



Protecting Heritage Places

**10 steps to help protect the natural
and cultural significance of places**





“Our heritage is our history and is something to preserve for our children and their children. If not preserved, the history of Australia is lost.”

Jan Heaslip
Bond Springs, Northern Territory




A heritage place is...

a specific area or site, perhaps a large area such as a whole region or landscape, or a small area such as a feature or building, which is valued by people for its natural and/or cultural heritage significance

Why we protect heritage

- strengthens personal and group identity
- we want to pass it on
- social, spiritual, ethical or legal obligations

Protecting your heritage

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- 1 What is your heritage place?
 - 2 Who has an interest?
 - 3 What do you need to know?
 - 4 Why is this place important?
 - 5 What are the issues?
 - 6 What do you want to achieve?
 - 7 What do you need to do?
 - 8 What is your plan?
 - 9 Do it!
 - 10 Review it!

10 steps to help protect heritage places





Step 1. What is your heritage place?

Heritage places are important in different ways for different people

They help tell stories about this land and its people

They may have natural, Indigenous and historic elements that are significant



Step 1. What is your heritage place?

Have a go



What heritage place interests you?

Describe its key features, and think whether it has natural, Indigenous and/or historic heritage significance



Step 2. Who has an interest?

Finding out who is concerned about and responsible for a place

- ensures the right people are involved
- helps find out about heritage significance
- ensures all important issues are considered

Ask

- who has knowledge about the place?
- who owns and manages the land?
- who are the custodians and caretakers?
- who keeps records and information?
- who will be affected?



Step 2. Who has an interest?

Have a go 🖐️🖐️

Write down the different groups or individuals with an interest in your place



Step 3. What do you need to know?

Basic information needed for a place

- a boundary or area of interest
- information already available
- whether it is on a heritage register

Check

- have all aspects of heritage significance been investigated?
- what gaps are there in the information?



Step 3. What do you need to know?

Have a go 🖐️🖐️

Write notes on the following to get you started

- What is the boundary or area of interest?
- What information is already available?
- What additional information is needed?



Step 4. Why is this place important?

Understanding significance of a place

- important elements are called 'heritage values'
- places may have natural, Indigenous and historic elements which are significant
- we must know what is important to protect it

Why a place is important is summarised in a statement of significance

Significance can also be expressed through video, songs, artworks and displays



Step 4. Why is this place important?

Have a go 🖐️🖐️

Write down the important elements of your heritage place and why each is significant



Step 5. What are the issues?

What issues affect the place?

- what is its condition?
- what laws apply?
- what threats and trends might affect it?
- what resources are available?

Understand issues by

- talking and consulting widely
- identifying priority issues

Step 5. What are the issues?

Have a go 🖐️🖐️

Write down the key issues for your place

- threats to significance
- the condition of the place
- current management arrangements
- other key issues



Step 6. What do you want to achieve?

What you want to achieve is usually written as statements called objectives

Objectives are written

- starting with 'to....'
- or describing the place in the future

significance (step 4)

key issues (step 5)

vision/desired future

objectives



Step 6. What do you want to achieve?

Have a go 🖐️🖐️

Develop objectives by asking

- what results do you want?
- how do you want the place to be in the future?
- how will significance be retained?
- what are the priorities?



Step 7. What do you need to do?

Develop strategies to retain significance

‘Do as much as necessary and as little as possible’

Each place is unique - good management is about finding appropriate and creative solutions

Sometimes the best approach is to do nothing

Examples of strategies

- erecting a fence to prevent animal damage
- restoring a collapsed historic wall
- a program to reintroduce a plant species
- ensuring Indigenous access so traditional practices are continued

Step 7. What do you need to do?

Have a go



Write down possible strategies and actions and ask

- does every objective have a strategy?
- are the key issues covered?
- how will the strategy protect significance?
- how will the strategy change the place?



Step 8. What is your plan?

Responses to the first 7 steps make up the key components of a management plan

A management plan also includes who is responsible for what, how progress will be monitored and when and how the plan will be reviewed

Heritage studies and reports can back up a plan

A concise plan can be very effective



Step 8. What is your plan?

Have a go



The 'Have a Go' tasks from the previous 7 steps create an outline for a plan to protect your heritage place

Check

- your statement of significance is reflected in the objectives
- the strategies are linked to the objectives

Work out

- who will be responsible for implementing your plan, how it will be monitored and when it will be reviewed

Step 9. Do it!

This is the stage where you put your plan into action. Do it!

- take action systematically according to the plan
- record progress

Remember

- project management requires a project manager
- keep people involved and informed





Step 10. Review it!


All plans and projects require regular and systematic review

Review at times indicated in the plan

Circumstances change - so plans will change

Record results of reviews and why changes to your plan are necessary

Protecting your heritage

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- A colorful illustration on the left side of the slide depicts a group of diverse people engaged in heritage protection. In the background, a tall, white lighthouse stands on a rocky cliff overlooking the ocean. In the foreground, several individuals are gathered on a rocky shore. Some are standing and looking out at the sea, while others are sitting or kneeling, examining a large map or document spread out on the ground. The scene is set against a backdrop of blue waves and a clear sky.
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“Understand the land and everything on it so you can manage it properly”

David Burrumarra MBE
Elcho Island, Northern Territory

