

# World Heritage List— making a submission

## What is World Heritage?

World Heritage listing is the international recognition of ‘Outstanding Universal Values’ of natural and cultural sites around the world. The World Heritage Convention aims to promote cooperation among nations to protect heritage around the world that is of such Outstanding Universal Value that its conservation is important for current and future generations.

Australia has 20 World Heritage sites including:

- Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park
- Kakadu National Park
- Shark Bay
- Greater Blue Mountains area
- Budj Bim Cultural Landscape.

Five of the world’s Heritage Listed sites are found in Queensland:

1. Fraser Island (K’gari)
2. Gondwana Rainforests of Australia (Qld/NSW)
3. The Great Barrier Reef
4. Australian Fossil Mammal Site (Riversleigh section)
5. The Wet Tropics of Queensland.



## How are places added to the World Heritage List?

Places are only added to the World Heritage List after an independent assessment can demonstrate it represents the most outstanding of the world’s natural and/or cultural heritage and has an adequate management framework in place to protect and manage it. The overall process involves a number of steps. A key component of the process is the free prior and informed consent of First Nations people.

### 1. World Heritage Tentative List

The first step in the process is to have the place added to the Australian World Heritage Tentative List, which indicates Australia’s future intention to nominate for World Heritage listing. The Tentative List Submission is registered with the UNESCO World Heritage Centre and must be on the Tentative List for at least 12 months before it can be nominated for the World Heritage List by the Australian Government.

### 2. World Heritage listing nomination

A comprehensive nomination dossier is then prepared, which demonstrates the ‘Outstanding Universal Value’ of the place. To be considered of Outstanding Universal Value, a property needs to:

- meet one or more of ten criteria
- meet the conditions of integrity
- if a cultural property, meet the conditions of authenticity, and
- have an adequate system of protection and management to safeguard its future.



### 3. Assessment

The Australian Government submits a nomination for World Heritage listing to the UNESCO World Heritage Centre where it is assessed by an independent technical advisory body and relevant experts. The assessment process takes at least one year. The nomination must be submitted by 1 February each year for consideration by the World Heritage Committee Secretariat in the following year. The assessment process takes at least one year to complete.

### 4. The decision

The UNESCO World Heritage Committee meet once a year to decide which nominated places will be inscribed on the World Heritage List. The Committee can decide to list, defer, refer or not list the nomination. If the nomination is deferred or referred, it means more information is required before a decision can be made.

## What is the difference between the Tentative List Submission and the nomination dossier?

The World Heritage Tentative List is an inventory of properties which each State Party considers to be of 'Outstanding Universal Value' and may decide to nominate in future years. A submission for the Tentative List does not require the same level of detail as a World Heritage nomination, although both are technical documents that must be completed in formats prescribed by UNESCO. The Tentative List Submission is essentially

an executive summary used to justify why a property is considered to be of 'Outstanding Universal Value'. The Tentative List process is beneficial because it initiates preliminary consultation with stakeholders, research into the potential 'Outstanding Universal Value' of an area, and the management measures in place, or required, to protect it. While the World Heritage Centre checks each Tentative List Submission for compliance against the prescribed format, it is not assessed like the nomination dossier is.

## What are the benefits of being added to the World Heritage List?

World Heritage listing is the highest global recognition of the significance of a place, which can bring a range of potential benefits and opportunities for the community, surrounding regions and nation, including:

- improved conservation and protection of the World Heritage site
- increased promotion
- increased tourist visitation
- increased revenue
- employment opportunities
- a sense of community pride.

### Learn more

For more information about Queensland World Heritage sites, visit [www.parks.des.qld.gov.au/world-heritage-areas](http://www.parks.des.qld.gov.au/world-heritage-areas)

