces' are an exceptional demonstration of the long history of contact and shared visual narratives between Aboriginal societies in the nominated place and inland arid Australia.

There is a high density of stone arrangements within part of the nominated area, the Burrup Peninsula. They include standing stones, stone pits and more complex circular stone arrangements. Standing stones in the Dampier Archipelago range from single monoliths through to extensive alignments comprising at least three or four hundred standing stones. Some of these standing stones are associated with increase ceremonies, *thalu*, others were used to mark particular places with scarce resources, such as seasonal rock pools, and were also used to mark sites of traditional significance. The overall density of stone arrangements on the Burrup Peninsula, and the wide range of types of stone features found in the Dampier Archipelago, are exceptional by Australian standards.

Question 13. Which criteria does the place meet?

There are nine national 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 National Heritage List.

The nine criteria are:

a. The place has outstanding heritage value to the nation because of the place's importance in the course, or pattern, of Australia's natural or cultural history.

Extract from the [Sydney Harbour Bridge](#), National Heritage Listing:

The building of the Sydney Harbour Bridge as a transport facility linking the city with the north shore was a major event in Australia's history, and represented a pivotal step in the development of modern Sydney and one of Australia's most important cities. The bridge became a symbol for the aspirations of the nation, a focus for 'optimistic prognostications of a better future' following the Depression. The bridge represented an important step in transforming the city of Sydney into a modern metropolis. Internationally, the bridge was recognised as a symbol of progress and a vision of a splendid future.

The building of the Sydney Harbour Bridge was an important part of the technical revolution of the 1930s and seen as evidence of Australia's industrial maturity. The bridge represented the mechanical age displacing the pastoral and agricultural way of life on which Australia's economy had been based. The scale of the operations was enormous and at the time of its construction, it was the widest long-span bridge in the world.

The Sydney Harbour Bridge is an outstanding cultural landmark for the nation and represents a highly significant place in Australia's cultural history. The opening of the Sydney Harbour Bridge was a momentous occasion, drawing remarkable crowds estimated at nearly one million people. Since its opening in 1932, the Sydney Harbour Bridge has become a famous and enduring national icon and symbol of Australia. The bridge remains one of Australia's most identifiable symbols.

Extract from the [Mount William Stone Hatchet Quarry](#), National Heritage Listing:

During the late Holocene, as woodlands expanded, ground-edged stone hatchets became an essential part of the Aboriginal toolkit in eastern Australia. They were an important all-purpose tool as well as being an item of prestige. Material for these tools was obtained from specific quarries. The Mount William stone hatchet quarry was an important source of stone hatchet heads which were traded over a wide area of southeast Australia. The quarry area has evidence for both surface and underground mining, with 268 pits and shafts, some several metres deep, where sub-surface stone was quarried (McBryde & Watchman, 1976: 169). There are 34 discrete production areas providing evidence for the shaping of



stone into hatchet head blanks. Some of these areas contain mounds of manufacturing debris up to 20 metres in diameter. At Mount William, the number, size and density of the quarry pits; the number and size of flaking floors and associated debris; and the distance over which hatchet heads were traded is outstanding for showing the social and technological response by Aboriginal people to the expansion of eastern Australian woodlands in the late Holocene.

The Mount William hatchet quarry was well-known to Europeans when Blandowski (1855) visited the place during the mid-1800s. By the early 1900s people from all walks of life were visiting Mount William to see the remains of the intensive Aboriginal quarrying and extensive flaking floors. The place's importance and the need for protection attracted the interest of a number of well-respected Victorians who sought Mount William's protection from 1910 to 1923. While the place was not formally protected until 1976, the early public interest and recognition that the place showed that the Aboriginal history of Australia extended back well before the arrival of Europeans is exceptional in the course of Australia's cultural history.

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

Extract from the [Ediacara Fossil Site Nilpena](#), National Heritage Listing:

Ediacaran fossil sites with a diversity of species and excellent preservation are internationally rare. The Ediacara Fossil Site - Nilpena is unique as the richest and only undisturbed Ediacara fossil site in Australia. The fossils preserved at the site are uncommon with exquisite preservation of a diverse array of specimens preserved in-situ.

Extract from the [Wurrwurrwuy](#), National Heritage Listing:

The stone pictures at Wurrwurrwuy have outstanding heritage value to the nation as a rare example of stones arranged to depict utilitarian and secular objects rather than the arranged stones being associated with ceremony and the sacred. It is also a place with rare depictions of the internal arrangements in praus. This is knowledge that the creators would have acquired either during visits to or voyages on such vessels.

c. The place has outstanding heritage value to the nation 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 [First Government House Site](#), National Heritage Listing:

The First Government House Site has proven research significance having provided rare evidence of Australia's major phases of history, architectural and building technology, and administration of the colony of New South Wales. The National Heritage List values are expressed through the in-situ fabric, archaeological records and artefact collections uncovered by archaeological investigation. These have the potential to reveal further information about the place and its role in Australian history.

The First Government House Site has the potential to yield further historical and archaeological information about the earliest years of British settlement in Australia in all unexcavated areas of the First Government House Site. Sub surface remains, artefacts and other fabric can reveal much about early Australian building and manufacturing methods and materials and the culture of this early period of European settlement in Australia. The unexcavated areas of the Site possess National Heritage values that will contribute to an understanding of the place and its role in Australia's cultural history with the potential to yield, through archaeological investigation, further information.

Extract from the [Quinkan Country](#), National Heritage Listing:

Quinkan Country has outstanding heritage value to the nation because the place has a high level of potential to yield information, including from Traditional Owners and cultural custodians, that will contribute to an improved understanding of Australia's rock art and pre-history.



Rock art within the place represents one of Australia's major distinctive rock art regions. Rock art with an age of c. 27,000 BP has been recorded. Additional archaeological study has also recorded a number of other occupation dates including a current benchmark datum of c.37,000 BP. A rock art chronology can be developed with a notable change in typology during the mid-Holocene period.

Features which express this value are the rock art within the listed place, including the petroglyphs, figurative, stencil and contact art and the associated archaeological sites.

d. The place has outstanding heritage value to the nation 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 [Great Artesian Basin Springs: Elizabeth](#), National Heritage Listing:

The [Great Artesian Basin] GAB is the world's largest example of an artesian basin and associated artesian springs (Harris 1992 p 157, Perez et al 2005). GAB artesian springs are the primary sources of permanent fresh water within the arid zone since at least the late Pleistocene (the last 1.8 million years) and are therefore a unique feature of the arid Australian landscape (Ponder 1986, p.416; Morton et al 1995, p.55; Bowler 1982, pp.35-45). As the primary natural source of permanent fresh water in most of the arid zone, GAB artesian springs represent vital habitat for more widespread terrestrial vertebrates, and invertebrates with aquatic larvae (Ponder 1986, p.415). Elizabeth Springs is one of a suite of important artesian discharge GAB Springs that are outstanding examples of the endemism exhibited by artesian springs individually and collectively (Ponder 2003, Fensham et al 2004). Elizabeth Springs is the only remaining relatively intact GAB spring with extant biota (fauna and flora) in far Western Queensland and holds a suite of species which are genetically and evolutionarily distinct from other GAB springs.

Extract from the [Wilgie Mia Aboriginal Ochre Mine](#), National Heritage Listing:

Wilgie Mia is of outstanding heritage value to the nation because of its importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of traditional Aboriginal ochre mining. There is a creation story that links the different coloured ochres to different parts of the body of the creation being called the *marlu*, the red kangaroo. The prohibitions and rituals that underpinned traditional mining are known as is the role of the Mondong, malevolent spirits, in protecting the ochre. The knowledge about creation stories, guardian spirits and protective rituals is not matched at any other major Aboriginal ochre mine in Australia.

Wilgie Mia is also the largest Aboriginal ochre mine in Australia and has all the features found in traditional Aboriginal mines: large open cut pits, excavated caverns and underground galleries that follow ochre seams. The galleries are supported by a 'stop and pillar' method of ground support as well as wooden shoring. In addition, the miners at Wilgie Mia used pole scaffolding with wooden platforms to allow them to mine ochre at different levels in the rock face.

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 [Sydney Opera House](#), National Heritage Listing:

The design, form, scale and location of the Opera House make it one of the most significant landmarks in Australia. The aesthetic qualities of the Sydney Opera House relate both to its topographical setting on Bennelong Point, and its distinctive architectural features. Its landmark qualities are enhanced by the building's juxtaposition with Sydney Harbour, its relationship with the Sydney Harbour Bridge, the garden landscape of Bennelong Ridge, the sandstone cliff face of Tarpeian Rock, and the vistas and views to and from The Rocks, Circular Quay, East Circular Quay, Macquarie Street, the Botanic Gardens and the harbour. The sculptural, billowing sail-like roof shells provide a visual link to and artistic representation of the yacht-scattered harbour waters. The ceramic white tiles of the roof further add to this relationship and provide a dramatic contrast with the blue waters of the harbour. The building with its strongly curved



design emphasis is juxtaposed with the nearby Sydney Harbour Bridge which itself has a strongly emphasized curvature, and this visual relationship is a further element of the place's aesthetic appeal. The place's dramatic aesthetic appeal is enhanced by subtle floodlighting on the white roof shells at night. The building's ability to emotionally move people and invoke a strong aesthetic response is enhanced by the experience of approaching, entering and moving around the building and surrounds. The public promenades including the Forecourt, Broadwalk, and podium platform and steps contribute to the majestic qualities of the place. The large forecourt and sweeping podium steps prepare the visitor for the majestic quality of the soaring internal spaces including the folded concrete beams throughout the building, and the reinforced radial cranked beams in the northern foyers.

Extract from [The West Kimberley](#), National Heritage Listing:

The aesthetic value of rock art:

The stunning painted images of Creation Beings, ancestors, plants and animals in rock shelters in the west Kimberley, including the powerful Wanjina and intriguing Gwion Gwion/Girrigirro figures, are considered amongst the most spectacular examples of 'rock art' in the world (Flood 1990, 70). Highly valued by non-Aboriginal people for their aesthetic values, these images are both powerful and of deep religious significance to Kimberley Aboriginal people.

Aboriginal rock art paintings in the west Kimberley, particularly in the Wanjina-Wunggurr homeland, the Balangarra native title claim area and the Devonian reef, are both powerful and of deep religious significance to Kimberley Aboriginal people and have outstanding heritage value to the nation under criterion (e) as they represent a stunning visual record of an ongoing Aboriginal painting tradition in a substantially unmodified landscape.

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 Harbour Bridge](#), National Heritage Listing:

The Sydney Harbour Bridge may be considered the world's greatest arch bridge. Although not the longest arch span in the world, its mass and load capacity are greater than other major arch bridges. No other bridge in Australia compares in its technical significance with the structure of the Sydney Harbour Bridge and its pylons and constructed approaches between Argyle Street in the south and Arthur Street in the north.

The construction of Sydney Harbour Bridge combined available technology with natural advantages provided by the site. The bridge is an outstanding technical and construction achievement of the Twentieth Century. The designers took advantage of the sandstone base on which Sydney was built - which enabled them to tie back the cables during construction of the arch and to experiment with massive structures. Although designed during the 1920s and 1930s, the bridge has still not reached its loading capacity.

Extract from the [Brewarrina Aboriginal Fish Traps \(Baiames Ngunnhu\)](#), National Heritage Listing:

The Ngunnhu is exceptional as it is an unusual and highly innovative development in pre-European Aboriginal technology. The stone-walled pens are designed to withstand the high water flows of the Barwon River. They are tear-drop shaped with the convex wall facing upstream. Some of the pen walls are higher than others enabling their use during both low and high water flows. This is combined with pond gates set at different locations enabling fish to be caught as they migrated both upstream and downstream. The structure of the Ngunnhu demonstrates the development of a very efficient method for catching fish involving a thorough understanding of dry stone wall construction techniques, river hydrology and fish ecology.



g. The place has outstanding heritage value to the nation 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 [First Government House Site](#), National Heritage Listing:

The First Government House Site symbolises to the Australian people the most tangible link to our past and the foundation of white settlement in this country. It provides a publicly accessible cultural focus and landmark for many Australians of British descent, for First Fleet descendants and for Aboriginal people.

The National Heritage List values are expressed through all the fabric discovered by archaeological investigation, including footings, walls, floors, drains, cuttings, pavings, trenches, privies, garden soil, impressions of removed materials and artifacts, and also include the fact that the place is publicly accessible.

Extract from the [Cyprus Hellene Club - Australian Hall](#), National Heritage Listing:

The Day of Mourning played a significant role in the history of Indigenous peoples' struggle for the recognition of their civic rights and is regarded by Indigenous people as one of the most important moments in the history of the Indigenous resistance in the early 20th Century (Martin 1996, Foley 2005). The strong social and cultural association Indigenous people have with Australia Hall and the Day of Mourning is demonstrated by the continuous references made by Indigenous leaders from across Australia to this event (Pearson 1997; Djerrkura 1998; Dodson 2000; Foley 2005). It is also shown through the campaign during the 1990s for the recognition of the significance of the building to Indigenous people and the depiction of the Day of Mourning at Reconciliation Place. Indigenous people have a strong association with Australia Hall, the site of the Day of Mourning, as the first national Indigenous protest which identified social justice issues of continuing relevance to Indigenous people.

h. The place has outstanding heritage value to the nation 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 [Moree Baths and Swimming Pool](#), National Heritage Listing:

The Moree baths has outstanding heritage value to the nation under criterion (h) as the place that has a special association with the life and works of the Aboriginal activist Dr Charles Nelson Perrurle Perkins AO. The events at the Moree baths in 1965 brought him into public prominence as a leading Aboriginal activist and it was here that his tactic of confronting people with awkward truths about their treatment of Aborigines first emerged in a public context. This pattern was repeated throughout his life even when it resulted in costs to him personally. The events that occurred in Moree, and the wider Freedom ride, established Charles Perkins as an iconic figure for both young and older Aborigines alike. In addition, it clearly demonstrated his commitment to achieving equity for Aboriginal people in Australia, something that became a lifelong cause.

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

Extract from the [West Kimberley](#), National Heritage Listing:

The Wanjina-Wunggurr tradition, with features including the painted images of Wanjina and Gwion Gwion in rock shelters across the west Kimberley, provides testimony of a complex association of socio-religious beliefs that continues to be central to the laws and customs of the Wanjina-Wunggurr people.

Together, the Wanjina and the Wunggurr Snake are believed to be the manifestations of a life force, also called Wunggurr, which permeates the Wanjina-Wunggurr cosmos and is imbued in all living forms. The creative association of the Wanjina and the Wunggurr Snake is represented in the religious narratives and manifested in the painted images on rock, and as other features in the land, sea and sky including natural rock formations and man-made stone arrangements.



Members of the Wanjina-Wunggurr society trace their descent to the Wanjina ancestral beings. Wanjina 'rock art' sites serve as geographical focal points for a system of territorial and social organisation that links small groups of people (the clans of anthropological discourse) to named local countries (clan estates) (Blundell et al. 2009) and into a system of exchange called the *wurnan* that extends throughout the Kimberley. The exchange of items between local group members is viewed as the passage of items in space from Wanjina to Wanjina.

There is no other Indigenous society in northern or central Australia, indeed anywhere in Australia, where a single class of Creator Being, the Wanjina, depicted as a distinct rock art figure, has such a significant and multifaceted role or set of associated meanings and practices (Blundell et al. 2009).