



Australian Government

# *Australia's fossil heritage*

A catalogue of important Australian fossil sites

A thick, horizontal orange brushstroke with a circular loop in the center, separating the title from the author information.

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# This presentation covers...

**The fossil report: background, aims and outcomes**

**The publication: background, aims and techniques to appeal to a broader audience**

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# A strategic approach to Geological Heritage on the NHL

The Heritage Division has been undertaking **gap analysis**

- Expert workshops for karst, pseudokarst and rocky coasts
- These workshops resulted in reports to provide a comparative framework for assessment of sites
- **Expert reports on fossil sites and plant fossil sites**

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# The report - background

- The Australian Heritage Council commissioned palaeontologists to conduct a comparison of outstanding fossil sites
- The Council commissioned a report that provided a comparison of the most important plant fossil sites nationally
- The reports were combined to produce *Australia's fossil heritage: A catalogue of important Australian fossil sites*



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## The report - aims



- To provide a reference for Heritage Division of many of the outstanding fossils sites of Australia
- To provide Heritage Division with comparative information
- A starting point for future assessments

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## The report - our approach

- Representatives from each state and the Northern Territory selected 10 fossil sites.
- Each representative also chose three outstanding fossil sites from anywhere in Australia for comparative analysis.



- The sites were limited to those that have not yet had their values recognised through National or World Heritage Listing

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# The report - our approach



- scientific importance and research potential;
- fossil significance;
- taphonomy and site condition;
- comparison with other sites;
- stories and dioramic potential;
- key references

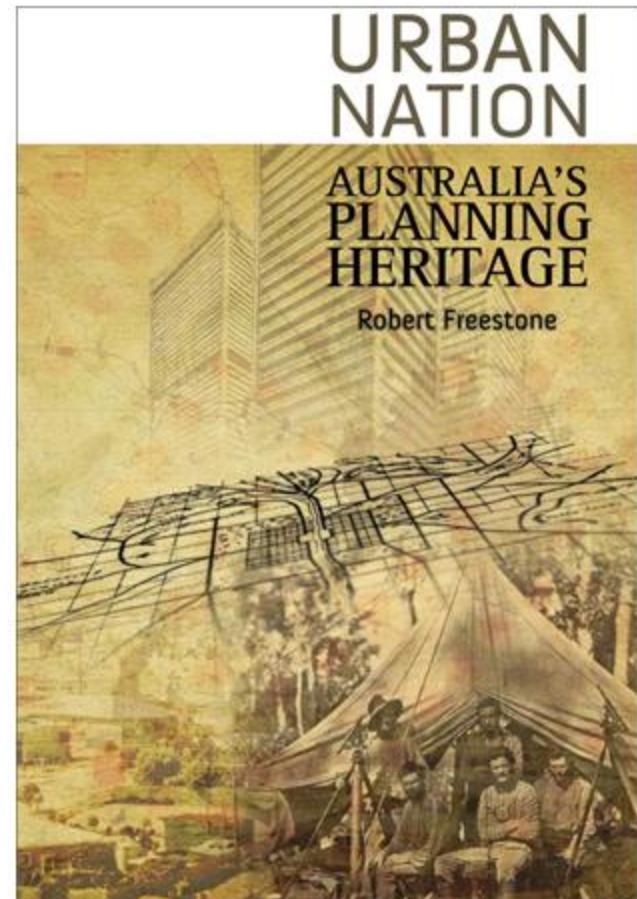
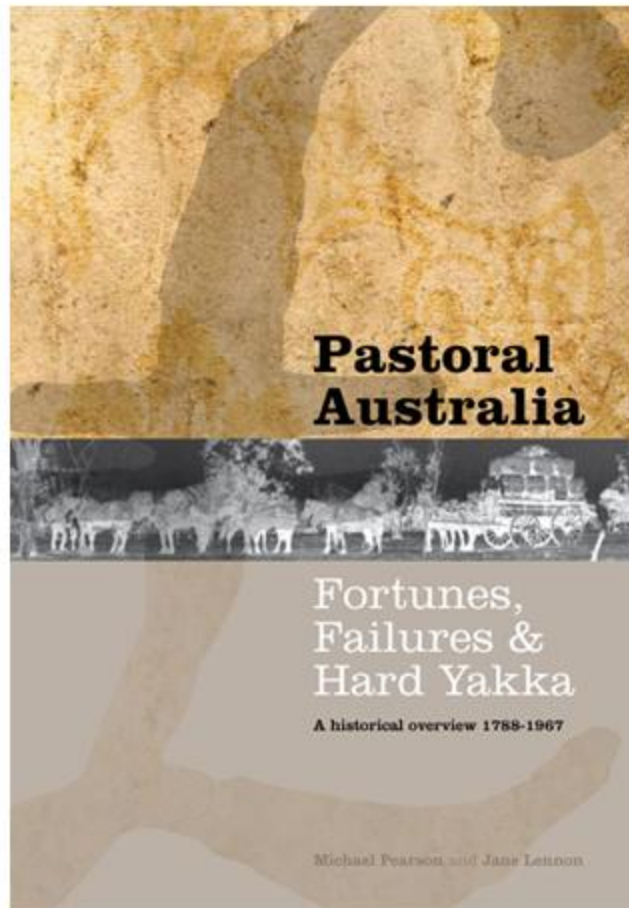
# The report - outcomes

- The fossil report contains summaries for 77 fossil sites
- Contributors took different approaches to the guidelines
- Sites might reflect both sample bias and their area of expertise
- Distinguishing between heritage value and scientific value

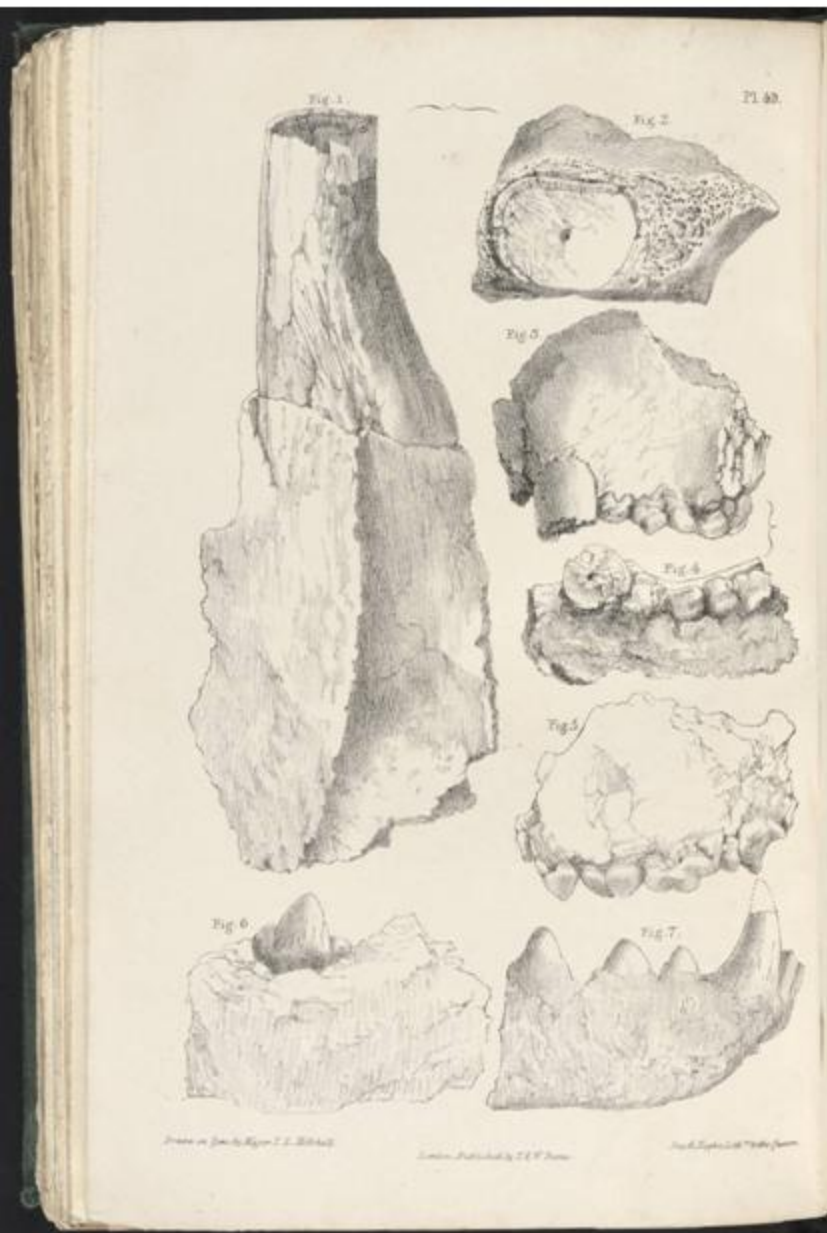


# From report to publication

Heritage Division has worked with *CSIRO Publishing* to produce heritage publications previously

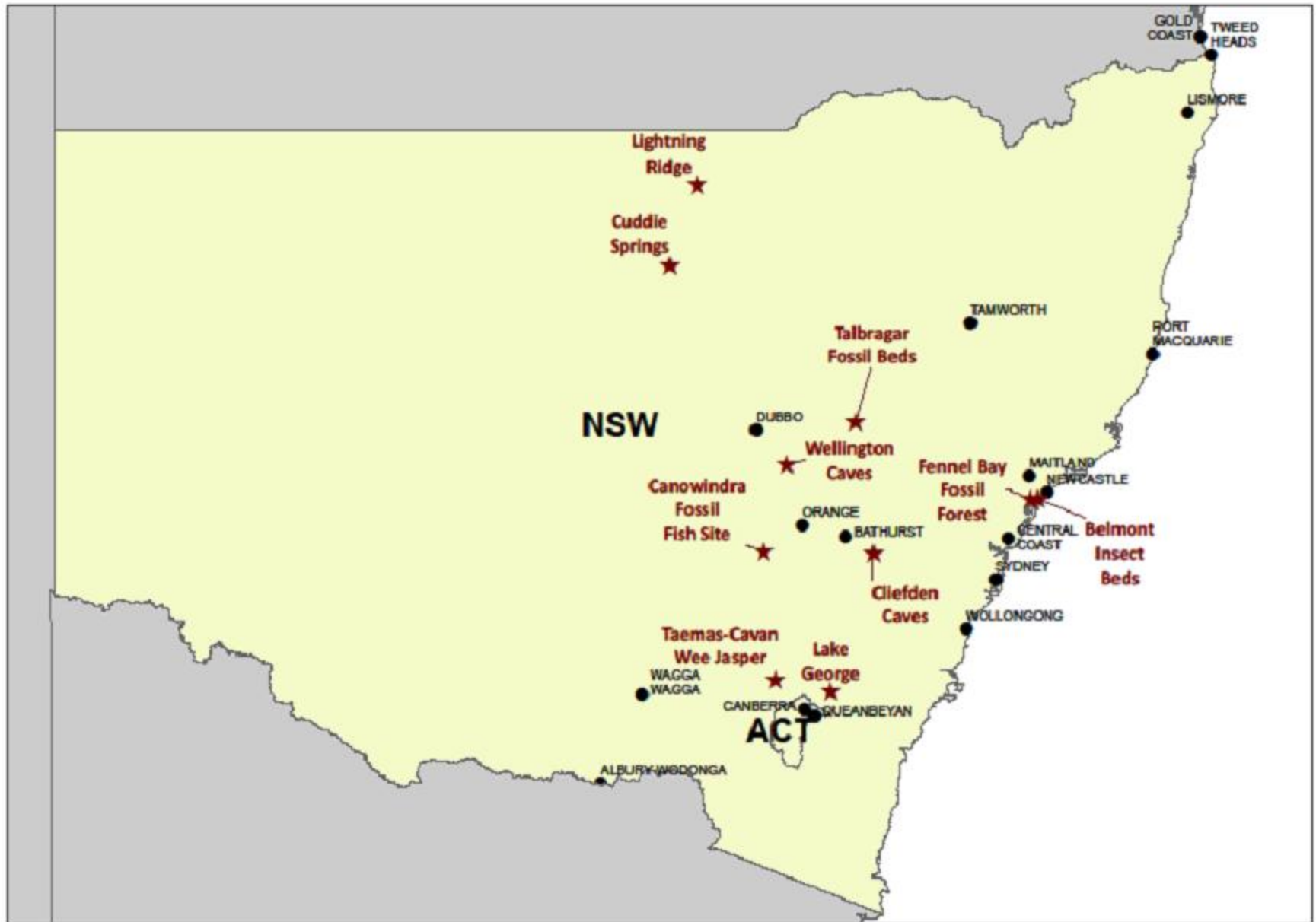


# The publication – aims



- Give the public access to information that is not available elsewhere
- Give the public an idea of the kind of work that the Australian Heritage Council does
- Showcase Australia's rich fossil heritage

# The Publication – making it accessible



# The publication – making it accessible

- Inclusion of images to illustrate the particular fossils or the site



## The publication – making it accessible

- Contracted a paleo-artist to reconstruct scenes from one site in each state, and to create a front cover for the publication.



Henry De la Beche *Duria Antiquior* - A More Ancient Dorset











*Macropus rufus*  
*Macropus agilis*  
*Macropus fuliginosus*

*Perameles nasuta*  
*Perameles gunnisoni*  
*Perameles macroura*  
*Perameles erubescens*  
*Perameles gunnisoni*  
*Perameles macroura*

*Phascogale maculata*

*Macrotis lewinii*  
*Macrotis lagotis*  
*Macrotis natalis*

*Phascogale maculata*  
*Phascogale maculata*  
*Phascogale maculata*

# Questions

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[www.publish.csiro.au](http://www.publish.csiro.au)

