



Australian Government

Australian Heritage Council

Finalised Priority Assessment List for the National Heritage List for 2020–21

Name of Place	Description	Assessment Completion Date	Main Classification	Reason for Inclusion
Cuttlefish coast sanctuary (SA)	The Cuttlefish Coast Sanctuary represents a unique area of high significance to the breeding of giant cuttlefish in Australia	30/06/2025	Natural	Based on the information in the nomination, the place may meet one or more of the National Heritage criteria. This place could have outstanding heritage value to the nation as it supports the only known high density aggregation of spawning Giant Australian Cuttlefish, <i>Sepia apama</i> , in the world. This aggregation (of up to 180,000 individual cuttlefish) occurs during winter, with the cuttlefish spawning and attaching their eggs to a shallow reef system formed on an expanse of broken bedrock along the coastline of the Northern Spencer Gulf. The particular aesthetic characteristics of the aggregation contribute to its significance, as the waters are massed with thousands of Giant Australian Cuttlefish, constantly changing colours and pattern.

Mithaka Cultural Landscape (QLD)	The Mithaka Cultural Landscape represents the start of an indigenous trade route which are underrepresented in the NHL	30/06/2025	Indigenous	Based on the information in the nomination, the place may meet one or more of the National Heritage criteria. This place could have outstanding heritage value to the nation as it represents a significant example relating to Australia's most complicated and extensive Indigenous trade and exchange system dating back at least 2600 years.
Reconciliation Rock, Cooktown, (QLD)	Reconciliation Rock represents a significant first contact point between the indigenous people and Cook, which is recognised by both parties. First contact points are underrepresented on the NHL	30/06/2025	Indigenous/Historic	Based on the information in the nomination, the place may meet one or more of the National Heritage criteria. This place could have outstanding heritage value to the nation for its shared history as the site of the first sustained contact and cultural exchange between European explorers and Indigenous people.
Sydney Cultural Crescent Rock Art (NSW)	Sydney Cultural Rock Art site is one of the best and most comprehensive representation of rock art in Australia.	30/06/2025	Indigenous	Based on the information considered by the Australian Heritage Council, the place may meet one or more of the National Heritage criteria. This place may have outstanding heritage value to the nation due the place's significant density of rock art over area of approximately 2 million hectares of eastern NSW. Rock art is described by Indigenous elders as their history books, with the largest sites being libraries and provides a tangible record of the Aboriginal peoples' traditions, presence, cultural practices and knowledge systems.