

## AUSTRALIAN HERITAGE STRATEGY COMMUNITY SURVEY: CHEAT SHEET

---

### What can you do?

1. Go to <https://haveyoursay.awe.gov.au/australian-heritage-strategy-review>
2. Scroll to the bottom of the page and select 'Take Survey'. It is a short, 18-question survey.
3. Use our cheat sheet below to help – it indicates what the National Trust's suggested priorities and responses are.
4. Let us know that you've lodged a survey – this will help us track how many responses our advocacy has generated. Please email us on [lstuart@nationaltrust.com.au](mailto:lstuart@nationaltrust.com.au) with the subject line: 'Australian Heritage Strategy Survey – Complete', and please indicate if you are a Member of the National Trust.

### Cheat Sheet

We have provided a helpful guide for National Trust (NSW) supporters to complete the Australian Heritage Strategy community survey. We have highlighted the answers that will support the National Trust's position.

**Question: How have you used the strategy? Choose multiple options where appropriate.**

- To inform policy.
- To support grant funding.
- To inform priorities/actions.
- Other (please specify).

**Question: How useful have you found the strategy? (Select an option)**

*Note from the National Trust: The industry lobbied hard for the development of an Australian Heritage Strategy so this is an important question to ensure that they continue to support having a Heritage Strategy.*

- Extremely useful.
- Moderately useful.
- Somewhat useful.
- Slightly useful.
- Not at all useful.

Please provide an explanation to reflect your answer

*National Trust suggested response: The Strategy needs more actions associated with the aims of working with community organisations and building connections with community.*

**Question: What are the strategy's strengths? (Select multiple options)**

- Overall content.
- Overall structure.
- Vision.
- Objectives.
- Outcomes.
- Actions.
- Presentation and layout.
- Examples or case studies provided.
- Other (please specify in details).

**Question: What are the top 5 things we can do to improve the Strategy (1 being most important, 5 least important)?**

- Update the content to reflect current priorities and policy changes.
- **THREE** Improve focus on Indigenous cultural heritage.
- **FOUR** Improve focus on impacts and responses to climate change including extreme weather events.
- **FIVE** Improve focus on condition and trend of heritage values via better data collection and management.
- **ONE** Improve focus on the role of communities in supporting the protection and management of heritage.
- **TWO** Include greater focus on emerging threats to heritage and appropriate responses.
- Update the actions.
- Include aspirational goal setting for heritage over the remaining 5 years.
- Other – If you selected 'Other' for the above question, please specify details.

**Question: What do you see as the key threats being faced by heritage? [Identify up to five, ranking them from 1 (most significant) to 5 (least significant)]**

- **FOUR** Climate change, including an increase in extreme weather events, bushfires, coral bleaching and the spread of invasive species.
- **FIVE** Loss of habitat and loss of ecological connectivity.
- Decline in professional and trade skills in the historic heritage sector.
- **TWO** Un-sympathetic development within or near properties impacting on heritage values.
- Loss of knowledge to enable interpretation and conservation of places.
- **THREE** Financial and human resourcing not meeting community expectations.

- Perception that historic buildings do not meet contemporary needs and standards resulting in inappropriate adaptation or demolition.
- Loss of knowledge and traditions related to Indigenous heritage.
- Inadequate legislative protection of Indigenous cultural heritage.
- Resource extraction and associated development.
- Population growth, urbanisation, and tourism.
- Inadequate data about condition and trend of heritage values.
- **ONE** Other –National Trust suggested response:  
Inadequate legislative protection of ALL types of cultural heritage

**Question: What do you see as the most important, key opportunities for heritage? [Identify up to five, ranking them from 1 (most significant) to 5 (least significant)]**

- **FIVE** Developing clear expectations about how Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander heritage will be identified, documented and managed across Australia.
- Developing clear responses to environmental threats to reduce impacts and build resilience.
- **ONE** Recognising the importance of community involvement in protecting and managing our heritage to retain and pass on critical knowledge and ensure the stories of places are known and told.
- Identifying pathways for Commonwealth, state and territory governments to work more effectively together on heritage identification and management.
- Promotion of National and World Heritage listed values.
- Increased understanding of threats to listed values through management planning, and monitoring and reporting programs.
- **TWO** Increasing resource allocation for heritage conservation and management to better align with community expectations.
- **FOUR** A commitment to improved access to professional education and training in heritage management.
- Responding to the recommendations of the Independent Review of the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999.
- **THREE** Identifying priorities for collaborative, innovative partnerships between government, business and the community to support the conservation of Australia's heritage.
- Other - If you selected 'Other' for the above question, please specify details.

**Question: How can the strategy make the most of these opportunities?**

*National Trust suggested response: The Strategy needs to include clear and achievable actions that relate to these opportunities and provide implementation pathways so that they can be achieved.*

**Question:** The Australian Heritage Strategy includes 51 actions, grouped under the 11 Objectives, identifying a delivery date, a lead organisation and any partners who will be involved. Most actions have now been completed or are ongoing responsibilities of governments.

One option is to retain this structure whilst updating the list of actions under each objective within the Strategy.

Alternatively, the actions could be removed from the body of the Strategy and an implementation plan could be developed for the Strategy. This approach would have the actions sit separately from the Strategy, allowing updates, and the addition of new actions where appropriate.

**Which option do you prefer?**

- Keep actions within the Strategy and update them
- Develop an implementation plan which includes actions and timelines for delivery

**Please explain why you selected this item**

*National Trust suggested response: The Strategy has suffered from accountability to implementing its actions. An implementation plan would clearly set out priorities, actions, timeframes, and responsible persons and would assist the Department of Environment in bidding for budget to implement the Strategy's aims.*

**Question:** Is there anything else about the strategy that you would like to mention?

*National Trust suggested response and also a great opportunity here to add additional points based on your experience and expertise:*

- Prior to further consultation on a revised Draft, the Department should publicly provide an update on the status of all proposed actions, to allow stakeholders to provide informed feedback.
- Responsibility for the actions should be made clearer, and regular reporting should be implemented (annually) to identify priorities, and inform budget and resource allocation.
- The Strategy is reliant on partnerships in Outcome 2, but little funding and support is provided to partners to support the proposed actions. To achieve this outcome, the Strategy needs to include clear pathways to build partnerships and allocate adequate funding to support these key community partners.
- National leadership for strengthening of Aboriginal cultural heritage protections across the states and territories, and support for self-determination by Aboriginal communities in the management of their heritage.
- Investment in sustainable and coordinated heritage tourism initiatives that promote the contribution of heritage places to domestic and international tourism numbers.
- Investment in non-government heritage organisations that can develop and implement sound models for heritage management and community engagement.