



Cape York Peninsula

Progressing World Heritage Tentative Listing

Cape York Peninsula is a large, complex and diverse landscape with exceptional cultural and natural values of international significance. It is culturally significant for Cape York people and is also recognised as one of Australia's most important heritage places.

The Queensland and Australian governments are committed to working in partnership with Cape York Traditional Owners and communities to ensure there is recognition and protection of the Cape's unique cultural and natural heritage values. One of the ways we can achieve this is through seeking a World Heritage listing.

The **first step** to a possible World Heritage listing is inclusion on Australia's World Heritage Tentative List. This step will only be taken with the free, prior and informed consent of the Cape York Traditional Owners.

This factsheet focuses on this **first step** which, if approved, will pave a pathway towards World Heritage nomination for parts of the Cape York Peninsula in partnership with Traditional Owners.

WHAT'S HAPPENING NOW?

We already have a lot of information about the natural and cultural heritage values of Cape York Peninsula which provides a strong foundation to build upon.

A Cape York World Heritage Taskforce is in place to talk with Traditional Owners and the community to make sure that there is an understanding of what inclusion on the Tentative List means and importantly, to help inform discussions and decisions about free, prior and informed consent.

WHAT DOES TENTATIVE LISTING MEAN FOR CAPE YORK PENINSULA?

Tentative Listing is an expression of interest by the Queensland and Australian governments that they intend to progress towards a World Heritage nomination.

Tentative listing does not mean a place is World Heritage listed. A Tentative List submission summarises a future nomination and does not create any legal obligations or obligations under the World Heritage Convention. In short, it signals an intention to nominate a place in the future.

Statutory provisions under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act) usually do not apply until a property is inscribed on the World Heritage List.

Tentative listing does not change land tenure or use, or impact Native Title.



THE TENTATIVE SUBMISSION

The Tentative submission is the start of a broader consultation process. Communities across the Cape will have an opportunity to decide whether they wish to engage in a World Heritage nomination.

For Tentative Listing there is no need to provide a defined boundary. The Tentative submission will include a smaller area of the Cape for which potential Outstanding Universal Value has already been considered and consent has been received. The final boundary for the World Heritage nomination will be agreed much later in the process, and during the preparation of a Nomination Dossier.

It is important to know that free, prior and informed consent is required at a number of stages during the development of a World Heritage nomination, not just for the Tentative Listing. There will be plenty of opportunities to continue talking with government, experts and other communities regarding how consent will be established, which will take time.

WHAT IS OUR TIMEFRAME?

We are working to prepare and provide an agreed Tentative List Submission, with free, prior and informed consent, to the Australian Government in early 2024.

Should the Australian Minister for Environment and Water approve the Tentative List Submission, the Australian Government will send the submission to the UNESCO World Heritage Centre.

If submitted at least two months prior to the next World Heritage Committee meeting, it will be noted in the minutes of that meeting.

The process from inclusion on Australia's Tentative List to a nomination and successful inscription on the World Heritage List will take several years.

Preparation of the nomination will involve a Cape-wide, place-based approach with deeper conversations around what World Heritage listing means, what are the outstanding universal values, what funding and support would be needed as well as how the proposed World Heritage property will be managed into the future. Importantly, a World Heritage nomination for Cape York Peninsula will only be submitted with the free, prior and informed consent of Traditional Owners.

HOW CAN I FIND OUT MORE?

For more information, including detailed frequently asked questions, please visit parks.des.qld.gov.au.

You can also reach out to the Cape York World Heritage team in the Queensland Department of Environment and Science by emailing capeyorkworldheritage@des.qld.gov.au.

