Environmental, built and cultural heritage makes a vital contribution to our community and economy. It helps develop cohesive communities through a deep understanding of identity and place. Queensland’s unique identity is formed by our environmental, built and cultural heritage.

Environmental, built and cultural heritage is a critical element in the development of a unique Queensland tourism experience:

- Environmental heritage tourism generates tens of millions of dollars every year.
- National Trust Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary alone generates annual visitation of over half a million people.
- Queensland has five places on the World Heritage List. The management of these places creates jobs and their beauty attracts National and International visitors.

Environmental, built and cultural heritage makes a significant contribution to community well-being:

- It increases awareness of the need to care for our environment.
- It encourages owners of heritage properties to proudly maintain and develop the built environment to provide a sense of place and belonging, for the joy of all.
- It retains and shares our history for everyone to understand and appreciate.
- It creates training, volunteer and regional job opportunities.

However, support is urgently needed for the owners of Queensland’s environmental, built and cultural heritage places through incentives, advice and partnerships.

The National Trust of Australia (Queensland) is Queensland’s leading community heritage organisation. With $54M of heritage assets, nearly 12,000 members and 800 volunteers across the State, over 542,000 visitors to its properties, we are regularly able to raise millions of dollars of funding per year for the conservation of heritage places owned by others - the National Trust makes a unique contribution to our community.

Australia’s Heritage Festival and Heritage Awards (managed in Queensland by the National Trust), Ipswich Great Houses and the Open House programs across the State are strong community engagement activities that support and promote heritage achievements. The National Trust has the capacity to make a major contribution to the growth of natural, built and cultural heritage conservation and tourism.

Strong support for Queensland’s environmental, built and cultural heritage and our heritage organisations is a strategic investment in Queensland’s future.

The National Trust invites you to share with us your policies on environmental, built and cultural heritage, and heritage tourism.
How we will evaluate your response

We will be providing this document to our 12,000 Queensland members and posting it on our website as a tool for members and the public to approach their local candidates for commitments to Queensland’s natural, built and cultural heritage.

We will be providing this document to all the political parties asking for your *written response*. We will then rank the responses to gain a comparison of each party’s level of heritage commitment.

We will forward our rankings to our membership and publish them on our website, as well as communicating our comparison to media outlets.

Please provide your response by Friday 17th November 2017.

For more information or to request a meeting, contact:
Mr Jonathan Fisher, CEO, National Trust of Australia (Queensland)

**Telephone:** (07) 3223 6666

**Email:** heritage@nationaltrustqld.org

**National Trust Brisbane Office:** 19/25 Mary Street, Brisbane, Queensland 4000

Your response, or not, will be included in our communications.
Tourism research suggests that cultural tourists stay longer and spend more than other visitors. There are many not-for-profit and commercial operators in environmental, built and cultural heritage tourism that could improve their products and services through additional support and strategic partnerships. These operators generate jobs in regional areas for locals and provide vital services in the protection and celebration of heritage. Improved linkages between the heritage and tourism sectors will improve access to heritage sites and provide for vital tourist infrastructure at the sites.

- **Question 1:** What strategies do you have for the development and growth of environmental, built and cultural heritage tourism in Queensland?
- **Question 2:** How will you help establish regional Heritage Trails to promote the cultural assets of regional areas, generate jobs and increase tourism in our regions?

Our cultural heritage events showcase the amazing success of collaborations and partnerships between communities, individuals, government and corporate groups.

In 2020, Queensland will commemorate the 250th year since the charting of Queensland’s coast by James Cook. This brings significant opportunities to promote reconciliation along the length of Queensland’s coast and to recognise their impact on the flora and fauna in the last 250 years.

- **Question 3:** How will you support the continued and increased funding support of the Cook 250 commemorations in 2020?
There is a need for heritage officers within regional government offices. For example, there is currently only one regionally based heritage officer in the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection and no regional heritage officers in the Department of National Parks, Sports and Racing. Most regional local councils have no in-house heritage expertise and many do not have a Heritage Advisory Committee.

Core heritage staffing levels within government departments have decreased in relation to the increasing number of heritage places listed on the Queensland Heritage Register. Environmental and Town Planning staff with little or no heritage experience or qualifications assessing and managing complex heritage places is not an adequate approach. The owners of Queensland’s commercial and residential heritage places in regional Queensland feel they have been abandoned.

**Question 6:** What regional heritage services will you commit to reinstating and how will you support the creation of heritage related jobs and assist regional areas in promoting and managing their unique resources?

**Question 7:** Will you resource a stronger heritage unit within the Department of National Parks, Sports and Racing by providing regular, cyclical funding for the identification, conservation and celebration of heritage assets within National Parks?

The report *Australia: state of the environment 2011* noted that the high community perceptions of the value of heritage as a public good are *not* matched by a commensurate public-sector resourcing, nor in incentives for private owners.

There is currently no grant program specific to environmental, built and cultural heritage. Queensland’s heritage owners deserve a dedicated grant fund for repairs, maintenance and conservation works for heritage listed properties.

- **Question 4:** Will you support owners of heritage places by committing to a dedicated heritage grant? What value of grant finding will you commit to?

- **Question 5:** Will the grant’s scope of allowable work include maintenance and repair works?
IF ELECTED, WHAT WILL YOU DO?

SUPPORTING HERITAGE OWNERS

As stated in the *Australia – State of Environment 2016: Heritage report*, “Conservation of Australia’s heritage is a shared responsibility that requires collaborative, innovative partnerships between government, corporations and the community.”

Many heritage organisations and private owners of heritage sites, like the National Trust, can cost-effectively deliver a range of heritage services for community benefit, particularly in regional areas where government services have been significantly reduced.

- **Question 8:** How will you develop, foster and support these strategic partnerships with environmental, built and cultural heritage organisations so that they can focus on joint promotion of our heritage assets?

- **Question 9:** How will you partner with heritage organisations to develop, foster and financially support a heritage revolving fund to purchase and restore important heritage places?

SUPPORTING HERITAGE PARTNERSHIPS

QUEENSLAND WORLD HERITAGE SITES

GREATER PROTECTION OF THE GREAT BARRIER REEF

Queensland contains five sites on the World Heritage List, including the Great Barrier Reef. The Australian and Queensland governments have prepared the *Reef 2050 Long-term Sustainability Plan* and established the Reef Trust. Although these actions reassured UNESCO, in July 2017 the Great Barrier Reef only narrowly avoided being placed on UNESCO's World Heritage in Danger list.

The World Heritage Committee has said it still has concerns about water quality targets and land clearing laws in Queensland. In particular, it cited land clearing as a concern for the health of the reef and said increased efforts were needed. The Great Barrier Reef is one of the natural wonders of our world. This World Heritage site sustains more than 69,000 Queensland jobs, and contributes billions of dollars towards the Queensland annual economy.

- **Question 10:** How will you implement the World Heritage Centre (WHC) advice for the protection of the Great Barrier Reef and commit to delivering tougher land clearing laws and accelerating the program of water quality improvement?

- **Question 11:** Will you invest in the interpretation of the heritage of the many coastal settlements along the length of the Great Barrier Reef coastline, to coincide with Cook 250 events?
It has become increasingly difficult to make proactive heritage decisions in the face of development, due to an absence of basic information about the nature and extent of heritage resources. This is an issue at all levels of government. Strategic planning for heritage requires a review of all heritage registers in the state. An up-to-date review of heritage citations would identify the extent of heritage resources, their condition, their accessibility and the gaps in our knowledge.

- **Question 12:** Will you be at the forefront of innovative and proactive heritage management by being the first state to commission a complete audit of all of its heritage registers?

Large developments, such as landscape-scale infrastructure or resource expansion, and precinct-wide urban developments, pose threats to our heritage. Seemingly obvious breaches of legislation and substantial impacts to important heritage places occur, go unpunished and are rarely remediated. The trend toward fast track approvals that do not allow an adequate assessment of heritage, and the project’s impact on this heritage, is increasingly a concern to the National Trust of Australia (Queensland).

- **Question 13:** How will you commit to strengthening and enforcing protective heritage mechanisms and seek the positive repurposing of heritage sites?

- **Question 14:** What will you do to strengthen Queensland’s protective heritage legislation which recognises the value of heritage sites?

The decline and disappearance of traditional heritage trade skills is a significant threat to the continued ability to conserve and restore historic sites. The use of traditional trades is an essential part of achieving high quality conservation of culturally significant places in accordance with the Australia ICOMOS Burra Charter. A systematic program of training which links existing practitioners with willing participants in delivering detailed skills training is needed.

- **Question 15:** How will you commit to a program of accredited job skill training that links practitioners with apprentices and creates jobs?
State government agencies should be held accountable to the same standards as and requirements as private individuals and groups, and should represent best practice heritage management.

Many State government agency’s heritage assets are in decline through a lack of proper conservation planning and little to no maintenance or repairs. The State government is effectively demolishing their heritage assets via neglect.

- Question 16: How will you ensure that government agencies avoid the embarrassment of state owned heritage places suffering from “demolition by neglect”?

Female Wards 1 and 2, Wolston Park Hospital Complex, QHR 600340