




Australian Government

The National Heritage List and Australia's geoheritage

A thick, hand-painted orange brushstroke that spans the width of the page, starting from the left edge and ending with a small flourish on the right. It has a circular loop in the center.

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National Heritage List values and their protection

The **National Heritage values** of a place are recorded in the **National Heritage List**.

It is **these values**, and not necessarily the entire place itself, that are protected through listing under the EPBC Act.

This means that a person cannot take an action that has, will have or is likely to have, **a significant impact** on the National Heritage **values** of a listed place without the approval of the Australian Government Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts.

Charniodiscus, Ediacara Fossil Site, South Australia



Protection of geoheritage in the NHL

Where an NHL place is on **leasehold** or **freehold**, the Heritage Division has worked with managers and palaeontologists to draft **management guidelines** that allow **flexibility** of land-use and ongoing research, while **ensuring protection** of outstanding geoheritage.

Examples include:

- **Yea** Flora Fossil Site
- **Ediacara** Fossil Site and
- a number of World Heritage Listed properties.



Ediacara

Ediacara Fossil Site was entered in the National Heritage List in January 2007

Example of a site that has **sensitive management issues**

Security and management arrangements have been put in place for fossil protection



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Australian Alps

The Council found the Australian Alps have outstanding heritage value to the nation against most of the National Heritage criteria:

- Glacial and periglacial features (a) and (b)
- Fossils (a) and (b)
- Karst features (a)
- Landscape and topography (b)
- Aesthetics (e)
- Mount Kosciuszko (g)
- Association with the life or works of prominent Australians (h).



A strategic approach of adding geoheritage into the NHL

The Heritage Division undertakes values **gap analyses**

Expert **workshops** for **karst**, **pseudokarst** and **rocky coasts**

Workshops result in reports that provide a **comparative framework** for assessment of sites

Expert **reports** on **fossil** sites and **plant** fossil sites.



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Where to from here?

Ensure future listings **complement** and **enhance** existing NHL places

Strategic approaches are possible to ensure **systematic representation**:

- **Era**
 - E.g. Mesozoic sites of Australia (Dinosaur Stampede National Monument)
 - E.g. Age of Mammals (Naracoorte and Riversleigh)
- **Process**
 - E.g. aeolian (Willandra Lakes), glacial (Tasmanian Wilderness, Subantarctic islands), karst and pseudokarst (Purnululu), volcanism (Warrumbungles)
- **Other themes, indirect associations**
 - E.g. changing climates (Tasmanian Wilderness, Willandra Lakes)
 - E.g. role of landscape in providing refuges for wildlife (e.g. Kimberley)

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Where to from here?

Our aim is to present heritage in a way that fosters curiosity about the past and communicates its value to society today.



Yea Fossils



Warrumbungles



Lark Quarry Dinosaur Footprints



Grampians National Park

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How can you participate?

Nominate important geological sites to the National Heritage List

Help us to improve our comparative analysis techniques

Keep us (Heritage Division) abreast of news/events

Provide us with photographs that can be used in NHL media and in promotional items

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National Heritage List criteria

The Australian Heritage Council assess a nominated place against the following criteria. The threshold is 'outstanding heritage value to the nation'

- a. importance in the course, or pattern, of Australia's natural or cultural history;
- b. possession of uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of Australia's natural or cultural history;
- c. potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of Australia's natural or cultural history;
- d. 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;
- e. importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics valued by a community or cultural group;
- f. importance in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement at a particular period;
- g. strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons;
- h. special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in Australia's natural or cultural history; and
- i. importance as part of Indigenous tradition.

<http://www.environment.gov.au/heritage/about/national/criteria.html>

This presentation covers

Background to Australia's **Heritage** system and the **National Heritage List**

Protection & Promotion of geoheritage places

A **selection of National Heritage places** with geoheritage values

Questions



Background to Australia's heritage system

The Australian Heritage Council Act 2003:

- established the **Australian Heritage Council** (AHC), as an independent expert body which advises the Minister on heritage listing, protection and management

The Environment Protection & Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act), 2003 amendments:

- created the **National Heritage List** to **recognise, celebrate** and **conserve places** of '**outstanding heritage value to the nation**'

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Background to Australia's heritage system

National Heritage List

Administered by the Commonwealth through:

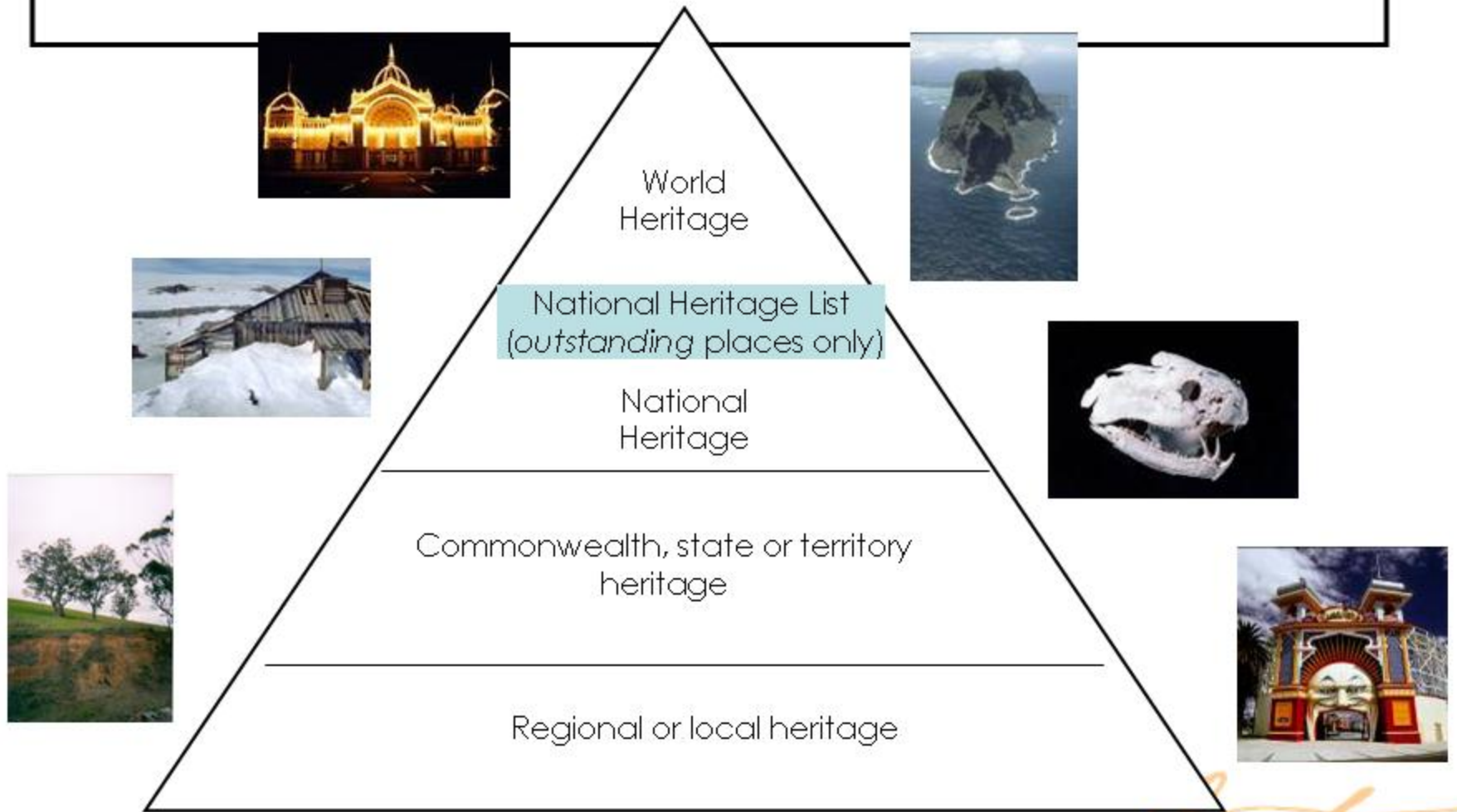
- Matter of National Environmental Significance under EPBC Act

Determining '**outstanding value**' requires careful comparative analysis

Governments have agreed that **World Heritage** nominations will generally be drawn from places in the **National Heritage List**.

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Pyramid of Heritage Values



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National Heritage List criteria



A place has **National Heritage value** if it meets one or more of the statutory criteria for the NHL

The nine **criteria** (a to i) cover historic, scientific, aesthetic and social values, including one specifically for places 'important as part of Indigenous tradition'

A criterion may relate to one or more of the following:

- **natural** heritage values of places
- **Indigenous** heritage values of places
- **historic** heritage values of places

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National Heritage List criteria

Places in the NHL with **outstanding geoheritage** values are listed against the following criteria:

Criteria **(a) process**, **(b) rarity** and **(d) class of place** for **natural values**

Criterion **(c)** for **potential to yield information**;

Criterion **(h)** for '**special association with the life and works** of a person, or group of persons, of importance in Australia's natural history'.



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Geoheritage on the NHL

Australia's **National Heritage List** (NHL) is a vehicle to **express the decades of work** undertaken by earth scientists to protect, recognise, and promote Australia's outstanding geoheritage.

Through **strategic recognition** and **systematic presentation** of Australia's geoheritage using the National Heritage framework, we aim to **engage Australians** in the story of the evolution of the Australian continent through time.

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Geoheritage on the NHL

Geoheritage is well represented on the NHL.

22 of 29 NHL places listed for **natural** values have **geoheritage** values regarded as being of **outstanding heritage value** to the nation.

All states and territories are represented along with a range of different processes and periods.

Listings encompass a range of **site types** including:

- the palaeobotanical site at Yea
- fossil sites of the Alps and Ediacara
- volcanic sites at the Warrumbungles and Glass House Mountains
- sedimentary rocks at the Grampians
- karst sites such as Yarrangobilly and Cape Range; and
- pseudokarst sites such as Purnululu.



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